

July 2020

Culver City Democratic Club

Active Democrat



www.CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Email: CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com • Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/culvercitydems

July 4th City Council Candidates Meet & Greet This Saturday!

General Meeting Wednesday, July 8, 2020

President's Message by Pete Rockwell

We're having a special Zoom meeting at 11am on the Fourth of July to hear from five Club members running for Culver City Council

Here's the format for the July Fourth meet and greet:

Candidates will appear for half an hour each, beginning at 11 a.m. We'll go in alphabetical order by last name, so the order will be:

Khin Khin Gyi	11 a.m.
Yasmine-Imani McMorris	11:30 a.m.
Darrel Menthe	12 noon,
Freddy Puza	12:30 p.m.
Albert Vera	1:00 p.m.

Candidates will be admitted to the Zoom meeting at their appointed time, and they will leave the Zoom meeting at the end of their half hour. Participants who are not candidates can come and go in the Zoom meeting as they wish. A participant may be in the meeting from 11:30 to noon, leave, then come back into the meeting at 12:30.

The entire meeting will be recorded, and some or all of the footage will be posted on social media.

In the first fifteen minutes or less, candidates will be free to tell why they are running. They may talk about the important local issues like homelessness, rent control, police reform, and urban oil drilling. It will be their time to persuade people to vote for them. But they also have the option of opening up for questions early if they want. They can even spend their half hour only taking questions.

Please put your questions for the candidates in the chat. I'll ask the questions in whatever order I think is best. We won't get to all of the questions, most likely.

Learn about two important ballot initiatives regarding Renter Protections and Affordability at the Club's general meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 8

At its July 8, 7pm Zoom meeting the Culver City Democratic Club will host two speakers who will each cover a different rent control ballot proposition that will appear on the November 3rd Culver City ballot.

Council member and former Culver City Mayor Meghan Sahli-Wells will discuss the [local ballot proposition](#) to retroactively remove the Culver City Council's authority to enact renter protections. If this measure passes, a voter referendum would be the sole means to pass local rent control. For more background, read Judith Martin Straw's *[Just a Thought](#)*

Berkeley politician, architect, and commercial artist Alfred Twu will talk about the Rental Affordability Act, the state-wide proposition that would significantly increase the power of local city governments to enact rent control. This proposition was put together by the authors of Proposition 10, the rent control ballot proposition that lost in California in 2018. This year's proposition includes significant changes that should increase its chance of passing. Here's a link to [an article written and illustrated by Alfred Twu](#) on the subject of rent control.

Please R.S.V.P. for the Culver City Democratic Club's next Zoom meeting

Fourth of July virtual BBQ

meet and greet the candidates for Culver City Council

Five of the six CCDC members who plan to run for the three open seats on the Culver City Council on November 3 of this year will each have half an hour to talk about why they are going to run for the Council and answer questions from voters. The schedule is as follows: Khin Khin Gyi 11am, Yasmine McMorris 11:30am, Darrel Menthe noon, Freddy Puza 12:30pm, and Albert Vera 1pm. Please email Pete Rockwell at CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com and ask to be sent a link to the Zoom meeting. You can attend the meeting just long enough to see candidates you are most interested in, or you can stay for the whole meeting.



11:00 A. M.

KHIN KHIN GYI

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the fault lines running through our society. It has brought the issues of inequities in access to health care, environmental injustice, social injustice, racial injustice and economic injustice to the forefront. As someone who has done her postdoctoral fellowship at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, I feel that I can help the City navigate out of the pandemic with both short-term and long-term perspectives. As a practicing physician, I've been trained to make evidence-based decisions that can be brought to bear on our pressing issues of homelessness, criminal justice reform and health care insecurity.



11:30 A.M.

YASMINE MCMORRIS

We deserve a community that values the well-being and safety of everyone who lives, works, and plays in Culver City. I'm an attorney, education equity advocate, and mom. I work at the USC Gould School of Law as the Interim Dean of Students and Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. Culver City values diversity, but unless everyone's voices and experiences play a role in shaping our priorities, we won't become the inclusive and equitable town we can be. My vision as a Council Member is to ensure that as Culver City recovers from the pandemic, we prioritize equity, making sure everyone shares in the progress that we create together.



NOON

DARREL MENTHE

I am running for Culver City Council because I love this city. We have been building a bright, progressive future here in Culver City. I want to make sure we continue to build that future together despite the shocks of pandemic and recession. That means building affordable housing, mobility options, and walkable neighborhoods. It means securing our city's finances. It also means justice. We must overcome a history that has left too many people out, and build a future that works for all the different communities who call Culver City home.



12:30 P.M.

FREDDY PUZA

A year ago, I would have said Culver City was already at a major turning point. The city had just begun the General Plan process. Then the COVID-19 pandemic happened, followed by the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, which erupted in a call for equity and protests against police brutality. I'm running because these unprecedented times call for unprecedented leadership. Now is the time to hear all voices. In the past few years, I've seen more progressive leadership in Culver City. I'm running to continue on that path. Status quo doesn't naturally evolve into equity.



1:00 P.M.

ALBERT VERA

We are living through historic times. In the coming weeks and months, Culver City will have to make decisions that can change the course of our community for decades to come. Whether it's budget decisions and those that impact social services or those that determine how our city departments can better serve our residents, I want to be part of that change. I have worked hard to address our homeless crisis, served on city commissions and run a family business for many years. I have the experience, the progressive values and the work ethic to be a Councilman who can truly make a difference, and I hope to earn your support.

An Introduction to a People's Budget and Economy

by Mark Lipman

It's interesting to see that out of the chaos in LA we are beginning to speak about a People's Budget—a conversation which is long overdue.

A People's Budget is being proposed by the *People's City Council* consortium of grassroots organizations, led by BLM LA and supported by those like *Ground Game Los Angeles* and others who have been working with local communities around the country.

Did you know that in a People's Budget, the share of the budget going to the police department would total less than six percent of a city's budget, not the more than fifty percent we see in most major cities today?

OPINION

This of course creates an initial reaction of fear for some who do not know how a People's Budget and a People's Economy works. In a People's Economy, we directly fund things like housing, healthcare, education, transportation, utilities and many of the other things that we need as a society to sustain our basic lives.

By now, I'm sure many people are familiar with the idea of a Universal Basic Income. This is one of the things that has been put forward and embraced in other parts of the world as basic common sense in light of both Covid-19 and our shift to more and more automation and the job losses that result from it.

The bottom line in a People's Economy is people. In a People's Economy we fund the core needs of our communities first, so that no person is left behind.

And that means that instead of being first in line for funding, the police become the last in line.

I know. It's as if I'm speaking sacrilege. To some, police budgets are sacrosanct and can't be touched. Some believe that society would collapse without them. But just look around our world today and you will see that it's specifically because of the decades of ever-increasing police budgets that our society is imploding and spiraling down such a violent path at this very minute.

As a society, we have all the resources we need so that no one would fall through the cracks, and we can do it for far less money than we spend in taxes right now. But to do that we need to defund the police.

Police budgets are the reason why we can't have anything else. They're bleeding the taxpayers and communities dry. They keep us compliant by stoking fear and division among voters, using racism and discrimination to keep us apart.

People of color, and those living in poverty, have been portrayed as worthless criminals for centuries. This slander is reinforced with every news cycle in establishment media on a daily basis. We have arrived at a point where we bleed every last cent into a never-ending militarization of our society, while simultaneously fighting every effort to put any funding into anti-poverty measures. This backwardness hurts our communities of color the worst.

It is obvious that an economic structure like this only benefits those at the very top—the very same ones who are siphoning those budgets every step of the way. After all, crime is big business in America and prisons are incredibly profitable for corporations and unscrupulous investors. That's why incarceration costs taxpayers around \$75,000 per prisoner every year.

If we simply invested properly into our communities, providing everyone with the basic necessities, ensuring a bit of dignity in our daily lives so that people wouldn't have to scrape and grovel just to survive, crime would all but disappear, and we'd still have money left over for a tax break.

I hear the detractors saying, "what about all those police officers that get laid off? what about them?"

Of course we will greatly reduce the number of police officers, but the whole point of a People's Economy is that no one is left out. Those officers and their families are included just like everyone else. Moreover, when we take all that money that we save, that money no longer being diverted into some billionaire's offshore bank account, and we invest it into a Green New Deal, we'll be creat-

ing 20 million new, good-paying jobs to rebuild our infrastructure for our future energy needs and a sustainable planet for future generations. Those very same officers are more than welcome to join us in building that new future.

One thing is certain—you can hear it in our voices on the street—there is no going back to any version of the way things were. The days of status quo and establishment "normal" are done.

We are moving forward as a multi-racial, multi-generational movement that stands in stark contrast to the failed policies that have led us to this current point of civil unrest.

Our so-called political leaders have proven time and again that they either are unwilling, or otherwise incapable, of addressing the needs of the day and the urgency of the moment. As a movement, we respond that we are ready to step up and bring forth the solutions to the crises we face as a people and nation. That begins with implementing a People's Budget.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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How to Participate in City Meetings During a Pandemic

by Jeff Schwartz

The coronavirus has forced Culver City to hold all its public meetings online, which has forced us to navigate new electronic commenting systems. There are now three ways to submit a public comment. I recommend that you use all three to increase your chances to be heard.

First, submit your comment using the eComment feature on the City website before 4 p.m. on the day of the meeting:

- 1) Go to the [calendar page](#) on the City website: 2) Click “eComment” at the far right of the line for your meeting. 3) Click “Comment” next to your item on the agenda. 4) Use the “Sign Up” or “Sign In” links at the upper right to create an account or log in to your account. 5) Type your comment in the box. You have a 4000 character limit for the entire meeting, so plan ahead if you want to comment on multiple items. Also, each comment will be limited to two or three minutes, and 4000 characters can take longer than that to read, so time reading your comment aloud to be sure it can fit. 6) Click “Submit Comment”

Second, for backup and to submit longer comments, material with illustrations, charts, graphs, and tables, footnotes, etc, email: goran.eriksson@culvercity.org, alex.fisch@culvercity.org, daniel.lee@culvercity.org, meghan.sahli-wells@culvercity.org, thomas.small@culvercity.org, city.council@culvercity.org, public.comment@culvercity.org, and city.clerk@culvercity.org. Emailed comments will sometimes be read aloud at meetings. When there are many, the Mayor will give them one minute each, so put your main points in the beginning. Email is also useful if you won't be able to be online during the meeting or if you might not be able to stay up late enough for your item (the June 22 meeting went until almost 3 a.m.).

Finally, to read your comment live during the meeting: 1) Go to the [“Public Meetings”](#) page under “Commissions, Committees, and Boards” on the City website 2) Click your meeting under “Register to Attend” on the right. 3) On the next screen register for the meeting. 4) Join the meeting using the link emailed to you. The City uses Cisco WebEx, which is pretty similar to Zoom, BlueJeans, and Google Meet. Almost all the same functions are

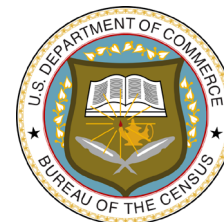
in the same places, so if you have trouble try to find a friend who knows one of those platforms. 5) Post in the chat that you want to speak, and which item you are interested in. 6) When your item comes up, go to the “Participants” window, find your name, and use the “Raise Hand” option. 7) Speak when the City Clerk calls on you. You will have two or three minutes, which the Mayor will set at the beginning of the discussion. It is good to write your statement in advance and time yourself reading it. If you or your family are watching the meeting on multiple devices, turn off the sound on all of them except for the one you are using, otherwise there will be psychedelic regenerating echoes.

The City has not been perfectly consistent in managing online public participation. Their understanding and application of the technology is developing, and sometimes the machines do not cooperate. I hope these instructions will make it a little easier for you to participate in public meetings as we and our representatives address major issues in the months ahead.

BE COUNTED THERE'S STILL TIME

Did you know that for every California resident not counted in the 2020 Census, our state loses \$2,000 a year per person? Worse yet, an undercount could result in the loss of multiple congressional seats. After we all worked so hard to flip the House, we can't let that happen. It's easy to respond on-line, by mail, or by phone. Click here:

[2020 Census](#)



Spread the word!

Culver City Democratic Club members elected as delegates to the 2020 Democratic Convention in August

Jimmie Woods-Gray is a delegate for Joe Biden
Jeanna Harris is a delegate for Bernie Sanders

Culver City Democratic Club members newly-appointed to Commissions, Boards and Committees

On June 8, 2020, the Culver City Council made the following appointments:

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Michele Weiner to Senior Resident Seat 1 for full term expiring on June 30, 2022

Civil Service Commission

Albert Vera to Seat No. 3 for a full term through June 30, 2024

Committee on Homelessness

Darryl Chernes to Seat 3 for a partial term through June 30, 2022.

Karlo Silbiger to Seat 4 to for a full term through June 30, 2024

Khin Khin Gyi to Seat 6 for a full term through June 30, 2024

Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee

Haifaa Moamar to Seat 3 for an initial 3 year term through June 30, 2023.

Rebecca Rona Tuttle to Seat 4 for a 4-year term through June 30, 2024

Finance Advisory Committee

Josh Goldstein to Resident Seat 2 for a full term through June 30, 2024

Darrel Menthe to Local Business Rep Seat 5 for a full term through June 30, 2024

Planning Commission

Nancy Barba to fill Seat No. 4 for a full term expiring June 30, 2024

The following resolution is being submitted to the State Democratic Party's Executive Board at its July 2020 meeting by two of our Club members, Jeanna Harris and Steve Dunwoody. It calls on the Party to stop accepting contributions from law enforcement groups and to withhold endorsement from candidates who do not also pledge to forswear such contributions. The resolution received the endorsement of the the California Democratic Party's Region 14 delegates at their meeting in June.

RESOLUTION TO END ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS the police killings of unarmed Black and Brown men and women and excessive use of force in communities of color has led to calls for much needed reforms to ensure accountability; and

WHEREAS law enforcement groups' intransigence makes it almost impossible to fire and hold officers accountable for breaking the law and the public's trust. (Ex: Derek Chauvin, the law enforcement officer charged with murdering George Floyd, had 18 prior complaints filed with Minneapolis Police Department's Internal Affairs, while his accomplice Tou Thao was the subject of six complaints.) This resolution recognizes that law enforcement groups' influence with elected officials allow these kinds of officers to remain armed, dangerous, and a threat to public safety; and

WHEREAS there is strong pressure from the public nationwide to decrease the influence of law enforcement groups in politics. The acceptance of political contributions from law enforcement groups by the California Democratic Party and its endorsed elected officials, contradicts the party platform goals for "implementing community policing strategies where the officers and the community work together as partners." Law enforcement contributions drown out the community's voice as a partner.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that WE, the duly elected and appointed members of the Democratic State Central Committee, do call for the California Democratic Party to end forthwith and/or no later than December 31st, 2020, further acceptance of contributions from law enforcement groups; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The California Democratic Party shall require elected officials to forswear law enforcement contributions from any law enforcement group in order to receive the Party's endorsement. The California Democratic Party and its endorsed elected officials should not be complicit in shielding their members from accountability. The continued acceptance of law enforcement group contributions, dishonors our Criminal Justice platform and harms the credibility of the Party with its members and voters.

Whose Party? Our Party! CADEM 2020

I think if we in the grassroots want the State Party to be choosy about who funds its operations (and we do!), it would be helpful if those who have the means would make a small contribution to the Party's CADEM2020 fund. That way, our Party is funded by us! Here is the link: <https://secure.ngpvan.com/nqW8784OGUO0g1KY07vxNg2>

—*Cynthia Hart*

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, July 4, 11 AM
City Council Candidates'
Virtual BBQ Meet and Greet
on Zoom
RSVP to

CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com

Wednesday, July 8, 7 PM
CCDC General Meeting on Zoom
Members: if the Club has your
email you will receive the
meeting link automatically—
Others may RSVP to
CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com

July 19, 2020, 1–4 PM
Statewide (Virtual)
Day of Action for Katie Porter
(Whose House? Our House!)
Sign up at [CADEM](https://www.cadem.org)

July 24–26, 2020
California Democratic Party
(Virtual) Summer Executive
Board Meeting
([CADEM Executive Board](https://www.cadem.org))

Wednesday, August 12, 7 PM
CCDC General Meeting on Zoom
Members: if the Club has your
email you will receive the
meeting link automatically—
Others may RSVP to
CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com

August 17 – 20, 2020
Democratic National Convention
Submit your comment to the
Platform Committee at:
Comments & Testimony
[platform committee](https://platformcommittee.org)

October 5, 2020
Your Vote-By-Mail Ballot for the
November Election
will be mailed to you!
(Even if you did not request it!)

Links to Help Elect Democrats Nationwide

The Westside Democratic HQ offers virtual
phone banking and postcard writing
parties several times a week. RSVP at
[Westside Democratic Headquarters](#)



Field Team 6 has an ongoing mission to
“search and rescue” Democrats in red
districts. See their full calendar of virtual
phone banking and text banking at
[Field Team 6](#)

Join the Culver City Democratic Club online

1. Go to the Club's website:

www.CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

2. Click on the Join / Renew button in the upper
left corner:

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!

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



BLACK LIVES MATTER

by Ziggy

Being black and happy is illegal.
Threatened that our nappiness is regal,
They systematically,
Go forth emphatically,
Disempowering our people.
Who refused to live life as shattered,
Because our Black Lives Matter!

Attacking
Us dark and innocent.
Murdering us without repent
—Evident malevolence,
Furthered on without relent,
Choking rally cries into beaten murmurs of consent...

Cause—oh how the spoken disappear.
Woe, to the woken, who live in fear,
Aware killers donning the cloth of law,
Badged in authoritative gall,
Homicidal hover near...

So we dissent!
With our existence being the resistance.
We invent
New systems to empower would-be victims,
Fortified by the truth that America blooms
From the fruits of our roots.

Get with the Get Down
Getting down on one knee.
We are grounded,
& they're astounded
That it's Mother Earth who deemed us free.
We know our precious worth
and what we want is just:
The breadth to breathe.

Resilient though they batter,
Our dreams will not go scattered.
Nor will our mirthful esteem become tattered.
Singing our mantra
Till our blood is no longer splattered.
Because, all Our Black Lives Matter!



Mark Lipman and Carlene Brown



Dr. Kelly Kent



Sarah Hager

Let America Be America Again by Langston Hughes, 1938

Let America be America again.
 Let it be the dream it used to be.
 Let it be the pioneer on the plain
 Seeking a home where he himself is free.

(America never was America to me.)

Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed—
 Let it be that great strong land of love
 Where never kings connive nor tyrants scheme
 That any man be crushed by one above.

(It never was America to me.)

O, let my land be a land where Liberty
 Is crowned with no false patriotic wreath,
 But opportunity is real, and life is free,
 Equality is in the air we breathe.

(There's never been equality for me,
 Nor freedom in this "homeland of the free.")

Say, who are you that mumbles in the dark?
 And who are you that draws your veil across the stars?

I am the poor white, fooled and pushed apart,
 I am the Negro bearing slavery's scars.
 I am the red man driven from the land,
 I am the immigrant clutching the hope I seek—
 And finding only the same old stupid plan
 Of dog eat dog, of mighty crush the weak.

I am the young man, full of strength and hope,
 Tangled in that ancient endless chain
 Of profit, power, gain, of grab the land!
 Of grab the gold! Of grab the ways of satisfying need!
 Of work the men! Of take the pay!
 Of owning everything for one's own greed!

I am the farmer, bondsman to the soil.
 I am the worker sold to the machine.
 I am the Negro, servant to you all.
 I am the people, humble, hungry, mean—
 Hungry yet today despite the dream.
 Beaten yet today—O, Pioneers!
 I am the man who never got ahead,
 The poorest worker bartered through the years.

Yet I'm the one who dreamt our basic dream
 In the Old World while still a serf of kings,
 Who dreamt a dream so strong, so brave, so true,
 That even yet its mighty daring sings
 In every brick and stone, in every furrow turned
 That's made America the land it has become.
 O, I'm the man who sailed those early seas

In search of what I meant to be my home—
 For I'm the one who left dark Ireland's shore,
 And Poland's plain, and England's grassy lea,
 And torn from Black Africa's strand I came
 To build a "homeland of the free."

The free?

Who said the free? Not me?
 Surely not me? The millions on relief today?
 The millions shot down when we strike?
 The millions who have nothing for our pay?
 For all the dreams we've dreamed
 And all the songs we've sung
 And all the hopes we've held
 And all the flags we've hung,
 The millions who have nothing for our pay—
 Except the dream that's almost dead today.

O, let America be America again—
 The land that never has been yet—
 And yet must be—the land where every man is free.
 The land that's mine—the poor man's, Indian's, Negro's, ME—
 Who made America,
 Whose sweat and blood, whose faith and pain,
 Whose hand at the foundry, whose plow in the rain,
 Must bring back our mighty dream again.

Sure, call me any ugly name you choose—
 The steel of freedom does not stain.
 From those who live like leeches on the people's lives,
 We must take back our land again,
 America!

O, yes,
 I say it plain,
 America never was America to me,
 And yet I swear this oath—
 America will be!

Out of the rack and ruin of our gangster death,
 The rape and rot of graft, and stealth, and lies,
 We, the people, must redeem
 The land, the mines, the plants, the rivers.
 The mountains and the endless plain—
 All, all the stretch of these great green states—
 And make America again!

Born in 1902, Langston Hughes is known for being a poet, but he also wrote TV and radio scripts, operas and novels. In 1923 he traveled abroad on a freighter to many foreign countries, including Nigeria, Italy, and Russia. He received a scholarship to Pennsylvania's Lincoln University and earned a Bachelor's Degree for Art in 1929. Before his death in 1967, Langston Hughes produced an incredible body of work.

About the rating system of the LA County Bar Association

By Stephen Morgan

Candidate for Judge Seat #72

Elections for Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge are especially difficult races for at least two reasons. First, the *Canon of the California Code of Judicial Ethics* prohibits candidates from engaging “in political or campaign activity that is inconsistent with the independence, integrity, or impartiality of the judiciary.” At the same time, the *Canon* prohibits a candidate for judicial office from making “statements to the electorate . . . that commit the candidate or the applicant with respect to cases, controversies, or issues that are likely to come before the courts[.]”

Given the very real inability for judicial candidates to say very much, how are voters to decide? The best way is probably the ratings by the Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA), which are modeled on the American Bar Association’s (ABA) rating system.

OPINION

Founded in 1878, LACBA is “one of the largest voluntary metropolitan bar associations in the country, with more than 20,000 members (attorneys, judges, and other legal professionals).”

Most people aren’t familiar with the County Bar’s rating system—why would they be? But it’s the American Bar Association’s (ABA) rating system for federal judicial appointments which serves as the model for LACBA’s system. The ABA ratings are often discussed when Supreme Court Justices are pending confirmation. For example, the ABA rated sitting Supreme Court Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor “Well Qualified”.

So how does the LACBA rating process work? It’s LONG and very involved and begins with candidates providing a list of 75 professional contacts to serve as references. The evaluation committee—which is comprised of deputy public defenders, public interest attorneys, private attorneys, and deputy district attorneys—then contacts those 75 references

to assess the candidate’s aptitude in the following areas:

- Integrity and character
- Judgment and intellectual capacity
- Fairness
- Sufficient recent and relevant legal experience
- Industry and diligence
- Judicial temperament, including whether the candidate would be courteous and considerate of counsel, parties, witnesses and jurors, and whether the candidate is even-tempered
- Professional ability and knowledge of the law
- Absence of health problems that affect the ability to serve as a judge
- Positive professional reputation in the community.

Following all these phone calls and meetings, there is then an interview with the candidate. Finally, LACBA ranks each candidate as “Extremely Well Qualified,” “Well Qualified,” “Qualified,” or “Not Qualified.” If a candidate is not satisfied with their ranking, they can appeal.

According to LACBA, a candidate rated “Not Qualified” is a reflection of the “the Committee’s opinion that these candidates do not adequately possess one or more of the following attributes necessary to perform the judicial function satisfactorily.” You can check out more

about the ratings and method at [LA County Bar Association](#).

It’s also important to note that the Los Angeles County Bar Association is the ONLY organization that rates candidates for Judicial office—the State Bar doesn’t do that.

I am pleased to be rated “Well Qualified” by the LACBA and I’m grateful that we have such a thorough vetting process in place. These ratings are a valuable tool for voters who otherwise probably won’t have much information about Judicial candidates.

Di’s Corner:

by Diane Rosenberg

Update on club member Charlotte Gunter: She is still home and recuperating and slowly healing. June 3 the brace on her right elbow came off. The physical and occupational therapists come to her house every day. She has a wonderful outlook and is very positive about her elbow. With the help of doing exercises and with the help of occupational therapy she will eventually come back to normal. We speak with one another every couple of days.

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

Here is a list of our Culver City Democratic Club endorsements (so far) for the November election. These are likely to be hard fought campaigns! Your favorite candidate or cause needs your time, talents, and money. To get involved, follow the links:

State Senator Holly J. Mitchell for LA County Supervisor

<https://www.hollyjmitchell.com>

George Gascon for LA County District Attorney

<https://georgegascon.org>

Representative Karen Bass for re-election to Congress

<https://karenbass.com>

Schools and Communities First Initiative

<https://www.schoolsandcommunitiesfirst.org>