



Saving the Planet in the Time of Pandemic—CCDC will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day at its First Virtual Meeting

Keynote Speaker: RL Miller, Chair of California Democratic Party's Environmental Caucus. Also, Patricia McPherson on Protecting Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve

We'll have our April general meeting at 7pm on Wednesday, April 22, but it won't be all in one room, because of America's need to stop the spread of the deadly Covid-19 virus.

Instead, using the virtual meeting app Zoom, members who RSVP to pete_rockwell@hotmail.com will receive an email with a link to the online meeting. The first 100 people to RSVP will be able to participate from home if they have internet access. They will also need either a smartphone or a computer with a camera. An unlimited number of people will be able to call in and hear the meeting on a landline or cellphone.

If you don't have internet access there is a simple way to listen to the program on a telephone. When you RSVP you will receive an email with instructions on how to participate in the meeting.

The internet link, call-in number and instructions will be in the email you receive. If you have questions, please email pete_rockwell@hotmail.com or send a text with your name to Pete Rockwell at 415-254-5338.

For people who aren't able to participate, the meeting will be recorded and posted on the Club's website (www.CulverCityDemocraticClub.com) and our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CulverCityDems/>).

RL Miller to be Keynote Speaker

At the April 22 meeting, our keynote speaker will be one of the most respected California Democratic Party chairs, RL Miller of the Environmental Caucus (which grew from 60 to 600 members under her as chair). She's also the founder of *Climate Hawks Vote*, whose mission is to build grassroots political power for the movement to address the climate crisis.

(See **Earth Day Meeting** on page 5)

 **Culver City**
DEMOCRATIC CLUB
50th Anniversary of
Earth Day Celebration

Wednesday,
April 22, 2020,
at 7pm
Zoom virtual meeting



RL Miller,
Chair of the CDP Environmental Caucus



Patricia McPherson,
President of Grassroots Coalition

The Climate Crisis in the Era of the Coronavirus Crisis

RSVP NOW by email to Club President
Pete Rockwell: pete_rockwell@hotmail.com

Virtual Meeting — 7p.m. Wednesday, April 22, 2020

The Culver City Democratic Club will hold its first online membership meeting, on the 50th anniversary of EARTH DAY, with Climate Hawks Vote founder RL Miller

President's Message by Pete Rockwell

We have no choice—we **MUST** rise to this challenge



#thisisNOTprotection

The Culver City Democratic Club's Second VP, Jeanna Harris, is a registered nurse. She sent me this picture that she got from her union, National Nurses United. She said nurses have been taking selfies wearing bandanas and putting the pictures on Facebook.

Right now, healthcare workers do not have the protective equipment they need to keep working and protect themselves from Covid-19 — a virus that's spreading like a grass fire all over the planet and killing thousands of people. Many of these workers have recently been told to use scarves in place of proper masks, because there is a critical shortage of N95 respirators.

When doctors and nurses are performing surgery or interacting with patients that may be carrying a communicable disease, a particular type of face mask (also known as an N95 respirator) is recommended to be worn. These masks are regulated by the FDA. To learn more, read about Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) on the website of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirator-use-faq.html>

As I was writing this article I happened to see a press conference on local TV announcing that the city and county of Los Angeles are starting to take action to see that the shortage of N95 respirators is addressed here in Southern California by setting up partnerships with local manufacturers and local governments. Los Angeles area public officials aren't waiting for the federal government to rescue our healthcare workers from this problem. They are taking matters into their own hands.

The same press conference made it clear that the Southern California local governments were making Covid-19 test kits from a South Korean private company available to labs and hospitals in our area.

This is certainly a good thing, but it also shines an especially harsh light on the failure of the Trump administration to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Covid-19 testing

In the United States, there's a severe shortage of the test kits that are needed to identify people who have been infected by Covid-19. Not only is this a problem because it means we are *not* able to identify which patients have Covid-19 and which have flu or pneumonia — it means that it's harder to identify healthcare professionals and first-responders who are carriers of Covid-19 but don't have any symptoms. It also means that to slow the spread of the disease we need to tell *everybody* to stay away from *everybody else*, instead of putting only carriers of the disease in quarantine. South Korea used testing to slow Covid-19's spread, and it looks today like the technique they used worked.

South Korea and the United States both reported their first cases of Covid-19 on the same day: January 21, 2020. The South Korean government

knew, from learning about the experience the Chinese government had with the disease, that people with no symptoms could be carrying the disease and spreading it for weeks.



N95 respirator (face mask)

South Korea started testing as many asymptomatic people as they could in order to slow down the epidemic. The United States did nothing like that, and even refused to use the test kits that the World Health Organization had on hand. Instead we tried to create our own test kit. This was a monumental mistake. Now, it looks like the situation here will get much worse before it gets better.

For now, all we can do is stay home to avoid spreading the disease. Follow the advice of experts about hand washing, social distancing, and other personal precautions. Also, please stay away from hospitals and emergency rooms unless your problem is a matter of life and death.

No more paper newsletter

The Club newsletter will be online from now on. If you want a paper newsletter, you can print one on your home printer. If you don't have a printer, text me your name (415-254-5338) or email me and I will make sure you get a paper newsletter. Covid-19 is only one of the reasons for this change.

pete_rockwell@hotmail.com

I was a poll worker at Warner Elementary School in Westwood—It was a nightmare



by **Emily Dibbiny**

What I witnessed March third as an election worker in Los Angeles County was a crime.

Most voters couldn't be found in the new system. If they showed up with the affidavit printed out, their record was nowhere to be found. Everyone who prepared a poll pass had it rejected as "voter not found" when it was scanned at registration.

A lot of voters who signed up for vote-by-mail ballots didn't receive them. Some voters registered as "non-partisan" never got their crossover ballot.

The new system allowed us to give voters a crossover ballot, but not everyone was able to wait for three hours in line during lunch hour. The minute it was lunchtime the lines started growing and the new system crashed because of the overwhelming numbers.

Many older voters were not comfortable with the technology. Some of them walked out with the ballot thinking it was their receipt. We had to chase them down and ask them to scan it back into the machine they'd gotten it from.

People were confused and they would walk over to the check-in table with their ballot before they'd finished voting. We had to instruct voters to go back to the same machine and scan the ballot back in, but by then some machines were occupied by other voters. So they would insert their ballot in the drop-off box. But many people walked out not knowing what to do even though we explained the full process when they checked in.

At lunch hour all tablets used to check people in were slowing down. The system kept syncing, which caused every ballot to be posted as provisional. We tried switching between tablets that were not syncing. Sometimes it worked, but ninety percent of the time it didn't.

After lunch hour the lines got bigger. By 2 pm, wait time had increased from an hour and a half to three hours. At that point the tablets couldn't find people in the system. Even when they brought in their information ballots, the scanner couldn't read their registered personal info.

We had to register people as new voters, even though they'd lived at the same address for years, and even if they'd voted in 2018. We couldn't pull up their info because the system was crashing. It also wouldn't allow us to print out ballots for any new registered voters that we were logging in that day.

After hitting "print" the blue tab would disappear as the printer froze.

We ran out of voter info booklets in English *very quickly*. Most UCLA students were able to find a sample ballot online, but older voters were overwhelmed with the technology. We were trying to help them as much as we could but there were only four of us.

People yelling at us, non-stop stress, no food, no breaks

We started setting up at 6 am and opened at 7. During training we'd been told to close at 8 pm. At 8 pm we pointed out who was the last person in line and after that everyone got turned away. We were never informed by officials that we had to keep polls open till 10 pm.

We had no breaks. All four of us had never done this before. The lead person kept calling the "help line" but no response. People were getting impatient waiting in line for three hours so they wrote in their candidates on write-in ballots that had no serial numbers or envelopes.

Voters were tossing these write-in ballots at us without waiting for us to give them instructions on how to properly

place them in the box. Many ballots were randomly found at the table or on the floor. We quickly ran out of English write-in ballots.

People were very frustrated and yelled at us. The check-in machines were automatically giving out provisional ballots because the system was lagging. Ninety percent of voters got provisional ballots after the lunch rush and all through the evening.

The system kept notifying us that the voter was receiving a provisional ballot because the tablet was syncing, but they failed to sync all day long. People were *very angry* because they were not happy to get a provisional ballot. Their information was correct, and there was no need for them to be issued a provisional ballot. The voters were frustrated because they waited three hours in line just to get a provisional ballot.

Our leader was stretched out between helping elder voters and answering angry voters' questions.

The printers kept freezing and we couldn't print out any type of ballot.

At that point we were forced to give write-in ballots in foreign languages to people who didn't know the language because we ran out of English forms. People kept yelling at us and we had no answers. We were trying to accommodate hundreds of voters but we didn't have the resources.

The voter information that was found in the system was accurate and up to date. There was no need for a provisional ballot but it was the default setting for the tablet because it kept syncing. The system automatically gave no option but provisional ballots.

Many of those voters were on their lunch break: a chef, UCLA nurses, etc. Some had to go back to their shift and abandoned the line.

Poll worker training

When I registered to become an election worker I was given minimum information. I tried to look up everything online. I was told everything would be
(See **Poll Worker** on page 4)

(Poll Worker from page 3)

mailed to me, but it came very late. A week before election no one had answered my calls or messages. I registered online for training.

I was able to look up training in person. I showed up, but my info wasn't on file even though I had a log-in and ID assigned.

I only received info in the mail for training but no address where to show up. Finally the lead at my station called to ask why I didn't show up on Saturday, the first day of voting. She called me on Monday, begging for help, because it was only her and one more volunteer.

I asked her if I would get paid. She said we are just volunteers. So I showed up at six in the morning out of the kindness of my heart because I wasn't sure if I was going to get paid for the day.

She told me that I could leave after lunch rush hour. That never happened because that's when things started going crazy. My conscience wouldn't allow me to just walk out and leave hundreds of people in line.

Most provisional ballots processed by other poll workers were not completed properly. Only the voter's section was filled out on pink envelopes but the election worker explanation was left blank because we were overwhelmed.

Void ballots were being stepped on all over the floor. There were protest voters who didn't want a provisional ballot and left all paperwork on the check-in table and marched off. We had to cancel their ballots because they refused to vote with a provisional ballot. They took off to another election center trying to see if its system worked better.

Voters were sharing wrong info with other people, telling them to use write-in ballots. By the time they got to the check-in table, some had a written ballot inside the pink envelope while I was printing their provisional ballot, so I had to ask them to throw out the written ones. They would have had two types of ballots in the same envelope. I don't think the other volunteers were paying attention to that issue.

The drop-off box was so full that we couldn't insert more envelopes, but we had no back-up box. One of the other volunteers opened it up. I didn't see who. Anyone could reach in and touch any ballot. It was a nightmare keeping people away from the box. Some were just dropping off mail-in ballots.

These problems need to be fixed before November.

Continuity of Democracy in the Time of the Corona-geddon



by Cynthia Hart

After reading Emily's story ("I was a Poll Worker"), I can only say "Yipes! What if that were happening during a General Election at a time of Natural Disaster or Emergency or Global Pandemic! Imagine crowds of voters with no room for social distancing and hundreds of people touching the same touch-screen voting equipment! Imagine many poll workers and voters with vulnerabilities due to age or underlying health condition. Double Yipes!!

As Senator Ron Wyden has put it, "No voter should have to choose be-

tween exercising their constitutional right and putting their health at risk. When disaster strikes, the safest route for seniors, individuals with compromised immune systems or other at-risk populations is to provide every voter with a paper ballot they can return by mail or drop-off site. This is a nonpartisan, common-sense solution to the very real threat looming this November."

And so, Senators Wyden, Klobuchar and others are introducing the Natural Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act of 2020. This bill would require all states to allow citizens to vote by mail. The bill even provides funding to assist states in setting this up. Both of our California Senators have stepped up to co-sponsor the bill. Please take a moment to call or email our Senators and thank them for their support!

Happily, we are already covered here in Los Angeles County. After the March Madness at the polls, California Secretary of State Alex Padilla dashed off a sternly worded letter to County Registrar-Recorder Dean Lo-

gan in which he expressed his "deep concerns" and called on Logan to mail a Vote by Mail ballot to every registered voter in the County 29 days before the November 3rd General Election. Myself, I am taking no chances. I have already re-registered to vote as a permanent vote-by-mail voter. (At: <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>)

For more information about the Natural Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act of 2020, go to page 9 of this newsletter.

Secretary Padilla's response to the March Mess is on page 10 of this newsletter.



(Earth Day Meeting from page 1)

Patricia McPherson

Our second featured speaker will be activist Patricia McPherson, president of the Sierra Club's Grassroots Coalition. For twenty years she has worked on public health and safety issues around the oil and gas industry, with a focus on protection of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, as well as stopping the Big Dig.

For members needing online help

If you are not familiar with Zoom, we can set up a short practice meeting. Text your name to Pete Rockwell at 415-254-5338, or email pete_rockwell@hotmail.com

If Trump alone can fix our coronavirus crisis, then why the hell hasn't he?

by Robin Abcarian
Los Angeles Times

In 2016, as Donald Trump accepted the Republican presidential nomination, he said the “system” was broken. “I alone can fix it,” he darkly proclaimed. At the time, his dictatorial demeanor chilled me to the bone.

But you know what's crazy?

Now that we're facing a problem that he alone really can fix, he has totally whiffed.

The mighty blowhard in the Oval Office has once again revealed himself to care more about the stock market, his flagging company businesses and his own reelection than the health of the American people.


Let me explain.

For decades, presidents have had the ability to invoke a Korean War-era law, the Defense Production Act. The act would have allowed Trump weeks ago to order manufacturers to create desperately needed medical supplies — including things as simple as masks and gloves or as sophisticated as ventilators — and use the massive logistical power of the American military to assist in the task.

And though he has declared himself a “wartime president,” he has yet to act

How to Join the Culver City Democratic Club online

- Go to the Club's website:
www.CulverCityDemocraticClub.com
- Click on the Join / Renew button:



3. This will take you to the Actblue website

Join or Renew Your Culver City Democratic Club Membership!

The Culver City Democratic Club provides an important resource for local Democrats. Your support helps us sponsor events, advocate for Democratic candidates and promote Democratic values. Please take this opportunity and donate today. Member - \$30; Student Member - \$20; Supporting Member - \$75; Sustaining Member - \$125; Lifetime Member - \$500.

Donate via Apple Pay

We noticed that you have Apple Pay®. It's the easiest way to donate.

Your contribution will benefit Culver City Democratic Club (CA).

\$20	\$30	\$45
\$75	\$125	\$500
Other amount		

Make it monthly!

Yes, count me in for 12 months

No, donate once

4. Join the Culver City Democratic Club!

like one. He waited until Friday to invoke the Defense Production Act, and still only in a limited way, saying he will use it to ensure General Motors begins making and prioritizes production of much-needed ventilators. But what took him so long, and what about the range of other things needed in the fight?

And when the federal government has belatedly gotten involved, it has dithered, as we saw last week when a venture between General Motors and Ventec Life Systems to produce ventilators appeared to be falling apart. “The only thing missing,” reported the New York Times, “was clarity from the government about how many ventilators they needed — and who would be paid to build them.”

So instead of being able to make a grand announcement about the joint venture days ago, the president on

Thursday picked a fight with New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who has requested 30,000 ventilators.

“I don't believe you need 40,000 or 30,000 ventilators,” Trump told Sean Hannity. “You know, you go into major hospitals, sometimes they'll have two ventilators. And now, all of a sudden, they're saying, ‘Can we order 30,000 ventilators?’”

Yes, you very stable genius, that's exactly what they are saying!

By Friday morning, it seemed, Trump realized the predicted ventilator shortage was not a hoax. He angrily tweeted insults at GM and its CEO Mary Barra for seeming to backtrack on the number of ventilators the company predicted it could turn out, warning that he might have to invoke the Defense Production Act, but not immediately doing it.

(See **Robin Abcarian** on page 6)

Di's Corner: by Diane Rosenberg

At our general meeting on March 11, Maeve Giza, from State Senator Holly Mitchell's office, came by with Certificates of Recognition to be given to the new 2020 officers, as well as Certificates of Recognition for Club member Rick Tuttle, recipient of the Trudy and Hal Cherness Democrat of the Year Award, and Sarah Hager, recipient of the Rising Star Award. Congratulations to Rick, Sarah and all the newly-elected Club officers.

Andy and Diane Rosenberg
are sponsoring
April's General Meeting.
IN MEMORY OF
Herb Rosenberg
beloved Husband and Father
Mark Stuart Rosenberg
beloved Son and Brother

(Robin Abcarian from page 5)

"They said they were going to give us 40,000 much needed Ventilators, 'very quickly,'" Trump tweeted. "Now they are saying it will only be 6000, in late April, and they want top dollar. Always a mess with Mary B."

It took a barrage of criticism for Trump to finally sign the memorandum requiring GM to "accept, perform and prioritize" federal contracts for the government contracts for production of ventilators.

Always a mess with you, too, sir.

In the absence of a full-throated government response to the shortages of personal protective equipment, or PPE, citizens have stepped in to fill the void. My friend Dayle has been sitting at her sewing machine in Santa Monica turning out face masks for the Million Mask Project. UCLA engineers are working with doctors to make face shields with 3-D printers. They never should have had to do these things in the first place.

"What could have happened from the moment this virus was first discovered is the federal government could have moved swiftly and silently to prepare us," said Max Brooks, the apocalyptic novelist whose deep research for his novels has left him with a lot of well-informed thoughts on disaster planning. "And while that may not have stopped the virus from coming to the country, it would have stopped the panic."

Brooks, 47, author of "The Zombie Survival Guide," and "World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War," is intimately familiar with the federal government's granular planning for emergency situations such as the one

that now faces us.

Brooks, the son of Mel Brooks and the late Anne Bancroft, became something of an internet sensation last week when he posted a video urging younger people to get serious about social distancing. "If I get the coronavirus, I'll probably be OK," says Brooks, in his father's garden, as his 93-year-old father looks on through a plate-glass window. "But if I give it to him, he could give it to Carl Reiner, who could give it to Dick Van Dyke and, before I know it, I've wiped out a whole generation of comedic legends." The video, appropriately enough, has gone viral.

When I reached Brooks Thursday afternoon, he was at home in Venice with his wife and teenage son, studying a 2017 Department of Homeland Security document with the unwieldy title, "Biological Incident Annex to the Response and Recovery Federal Interagency Operational Plans." The annex is part of the National Response Framework, which lays out in excruciating detail how the federal government should respond to a "biological incident," such as the virus that causes COVID-19, which, as of Friday, has afflicted nearly 86,000 Americans and killed at least 1,275.

"On Page 31, on line 15, it literally says the goal is to support PPE needs, which involves utilization of the Defense Production Act," said Brooks. "It's right here in the plan, studied by state, local and federal agencies. They have been trained for this. They are ready to go."

So what could account for Trump's reluctance to pull this powerful lever with real force?

Why has he allowed states, counties and cities to fend for themselves, and to find themselves bidding against each other for crucial equipment?

"I don't know whether it's sheer incompetence, whether it's ideology," said Brooks. "But this is why we have big government. It is literally in our Constitution to provide for the 'common defense.' This is not a state-by-state fight; it's a national fight. It would be like responding to Pearl Harbor by letting Hawaii deal with it."

Though China was not transparent with its own citizens when the novel coronavirus was first discovered, it reported the discovery to the World Health Organization on Dec. 31.

On Jan. 12, the WHO announced that China had shared the genetic sequence, "which will be of great importance for other countries to use in developing specific diagnostic kits."

"What could have happened from the moment the virus was first discovered is the federal government could have moved swiftly and silently to prepare us," said Brooks. "And while that may not have stopped the virus from coming to our country, it would have stopped the panic."

Instead, Trump spent January and February downplaying the danger.

"One day, it's like a miracle, it will disappear," he said on Feb. 27.

He had a chance to be the miracle worker he believes himself to be.

And he blew it.

Robin Abcarian is an opinion columnist at the Los Angeles Times. She writes about news, politics and culture on Wednesday and Sunday.

Trump says quiet part out loud: 'You'd never have a Republican elected in this country again'

Jen Hayden
Daily Kos Staff

Just kidding! He spent the morning talking to his Fox friends live on-the-air to complain about the coverage he's been getting and generally acting like the unqualified, incompetent narcissist running the country during a global crisis that he truly is, only a day after he publicly suggested New York healthcare professionals might be hoarding masks for their own personal reasons.

While there were plenty of hair-raising moments during his rambling morning session on Fox News, he did provide a quote that should be newsworthy. During a discussion about the \$2 trillion stimulus package he just signed to slow the economic tsunami rolling across the country, he lamented the provisions Democrats tried to attach to the stimulus. What provision real-

ly irked him? Democrats insisted on provisions to safeguard voting, provide more polling locations, and/or move to mail-in voting like California and Colorado have quite successfully done in recent years. Makes sense in the middle of a global pandemic that is projected to kill 200,000 Americans, right?

According to Donald Trump, making sure people can vote is "crazy." He then added that if we took these kinds of steps and provided adequate funding, "you'd never have a Republican elected in this country again." He said the quiet part out loud. While the stimulus package did include \$400 million for voting protections, that is a far cry from the \$2 billion experts say is needed in 2020. According to The New York Times, the \$400 million was a settlement with Republicans who only offered \$140 million of the \$2 billion.

I mean, it is 2020, why can't we all mail in our ballots at this point and skip the

day off work, the long lines, finding a babysitter, and so on? The answer isn't complicated. Democrats vastly outnumber Republicans nationwide and increasing the number of people who can vote likely means shrinking the Republican power grip on everything from the White House to your local school board. Heck, even independents outnumber Republicans these days.

And that, friends, is precisely why Donald Trump and Republicans are doing everything they can to limit how many people vote. From creating voter ID laws to reducing the number of polling locations to refusing to allow people to vote by mail, it's all meant to suppress the vote. It's been very effective for Republicans in the past and for once in his life, Donald Trump might be right about the long odds of Republicans getting elected if we actually create a system wherein all the people can vote.

SATIRE FROM THE NEW YORKER

TRUMP CATCHES MELANIA WATCHING CUOMO BRIEFING

WASHINGTON (The Borowitz Report)—

An awkward scene unfolded at the White House on Tuesday after Donald J. Trump came upon his wife, Melania, furtively watching New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's daily coronavirus briefing.

According to White House sources Trump was walking down a corridor of the Family Residence when he heard a familiar nasal voice emanating from the Lincoln Bedroom, droning on about masks and ventilators.

Bursting into the room, Trump came upon his wife watching Cuomo with rapt attention.

Caught by surprise, Melania quickly turned off the television and claimed that she was only watching Cuomo "to see how many big terrible mistakes he makes."

While her husband seemed to accept her explanation, the incident raised eyebrows at the White House, where, for weeks, the First Lady has been vanishing midday to watch the Governor's daily COVID-19 updates.

Reportedly last week a White House staffer observed Melania alone in the Lincoln Bedroom, the lights dimmed, the room illuminated only by the flickering image of Andrew Cuomo.

Unaware that she was being watched the First Lady was overheard murmuring to Cuomo "You be best."

WORKERS MAKE THE WORLD RUN.



WORKERS SHOULD RUN THE WORLD.

Proposed Resolutions

Resolution on Ballot Design in the November 3, 2020 General Election

WHEREAS, The Primary Election of March 3, 2020 was characterized by voting screens not working properly, long lines, long waiting periods at the new voting centers; and

WHEREAS, candidates running for the same office were placed on different pages with the result that voters could have missed voting for some of the candidates if they had not pressed the “more” button on their voting screens; and

WHEREAS, voters who registered to vote by mail did not receive their ballots in time and had to drive to Norwalk to vote early; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Culver City Democratic Club urges the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/ County Clerk to allow all eligible voting residents of the County of Los Angeles to vote by mail in the November 3, 2020 election to avoid the technical problems encountered in the March 3 election; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Culver City Democratic Club urges that the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/ County Clerk list the names of the candidates running for the same office on the same page of the ballot, just as it was done for the Presidential candidates, so that the voters can view and evaluate ALL the candidates at the same time.

Respectfully submitted:

Khin Khin Gyi
Ronnie Jayne Solomon
Tom Camarella

Resolution on Vote By Mail in the November 3, 2020 General Election

WHEREAS, Governor Gavin Newsom has decreed a Stay-At-Home social distancing advisory to slow down the rate of infection with the coronavirus COVID-19 in order not to overwhelm our hospitals and our inventory of personal protective equipment (PPE) stockpiles; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has been compared to one of its coronavirus pandemic predecessors, the Spanish Flu that occurred between 1918 and 1920, we must prepare for the current pandemic to last months rather than weeks in realistic terms; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 can be spread by everyone pushing the same buttons when voting and congregating in one place without maintaining the recommended six feet separation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Culver City Democratic Club urges the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/ County Clerk to mandate all eligible voters in Los Angeles County to vote by mail in the November 3, 2020 election to protect the health of the County’s residents and poll workers; and be it further

RESOLVED, That, when passed, this resolution be distributed to all the Democratic Clubs chartered by the Los Angeles County Democratic Party, to California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, and to Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/ County Clerk Dean Logan.

Respectfully submitted:

Khin Khin Gyi
Ronnie Jayne Solomon
Tom Camarella

Natural Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act (NDEBA) of 2020

Sponsored by Senators Klobuchar and Wyden and Senators: Hirono, Baldwin, Coons, Sanders, Markey, Van Hollen, Booker, Smith, Harris, Jones, Feinstein, Peters, Durbin, Merkley, Murphy, Stabenow, Blumenthal, Warner, Murray, Heinrich, Udall, Warren, Duckworth, and Cantwell

Problem: Ohio, Louisiana, Georgia, Maryland, and Kentucky have delayed their presidential primary elections due to the COVID-19 coronavirus. The Natural Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act (NDEBA) represents a commonsense solution to ensuring the 2020 elections and future elections are resilient to emergencies, including natural disasters and pandemics, and that we are protecting the voting rights of those in harm's way as well as emergency responders. Natural disasters and public health emergencies are occurring more frequently and with greater impact than ever before, affecting the ability of victims and first responders to vote on Election Day. The lack of voting options in many states and sufficient emergency ballot procedures leaves many voters disenfranchised. COVID-19, hurricanes Harvey and Irma, and wildfires in the Western United States are recent examples of the damage and disruption that public health emergencies and natural disasters can cause.

The bill would specifically:

- Ensure that voters in all states have 20 days of early in-person voting and no-excuse absentee vote-by-mail and ensure states begin processing (but not counting) votes cast during early voting or by mail 14 days before Election Day to avoid delays in counting votes on Election Day.
- Guarantee that all voter registration applications submitted by mail or online, up until and 21 days prior to Election Day, are deemed valid. Any state may have a deadline closer to Election Day.
- Require states and jurisdictions to establish a publicly available contingency plan to enable eligible Americans to vote in the case of an emergency and establish an initiative to recruit poll workers from high schools and colleges as well as from other State and local government offices.
- Provide all voters with the option of online requests for absentee ballots and require states to accept requests received up until and 5 days prior to Election Day. Any state may have a deadline closer to Election Day.
- Guarantee the counting of absentee ballots postmarked or signed before the close of the polls on Election Day and received up until and on the 10th day following Election Day.
- Ensure states provide self-sealing envelopes with prepaid postage for all voters who request a voter

registration application, absentee ballot application, or an absentee ballot.

- Require states to offer their downloadable and printable absentee ballots currently made available to military and overseas voters, to domestic voters who (1) requested but did not receive an absentee ballot for the 2020 election and (2) to voters with disabilities who requested an absentee ballot and reside in a state that does not offer secure accessible remote ballot marking technology.
- Charge the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) with creating a uniform domestic downloadable and printable absentee ballot that can be used starting in 2022.
- Direct all states that do not already use ballot tracking systems to use envelopes with an Intelligent Mail barcode (IMb) to allow voters to track their ballot for the 2020 and successive elections.
- Charge the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), in consultation with the General Services Administration (GSA), EAC, the United States Postal Service, and states to create a domestic ballot update service for election officials to provide voters with updates on their ballot for the 2024 elections and beyond.
- Ensure states implement a specified signature curing procedure for voters.
- Provide additional accommodations for Native American voters including allowing tribes to designate ballot pickup and drop-off locations and not requiring residential address for election mail.
- Authorize funds necessary to reimburse states for the cost of implementing the Act, such as providing absentee ballots and prepaid postage, and purchasing additional ballot scanners and absentee ballot drop boxes.
- Authorize funds necessary to reimburse states for the cost of developing or purchasing and implementing secure remote ballot marking to enable voters with disabilities to mark their ballots at home and vote by mail.
- Provide \$3 million in additional funds to the EAC for supporting states in implementing the Act.
- All requirements will go into effect for the 2020 general election and thereafter.

March 5, 2020

Dean C. Logan
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
Los Angeles County
12400 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650

Dear Mr. Logan:

As the Chief Elections Officer for State of California, I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding Los Angeles County's administration of the March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary Election. Reports from election observers, complaints to the statewide voter hotline, and media stories make it clear that many Los Angeles County voters faced long wait times which could have been avoided.

As you know, 15 counties, including Los Angeles, conducted elections under the Voter's Choice Act yesterday. In the 14 other Voter's Choice Act counties, every voter was mailed a ballot 29 days in advance of the election. Los Angeles should do the same. I am calling on your office to take the necessary steps to mail every registered voter a ballot 29 days prior to the November 3, 2020 General Election. This is just a first step in better addressing the needs of the largest, most diverse voting jurisdiction in the nation.

The Voter's Choice Act provides important tools that empower voters — early voting opportunities, the geographic flexibility created by vote centers, voting-by-mail, and Same Day Voter registration — but they must be deployed effectively. To ensure that Los Angeles County voters enjoy the full benefits of California's election reforms, I am asking your office to address the following concerns ahead of the November 3, 2020 Presidential General Election:

- Resources: Some vote centers were understaffed and under-equipped. Response times to calls for service from vote center workers were too long.
- Logistics: The coordination of vote center set up, timely deployment of equipment and supplies, and availability of support for vote centers was lacking.
- Training: Some vote center workers were insufficiently trained on voter check-in and voting system procedures.
- Voting Equipment: Many vote centers had voting machines and check-in stations that were not in use.

With only eight months until the November 3, 2020 General Election, it is critical that these issues are addressed in a timely and efficient manner.

My office will follow up soon with more specific requests for information regarding the issues outlined above. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



ALEX PADILLA
California Secretary of State

Will We Flunk Pandemic Economics?

***Our government suffers from
learned helplessness.***

*By Paul Krugman
New York Times*

Just a month ago Donald Trump was still insisting that Covid-19 was a trivial issue, comparing it to the “common flu.” And he dismissed economic concerns; after all, during flu season, “nothing is shut down, life & the economy go on.”

But pandemics come at you fast. Since Trump’s blithe dismissal, something like 15 million Americans have lost their jobs — the economic implosion is happening so quickly that official statistics can’t keep up.

In our last economic crisis the economy shrank around 6 percent relative to its long-run trend, and the unemployment rate rose around five percentage points. At a guess, we’re now looking at a slump three to five times that deep.

And this plunge isn’t just quantitatively off the charts; it’s qualitatively different from anything we’ve seen before. Normal recessions happen when people choose to cut spending, with the unintended consequence of destroying jobs. So far this slump mainly reflects the deliberate, necessary shutdown of activities that increase the rate of infection.

As I’ve been saying, it’s the economic equivalent of a medically induced coma, in which some brain functions are temporarily shut down to give the patient a chance to heal.

While a deep slump is unavoidable, however, good policies could do a lot to minimize the amount of hardship Americans experience. The problem is that the U.S. political landscape has long been dominated by an anti-government ideology that left us unprepared, intellectually and institutionally, for this crisis.

What should we be doing? Serious economists have already reached a rough consensus over the appropriate policy response to a pandemic. The bottom line is that this isn’t a conventional recession, which calls for broad-based economic stimulus. The immediate mission, beyond an all-out effort to contain the pandemic itself, should instead be disaster relief: generous aid to those suffering a sudden loss of income as a result of the economy’s lockdown.

It’s true that we could suffer a second round of job losses if the victims of the lockdown slash spending on other goods and services. But adequate disaster relief would address this problem, too, helping to sustain demand.

So it’s all about helping the economic victims of the coronavirus lockdown. How are we doing?

The good news is that thanks to Democratic pressure, the CARES Act, the \$2 trillion not-a-stimulus bill that became law less than three weeks after Trump dismissed the notion that Covid-19 might pose an economic problem, is mostly focused on the right things. The core provisions of the legislation are aid to hospitals, the unemployed and small businesses that maintain their payrolls; these are exactly the kinds of things we should be doing.

What’s especially remarkable is that we got mostly sensible legislation even though the president was talking nonsense, pushing for — what else? — tax cuts as the solution for the economy’s problems. Actually, I can’t think of any other recent example in which Republicans agreed to major fiscal legislation that mainly involved spending to benefit the needy, without any tax cuts for the rich.

The bad news comes in two parts.

First, the bill falls far short of what’s needed on one crucial dimension: aid to state governments, which are on the front line of dealing with the pandemic. Unlike the federal government, states have to balance their budgets each year. Now they’re facing a surge in costs and huge revenue losses; unless they get a lot more aid, they’ll be forced to cut spending sharply, which will directly undermine essential services and indirectly deepen the overall slump.

And it’s not clear when or whether that hole will be filled. Senate Republicans are hostile to the idea of another rescue package; White House officials are reportedly still talking about tax cuts.

Second, decades of hostility to government have left us poorly positioned to deliver even the aid Congress has voted. State unemployment offices have been underfunded for a long time, and red states have deliberately made it hard to apply for benefits. So the surge in unemployment is overwhelming the benefits system; Congress may have voted disaster relief, but the money isn’t flowing.

The loan program for small businesses is also, by all accounts, off to a shambolic start. And those \$1,200 checks everyone is supposed to get? Many Americans won’t get them for weeks or months.

It doesn’t have to be like this. Canada has already set up a special web portal and phone system to provide emergency unemployment benefits. Germans have been pleasantly surprised by how quickly aid is flowing to the self-employed and small businesses.

But decades of conservative attacks on the idea that government can do anything good have left America with a unique case of learned helplessness. And this is combined with utter lack of leadership from the top.

We know what we should be doing in terms of economic policy, and Congress passed a relief bill that, while flawed, was better than I expected. But right now it looks as if our response to the economic emergency will fall far short.

Our country is now facing its worst crisis in modern history

by *Bernie Sanders*

April 5, 2020

We are in the midst of a COVID-19 pandemic that could lead to the death of hundreds of thousands of Americans and infect millions of others, and we are entering an economic downturn that could be worse than the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Last week, 3.3 million Americans filed for unemployment. This week that number doubled to 6.6 million claims — ten times higher than any other week on record. It is certain that well over 10 million people have lost their jobs — more than in the Wall Street crash of 2008.

In this unprecedented moment in modern American history, it is imperative that we respond in an unprecedented way. And that means that Congress must pass, in the very near future, the boldest piece of legislation ever written in modern history.

There are many, many issues that must be addressed in our response to this pandemic, and working together, we will make sure they are addressed.

But today, I am outlining a set of six core provisions that must be included in the next legislation Congress passes to support working people in this country during this horrific crisis:

1. Addressing the Employment Crisis and Providing Immediate Financial Relief

There is little doubt in my mind that we are facing an economic crisis that could be even worse than the Great Depression. The St. Louis Federal Reserve has projected that 47 million more people may become unemployed by the end of June, with unemployment reaching 32 percent. In my view, we must make sure that every worker in America continues to receive their paycheck during this crisis and we must provide immediate financial relief to everyone in this country.

An important precedent for that approach was taken in the recent stimulus package in which grants were provided to the airlines for the sole purpose of maintaining the paychecks and benefits of some 2 million workers in that industry through September 30. We must expand that program to cover every worker in America and we must make it retroactive to the beginning of this crisis. This is not a radical idea. Other countries, such as the UK, Norway, Denmark, France, and others have all come up with similar approaches to sustain their economy and prevent workers from losing their jobs.

Our primary goal during this crisis must be to prevent the disintegration of the American economy. It will be much easier and less expensive to prevent the collapse of the economy than trying to put it back together after it collapses.

To do this, we must also begin monthly payments of \$2,000 for every man, woman, and child in our country, and guarantee paid family leave throughout this crisis so that people who are sick do not face the choice of infecting others or losing their job.

2. We Must Guarantee Health Care to All

Let's be clear: we were facing a catastrophic health care crisis before the pandemic, and now that crisis has become much, much worse. Already, 87 million people are uninsured or underinsured. Layoffs will mean tens of millions of people more will lose their current insurance — which will result in countless deaths and bankruptcies. Already in the last two weeks, an estimated 3.5 million people have lost their employer-sponsored insurance.

And as the pandemic grows, we are seeing more and more reports of people who have delayed treatment due to concerns about cost. In this pandemic, uninsurance will lead to deaths and more COVID-19 transmissions.

Therefore, during this crisis, Medicare must be empowered to pay all of the

deductibles, co-payments and out-of-pocket healthcare expenses for the uninsured and the underinsured. No one in America who is sick, regardless of immigration status, should be afraid to seek the medical treatment they need during this national pandemic. Let me be clear: I am not proposing that we pass Medicare for All in this moment. That fight continues into the future. But, for the moment, we must act boldly to make sure everyone can get the health care they need in the coming months.

3. Use the Defense Production Act to Produce the Equipment and Testing We Need

Unbelievably, in the United States right now, doctors and nurses are unnecessarily putting their lives on the line treating people suffering from the coronavirus because they lack personal protective equipment like masks, gloves, and surgical gowns. The CDC has directed health professionals to use homemade gear like bandanas or scarves and some workers at the VA are being told to re-use one surgical mask for a week at a time. HHS estimated that our country needs 3.5 billion masks in response to this crisis.

President Trump has utilized the Defense Production Act thousands of times for the military and for enforcement of his immigration policies, yet he has resisted using its power to save lives during the pandemic. That is unacceptable. We must immediately and forcefully use the Defense Production Act to direct the production of all of the personal protective equipment, ventilators and other medical supplies needed.

We must also utilize this power to produce antibody tests so we can begin figuring out who has already contracted the virus and has developed some immunity to COVID-19.

In addition, OSHA must adopt a strong emergency standard to protect health (See **Crisis** on page 13)

(Crisis from page 12)

care workers, patients, and the public during this crisis. We must crack down aggressively on price gougers and hoarders, and use any means necessary to secure supplies.

4. Make Sure No One Goes Hungry

Even before this crisis hit, one in every seven kids in America was going hungry and nearly 5.5 million seniors in our country struggled with hunger. Already in this crisis we see lines at food banks and growing concern that our most vulnerable communities and those recently unemployed may struggle to feed their families.

As communities face record levels of food insecurity, we must increase SNAP benefits, expand the WIC program for pregnant mothers, infants, and children, double funding for the Emergency Food Program (TEFAP) to ensure food banks have food to distribute, and expand Meals on Wheels and School Meals programs. When necessary, we must also develop new approaches to deliver food to vulnerable populations — including door-to-door drop offs.

5. Provide Emergency Aid to States and Cities

Even as state and local employees like police officers, firefighters and paramedics work on the front lines of this pandemic, states and cities that pay their salaries are facing enormous budgetary pressures.

Congress must provide \$600 billion in direct fiscal aid to states and cities to ensure they have the personnel and funding necessary to respond to this crisis. In addition, the Federal Reserve must establish programs to provide direct fiscal support and budgetary relief to states and municipalities.

6. Suspend Monthly Payments

Even before this crisis, half of the people in our country were living paycheck to paycheck. In America today, over 18 million families are paying more than 50 percent of their income on housing. Now, with growing unemployment, families are facing financial ruin if we do not act quickly and boldly.

That's why we must suspend monthly expenses like rent, mortgages, medical

debt and consumer debt collection for 4 months. We must cancel all student loan payments for the duration of this crisis, and place an immediate moratorium on evictions, foreclosures, and utility shut-offs.

Brothers and sisters: In this unprecedented moment in our history it is easy to feel like we are alone, and that everyone must fend for themselves. But that would be a mistake and a terrible tragedy. Now, more than any other moment in our lives, we must remember that we are all in this together — that when one of us gets sick, many more may get sick. And when my neighbor loses their job, I may lose my job as well.

Further, we cannot wait until our economy collapses to act. It will be far easier and less expensive to act now, in a very bold way, than to try to rebuild our country later.

If we work together and unite behind these basic principles of economic and health justice, I am confident that we will not only get through this unprecedented crisis together but that we will lay the groundwork for a better and more just America in the future.

SUPPLEMENTS TO THE NEWSLETTER

I've never seen such a convergence of world-changing events — the Covid-19 pandemic, the economic shutdown, and the most consequential U.S. election in my lifetime. In response, I've changed the CCDC newsletter to online-only and will put out supplements to the newsletter when it seems appropriate. This is the first one. I'm also appointing a newsletter committee whose main job will be to advise me on what to put into the newsletter. As you can see from this supplement to the April newsletter, I'm going to put in things I find in *The New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and other established publications. I'd also like to have elected officials and activists write pieces for the newsletter, either on a monthly basis or ad hoc. We have always printed member submissions and will continue to do that.

—Pete Rockwell



By Brendan Loper — *The New Yorker*

BLOPER



50th Anniversary of
Earth Day Celebration

Wednesday,
April 22, 2020,
at 7pm
Zoom virtual meeting



RL Miller,
Chair of the CDP Environmental Caucus



Patricia McPherson,
President of Grassroots Coalition

The Climate Crisis in the Era of the Coronavirus Crisis

RSVP NOW by email to Club President
Pete Rockwell: pete_rockwell@hotmail.com