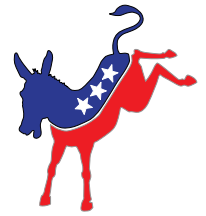


Culver City Democratic Club

Active Democrat



www.CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

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

General Meeting on Zoom — 7p.m. Wednesday, August 12, 2020

Meeting Program: Ballot Propositions for November 3

President's Message by Pete Rockwell

The Culver City Democratic Club should endorse Joe Biden for President because the alternative is fascism

The Presidency of Donald Trump has been unique in my lifetime. I believe it's unique in American history. It appears he intends to turn the United States into a [fascist dictatorship](#), and he's backed up by the Republican Party.

I turned twenty-one in 1967. I dropped out of college and moved from San Francisco to New York because my girlfriend, who was studying acting at NYU, asked me to come and live with her.

I must have been in love, because the only thing that had kept me from being drafted was a student deferment. Shortly after I dropped out of college, my draft notice came. It was December of 1967.

Before the end of 1968, a lot of things happened: The U.S. military suffered a setback in Vietnam with the Tet offensive; LBJ announced he wouldn't run for a second term as President; Martin Luther King was shot; Bobby Kennedy won the California primary and was also shot; the Democratic Party had its convention in Chicago and Mayor Daley's police clubbed anti-war demonstrators on TV; and my son was born at 4 a.m. on November 5 — election day.

I was in the delivery room when Sam first came into the world and the doctor said: "It's a boy. You'll have to name him Hubert or Dick." He said it that way because nobody had voted yet. We didn't know whether the next President would be Hubert Humphrey or Richard Nixon.

Since 18-year-olds couldn't vote back then, I'd never voted before. And
(See President's Message on page 3)



This picture is from the cover of the June 6, 2020, issue of the German magazine *Der Spiegel*. The cover headline, "Der Feuerteufel," translates literally as "the fire devil" but is used to mean firestarter or firebug, while the subhead, "Ein Präsident setzt sein Land in Brand," translates to "A president sets fire to his country."

≈ ANNOUNCEMENT ≈

First Vice President John Williams stepped down for family reasons.
**A special election for the office of First Vice President of the
 Culver City Democratic Club**
 will be held according to the Club bylaws

**Nominations for the office will be at the
 August 12 General Meeting
 at 7:00 p.m. (on Zoom)**

If more than one candidate is nominated
 the election will be held online using ElectionBuddy.com

Culver City Democratic Club bylaws, Article XIV, Section 3,
 states: "If a vacancy shall occur in any of the offices as noted in
 Article V, except that of the President, more than one month prior
 to the date of the annual election, such vacancy shall be filled by a
 majority vote of the membership present and eligible to vote at the
 next regular meeting. Written notice of such action shall be sent to
 the membership at least five days prior to the meeting."

WHAT'S INSIDE

[Ballot propositions endorsed by the California Democratic Party](#)

C 4—[Proposition 25](#) *Opinion by Sarah Hager*

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Page 6—[Di's Corner](#) *by Diane Rosenberg*

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Page 8—[Propositions 18, 20, 21 and 23](#) *Illustrated by Alfred Twu*

Page 9—[Vote NO on Proposition 19](#) *Opinion by RL Miller*

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Page 10—["I CAN'T BREATHE!"](#) *Opinion by Carlene Brown*

Page 10—["A Tragic Illusion" Did the Atom Bomb Make the
 United Nations Obsolete Three Weeks After its Birth?](#)

Article by Tad Daley,

*first published on July 16 of this year — the 75th anniversary
 of the first detonation of an atomic bomb.*

Page 11—[Together, You Can Redeem the Soul of Our Nation](#)

Self-eulogy by John Lewis

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, August 12, 2020
**CCDC General Meeting
 via Zoom**

Members with email addresses re-
 ceive the link automatically
 Others are welcome to RSVP to
 CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com
 (To be adjourned in memory of
 Representative John Lewis)

7 PM

Thursday, August 13, 2020
**Special Meeting of
 Culver City Council
 on the Inglewood Oil Field**

****You Must Register to Attend****
[https://www.culvercity.org/city-hall/
 city-government/commissions-com-
 mittees-boards/public-meetings](https://www.culvercity.org/city-hall/city-government/commissions-committees-boards/public-meetings)

6 PM

August 17 – 20, 2020

**Democratic
 National Convention**

[https://www.demconvention.com/
 schedule-and-speakers/?_sft_post_
 tag=caucus-council-meeting](https://www.demconvention.com/schedule-and-speakers/?_sft_post_tag=caucus-council-meeting)

Saturday, August 22, 2020

**Candidate Forum
 Culver City School Board**

Meet & Greet Candidates
 (Members with email addresses
 receive the link automatically
 Others are welcome to RSVP to
 CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com)

Time to be Announced

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

Women's Equality Day

100th Anniversary of the
 Final Effective Date
 of Women's Suffrage Nationwide

Monday, October 5, 2020

**Your Vote-By-Mail Ballot for the
 November Election
 Will be mailed to you!**

(Even if you did not request it!)

(President's Message from page 1)

I didn't vote that day. I was so angry at the Democratic Party because of the Vietnam War that I couldn't bring myself to vote for the Democrat, even though I had a pretty good idea that Humphrey would be better than Nixon.

Richard Nixon got elected President of the United States.

Instead of keeping his promise to end the Vietnam War, Nixon kept us there for five more years, and was responsible for about one third of the the American deaths in that war. He stepped up bombing of North Vietnam and mined the harbors of that country's capital city. He bombed and invaded Cambodia. This helped bring to power a dictatorship in that country that killed thousands of Cambodians.

In the U.S., Nixon's National Guard troops killed four students during anti-war protests at Kent State University in Ohio. His re-election campaign wire-tapped the Democratic Party headquarters at the Watergate office building. The resulting scandal eventually led to his resignation as President.

Since then I've always voted for the Democrat.

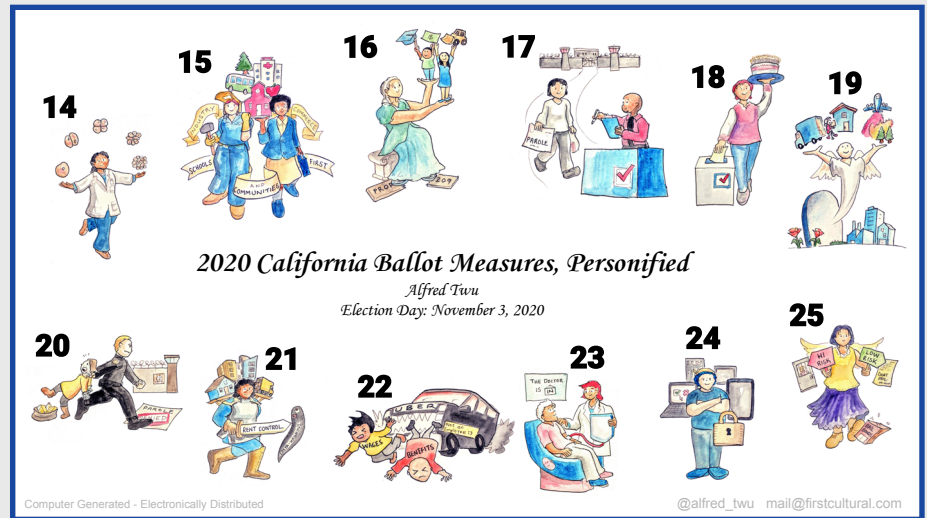
The situation our country faces in the 2020 Presidential election is worse than the situation in 1968. We're facing the worst worldwide pandemic since 1918, and at the same time we may be on the verge of an economic downturn as bad or worse than the Great Depression, which began in 1929 and lasted until the late 1930s.

I voted for Bernie Sanders in the primary in 2016 and Hillary Clinton in the general election. My main reason for that was I believed Bernie would have been a stronger candidate. I still believe he would have beaten Trump. I voted for Bernie again in the 2020 primary, and I'm going to vote for Joe Biden if he is the Democratic nominee. I hope Joe wins. I believe he will almost certainly win the popular vote, but we all know that's not enough to win the Presidency. It wasn't enough for Al Gore in 2000 and it wasn't enough for Hillary.

Trump is going to cheat, by suppressing the right to vote and by any other means he can. We have to stop him.

Vote to endorse Joe Biden for President.

ONE DOZEN CALIFORNIA BALLOT PROPOSITIONS — ILLUSTRATED



Here are the endorsements recently voted on by the California Democratic Party:

YES

Proposition 14 — Stem cell research funding.

Proposition 15 — Changes commercial and Industrial property tax to be based on current value rather than the price paid at the time of purchase.

Proposition 16 — Allows affirmative action.

Proposition 17 — Allows people on parole to vote.

Proposition 18 — Allows people age 17 to vote in the primary if they'll turn 18 by the November election.

Proposition 19 — Raises property taxes on inherited property unless someone lives in it; keeps property taxes low when moving to a new home for people over 55, with a severe disability, or affected by wildfires.

Proposition 21 — allows cities to strengthen rent control.

Proposition 23 — Requires doctors at dialysis centers, limits closures of dialysis centers unless state approves.

Proposition 25 — Replaces money bail with a risk assessment system.

NO

Proposition 20 — Increases penalties and prison sentences for some crimes.

Proposition 22 — Allows delivery and ride apps such as Uber to classify drivers as independent contractors who aren't covered by minimum wage laws or benefits.

NEUTRAL

Proposition 24 — Increases online consumer privacy requirements.

Thanks to Alfred Twu for letting us use his great drawings



Proposition 25 Bans money bail

People arrested can be released before trial without having to pay bail, if they are judged to be a low risk.

**California Democratic Party
urges a YES vote**

by Sarah Hager

The American justice system must be reformed. One target of that reform is cash bail, a system that puts a price tag on the accused's freedom while awaiting trial. The changes suggested by Proposition 25, a ballot measure on the November 3 ballot, will address this unjust incarceration that plagues our current system. A "Yes" vote on Proposition 25 would end the horrific system of cash bail in California.

Currently our state's justice system brings the accused to pretrial court and assesses the risk they pose to society should they be released before trial. This involves weighing factors such as whether the defendant is likely to reoffend, as well as how likely they are to appear for their court date. Based on these assessments, a price is placed on their freedom. D.C. Superior Court Judge Truman Morrison characterizes this system as reliant on "judicial hunch and money, which, of course, makes no sense."

There is plenty of evidence to suggest how the cash bail system is flawed. Over 60 percent of California prisoners are pretrial detainees, and as many as nine in ten are serving because they cannot afford bail. This leads to loss of jobs, homes, custody of children, and even lives, and forces pretrial guilty pleas to

avoid these consequences. These guilty pleas permanently stain the record and hurt the job prospects of the accused.

Gross juxtapositions also exhibit the systematic miscarriage of justice. Officers who killed Freddie Gray had the same bail as one man arrested for protesting police brutality. One woman, who killed her father and two children, posted thirty-five million dollars by pooling money from her wealthy friends; while another died in custody after he was unable to come up with one hundred dollars for low-level marijuana charges.

Proposition 25 is an alternative solution to cash bail. It proposes pretrial risk assessment divisions that would be responsible for determining if the accused person is "low," "medium," or "high" risk based on data with a "legitimate scientific" basis. Risk would still be defined as the defendant's threat to society upon release and the likelihood they will show up in court, but under this system no accused person would be jailed because they could not raise the money for bail.

OPINION

California is not the first place to consider instituting such a policy. New Jersey and Washington, D.C. have put in place similar reforms, while municipalities across the nation have begun to chip away at the cash bail system. The results of this revolution are reductions in prison populations that save money and lives, without increases in crime. There have been a few instances of the accused reoffending after release, but often they have received a disproportionate level of press coverage. In fact, the current bail system should cause even more concern over reoffenders because dangerous criminals are often released when they have deep enough pockets.

The petitions to place Proposition 25 on the ballot were circulated by companies that profit from the cash bail system. The American Bail Coalition, whose website explains that they are "made up of national bail insurance companies who are responsible for underwriting criminal bail bonds throughout the United States of America," has a clear financial interest in supporting this outdated arm of our criminal justice system. Currently, bail bond insurers make two billion dollars in profits per year

based on the devastation of communities of color. That's unacceptable.

Proposition 25 is a "veto resolution" which seeks to overturn SB 10, a bill passed by the California legislature that would eliminate cash bail. Had the bail industry not put Proposition 25 on the ballot, this bill ending cash bail in California would already be law.

In spite of its support for Proposition 25, the ACLU of California has expressed its concern over aspects of SB 10. Use of similar pretrial risk-assessment algorithms by other states has demonstrated that people of color are more likely to be deemed "high risk" because of the preexisting bias inherent in the data provided by the criminal justice system.

While SB 10 is not perfect, it is a significantly better alternative to our current system of cash bail, which jails the accused more often than the guilty. The ACLU of California, Senator Holly Mitchell, the California Federation of Teachers all encourage a "Yes" vote on Proposition 25. A "Yes" vote will allow SB 10 to become law, and will eliminate cash bail in California.

□ For more information go to
[BALLOTPEDIA](https://www.ballotpedia.org)

Cynthia Hart

is sponsoring the August
General Meeting in honor
of her grandmother

Ethel Dixon

1897-1990

She was an active
Democrat who came
of age when women
could not vote

**Men, their rights,
and nothing more.
Women, their rights,
and nothing less.**

—*Susan B. Anthony*



Who is Lorena Gonzalez and why does she say Vote “No” on Prop 22

Opinion by Cynthia Hart

California State Assembly Member Lorena Gonzalez represents San Diego’s 80th Assembly District. (By the way, get used to hearing her name! She is running for California Secretary of State on the 2022 ballot.) People call her the mother of AB5 — the bill intended to determine the classification of workers as either independent contractors or employees.

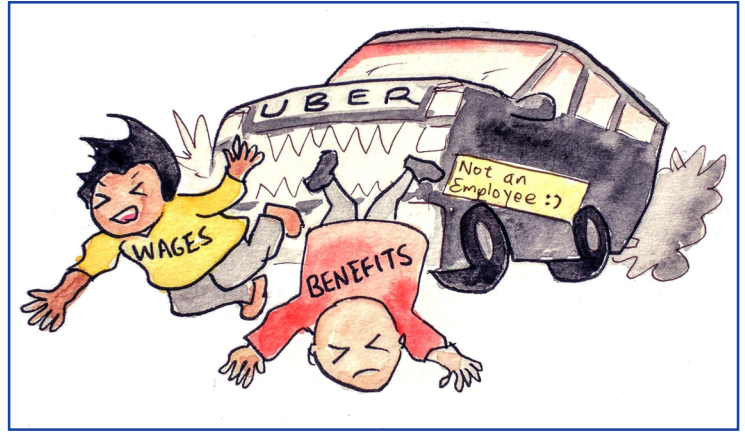
Under AB5’s three part test, app-based workers such as Uber drivers are clearly employees. In response to this, five app-based companies — Lyft, Uber, Doordash, Instacart and Postmates — contributed a total of 110 million dollars to “buy” an exception to AB5 that narrowly applies only to app-based workers. And so Proposition 22 was born!

But why should Assembly Member Gonzalez (or the average voter for that matter) be concerned about misclassified workers? Employees who are misclassified as independent contractors have no rights to a minimum wage, overtime pay, worker’s compensation, or unemployment insurance. They must pay their own social security taxes. They have no right to organize or join a union. They lack protection from discrimination and harassment. Even in the time of a pandemic they have no employer-based health insurance and no sick pay.

But isn’t that just the price of all that groovy flexibility the app-based workers love so much? Why would Assembly Member Gonzalez go and spoil all that? The harm, she explains, is in a fraying social safety net. The app-based companies are not paying into the worker’s comp or unemployment insurance funds. Financially struggling app-based workers (who must pay their own gas, insurance, and maintenance) do not always pay their social security tax. And we should all care about that. (This piece from the [Harvard Business Review](#) explains it in detail.)

Proposition 22’s supporters point to some “sweeteners” included in the bill in terms of a minimum wage (during “engaged time” only) and a healthcare stipend for qualifying drivers. We are meant to believe, I suppose, that these employers are spending 110 million dollars so they can do a little something nice for their drivers. Really? The UC Berkeley Labor Center has estimated that after deducting hidden costs a driver could come out with as little as \$5.64 per hour. (For a breakdown see this story in the [Los Angeles Times](#)).

Check out [Slam the Brakes](#) to see why both Joe Biden and Senator Elizabeth Warren say “Vote No on 22!”



Proposition 22 Classifies app drivers as independent contractors instead of employees

- ☐ Would apply to ride and delivery services such as Uber and Doordash.
- ☐ Companies would be exempt from paying drivers minimum wage or providing unemployment or other benefits.

California Democratic Party urges a **NO** vote

- ☐ For more information go to [BALLOTPEdia](#)

Prop 22— The Thing That Would Not Die

Uber, Lyft, and their allies have spent a great deal of money to get Prop 22 on the ballot. Not nearly as much as it’s estimated they would owe to the State Unemployment Insurance Fund! But a great deal of money. So they have no intention of having to refight the same battle again. They have tucked a little “immortality” clause into their initiative. Article 9-Amendment Section 7465 (a) describes how Prop 22 could be amended. It can’t. Not without “...a statute passed in each house of the Legislature by roll call vote entered into the journal seven-eighths of the membership concurring...”. Section 7465 (b) makes this retroactive to October 29, 2019.

So if this thing becomes law, it will be on the books until the sun sets for the last time on our dear Bear Flag Republic. Is this really a good idea? Are you sure?

—by Cynthia Hart

Vote YES on Proposition 24

Opinion by Andrew Lackman

As a data privacy attorney, I reviewed the actual text of Proposition 24. Even though most of my clients are small businesses (which are not affected by the California Consumer Privacy Act or Proposition 24) I think Proposition 24, although not perfect, is a vast improvement over CCPA. It reflects the same broad approaches to privacy as are contained in the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation. I respect the ACLU and Consumer Federation, but their description of Proposition 24 is not accurate, and their opposition is not grounded on facts. Proposition 24, which was authored by the founders of DuckDuckGo (they also created CCPA) covers and protects consumer rights much more broadly than CCPA and eliminates many of its flaws in a manner that reflects how data actually flows. It is usually not sold, it is shared. Proposition 24 gives consumers more control and more rights, including protecting your data in your household from your roommates. Best of all, unlike most other propositions, the legislature can amend it by a majority as long as it furthers the purposes of protecting consumer privacy.



Proposition 24 Increases online privacy

- ☐ Allows people to opt out of additional types of data collection, such as their location.
- ☐ Requires opt-in to collect data on people under 16.
- ☐ Limits what data can be stored, and increases penalties for security breaches.
- ☐ For more information go to [BALLOTPEDIA](https://www.ballotpedia.org/Proposition-24-California)

Judging the judges

by Jeff Schwartz

The judicial races are always one of the most frustrating parts of the ballot, especially as we become more aware of the consequences of mass incarceration and other problems in the legal system. Because judges are supposed to appear impartial and nonpartisan, they do limited campaigning and refrain from taking public positions which might suggest how they will rule in future cases. This can make it difficult to make informed choices.

Fortunately, there will be only three County judicial contests in November and all the candidates have detailed campaign websites, linked below.

Additionally, both candidates for Office 72, [Myana Dellinger](#) and [Steve Morgan](#), have written in this newsletter about the qualifications they believe matter most for a judge, and how you can check those. The races are: [Myana Dellinger](#) and [Steve Morgan](#) for Office 72, [David Berger](#) and [Klint McKay](#) for Office, 80 and [Scott Yang](#) and [David Diamond](#) for Office 162.

I have also found it useful in past years to look at the right-wing [Judge Voter Guide](#) and take the opposite of their suggestions. The [LA chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America](#) publishes a catty and well-informed progressive voter guide, but their March one is no longer available and the November one not out yet. Finally, The [Robing Room](#) is a version of [Yelp](#) or [Rate My Professor](#) for judges, and it can be just as trashy and unreliable as those, so read critically, as always.

Di's Corner:

by Diane Rosenberg

Medical Update on Club member Charlotte Gunter: She is still recuperating and slowly getting better. Still has quite a ways to go. The physical and occupational therapists are still going to her house every day for her right elbow. In between she does the exercises. She has begun to use that right elbow and to hold items, including the phone, in that hand. Last week she saw her Orthopedic doctor. She said that he was pleased on how everything looked and how she was doing. She said he ordered more physical therapy for her.

She wanted me to let our members know that she misses everybody and looks forward to when we can go back to the Veterans Auditorium.

Proposition 14

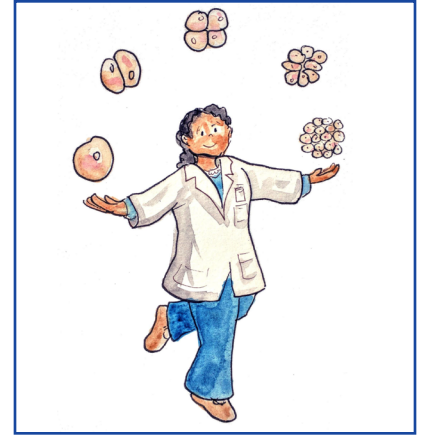
Stem cell research bond

- ☐ \$5.5 billion for medical research.
- ☐ Continues the funding of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine which was created in 2004 by a similar ballot measure.

California Democratic Party urges a YES vote

- ☐ For more information go to [BALLOTPEDIA](https://www.ballotpedia.org/Proposition_14_California)

**Endorsed UNANIMOUSLY by
the Culver City Democratic Club**



Proposition 15

Property tax increase on large commercial and industrial property

- ☐ Commercial & industrial property taxes to be based on current value, rather than value at time of purchase.
- ☐ Restores \$12 billion a year for schools, etc.
- ☐ No tax increase on small businesses with less than \$3 million of property

California Democratic Party urges a YES vote.

- ☐ For more information go to [BALLOTPEDIA](https://www.ballotpedia.org/Proposition_15_California)



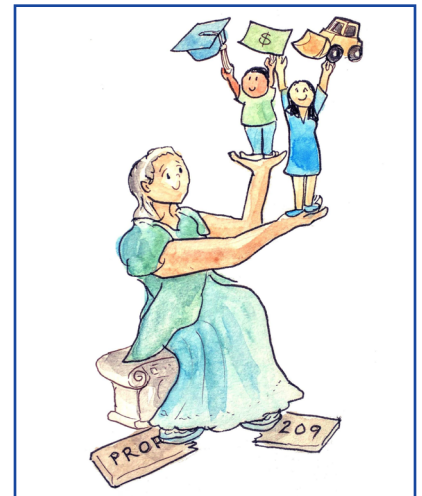
Proposition 16

Allows affirmative action

- ☐ Repeals the Proposition 209 ban on affirmative action.
- ☐ Applies to education, hiring, and government contracting.

California Democratic Party urges a YES vote

- ☐ For more information go to [BALLOTPEDIA](https://www.ballotpedia.org/Proposition_16_California)



Proposition 17

Allows voting while on parole

- ☐ People would immediately regain their right to vote when released from prison.

California Democratic Party urges a YES vote

- ☐ For more information go to [BALLOTPEDIA](https://www.ballotpedia.org/Proposition_17_California)



Proposition 18

Allows 17-year-olds to vote in primary elections if they will be 18 years old by the November election
California Democratic Party urges a YES vote

☐ For more information go to [BALLOTPEDIA](https://www.ballotpedia.org/Proposition-18)



Proposition 20

Increased penalties for theft and other crimes

- ☐ Longer sentences for repeated theft.
- ☐ Increases list of crimes for which people would not be granted parole and released early.

California Democratic Party urges a **NO vote.**

☐ For more information go to [BALLOTPEDIA](https://www.ballotpedia.org/Proposition-20)



Proposition 21

Allows cities to expand rent control

- ☐ Allows cities to expand rent control to newer buildings at least fifteen years old, as well as single family houses and condos, unless the landlord only owns one or two houses or condos.
- ☐ Allows cities to have limited vacancy control. A new tenant can be charged only 15 percent more than the previous tenant.

California Democratic Party urges a YES vote

☐ For more information go to [BALLOTPEDIA](https://www.ballotpedia.org/Proposition-21)



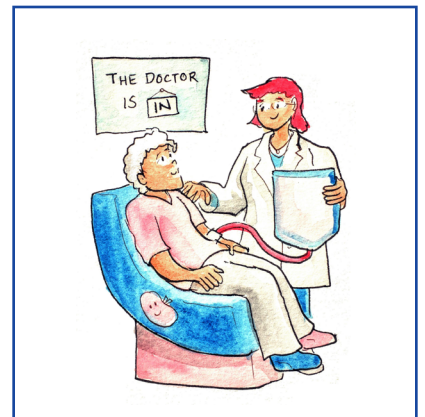
Proposition 23

Requires doctors at kidney dialysis centers, and requires state approval for closure

- ☐ On-site doctor required.
- ☐ Must get approval from state health department before closing a center..

California Democratic Party urges a YES vote

☐ For more information go to [BALLOTPEDIA](https://www.ballotpedia.org/Proposition-23)





Opinion by RL Miller

Vote NO on Prop. 19

California friends, I'm seeing a lot of confusion regarding Proposition 19, headed "wildfires." And who doesn't want to take action on wildfires?

Here's the truth. This is last cycle's Proposition 5, sponsored by the California Association of Realtors, to extend Proposition 13's benefits, but with a couple of sweeteners to appeal to Democrats who loathed Proposition 5. Proposition 5, as you may recall, would have extended the Proposition 13 windfall (low property tax) to seniors trading up and buying more expensive homes, but keeping their 1970s-era property tax base. Lower property tax = less money for schools and communities, first. Thank heavens, Democrats (and local govts) aligned against Proposition 5 and it failed badly.

Now the realtors are back with the same idea: seniors who want to trade up keep their low property tax, again depriving schools and local governments of a tax base. But hey! it also applies to wildfire victims, because those people are far more sympathetic than rich seniors who can afford to trade up but are too cheap to pay their fair share to school districts! And it will close the "Big Lebowski Loophole," so named because Jeff Bridges inherited a house and rents it out and pays next to nothing property taxes, because again that sounds really spiffy!

I HATE Proposition 13 with the intensity of ten thousand suns. I regard it as the Original Sin of California politics. And that's why I strongly support Prop 15, Schools and Communities First. And that's why I also see right through the garbage Prop 19.

Proposition 19

Higher property taxes for inherited property, lower property taxes for some homeowners who move; funding for fighting wildfires

- ☐ Raises property taxes to be based on current value when property is inherited, unless heir lives in the home.
- ☐ Allows people over 55, severely disabled, or victims of a natural disasters to move to a new home and keep existing low property tax.
- ☐ Net increase in taxes goes towards fighting wildfires.

California Democratic Party urges a YES vote

- ☐ For more information go to [BALLOTPEdia](https://www.ballotpedia.org/Proposition-19-California)

AB 3216 protects workers during the pandemic by expanding family rights

Opinion by Freddy Puza

COVID-19 has caused extreme hardship and suffering for California workers and their families. During the shutdown, more than one in four workers lost their jobs. AB 3216 provides protections to ensure workers get the opportunity to return to work and to stay at the same job when businesses are sold. Without these protections, some companies will take advantage of hard economic times to replace older, higher-paid workers and use employee turnover to break unions. Workers who have spent decades at their job, working their way up from minimum wage to higher-paid positions, now face having to start again at entry-level jobs, if they get called back at all.

AB 3216 also expands unpaid leave under the California Family Rights Act (CFRA) for COVID-19 related issues such as workers who need time off due to underlying health conditions or because their children's schools are closed. It covers workers uncovered by CFRA as well as the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). For example, workers would be eligible now for unpaid leave if they "are a member of a vulnerable population at high risk of severe illness from the disease that is the subject of the state of emergency according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention." As for paid leave, it will add 3 days of paid leave during public health emergencies.





My daughter sent me this I CAN'T BREATHE photo taken in a tiny town outside of Taos, New Mexico. The quote on display is from Desmond Tutu: "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor."

Clearly, the public execution of George Floyd on May 25 has forced our society to make a choice, and as a Club we are now making choices about which candidates and ballot measures we will endorse. These are policy choices.

According to the *New York Times* best-selling author of *How to Be an Antiracist* Ibram X. Kendi, "There is no such thing as a non-racist or race-neutral policy."

On the California Educator's Black Lives Matter [Summer Reading List](#) page, Kendi is quoted: "One either allows inequities to persevere, as a racist, or confronts racial inequities, as an antiracist. There is no in-between safe space as 'not racist.' The claim of 'not racist' neutrality is a mask for racism."

Monday, July 20, I attended the virtual "How to Be an Antiracist" conversation with Dr. Kendi, Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University, and the founding director of the BU Center for Antiracist Research. Kendi made two important points about the link between Power & Policy: 1) We need a major intervention as relates to power, policy-making power; 2) Everyone needs to support candidates and policies that are challenging inequities.

Kendi also offered a cancer-metaphor warning: "We can't treat malignant rac-

ism if we are in denial." Much of that denial is linked to our defining racism through the lens of "everyone but me," he added.

In their denial of this malignancy, certain groups in Culver City are doubling down to resist policy changes that would diminish the power of their "white privilege." Their overtly racist rants in recent City Council meetings have been quite disturbing. And outside of City Council meetings, I hear subtle "everyone but me" messages from some of our liberal Democrats, including supporters of some who are running for office.

In this moment of choice, Dr. Martin Luther King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" is instructive: "I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is not the White Citizens Counciler or the Ku Klux Klaner, but the white moderate who is more devoted to 'order' than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice."

In his 1963 Birmingham Jail letter, MLK agrees with Ibram Kendi about the importance of exposing "malignant racism" and the injustice it creates: "Like a boil that can never be cured as long as it is covered up but must be opened with all its pus-flowing ugliness to the natural medicines of air and light, injustice must likewise be exposed . . . to the light of human conscience before it can be cured."

In this moment of choice, I am inspired by a student-led organization devoted

"A Tragic Illusion" — Did the Atom Bomb Make the United Nations Obsolete Three Weeks After its Birth?

By Tad Daley

...July 16th, 1945. Only 20 days earlier, on June 26th, the United Nations had been established with the signing of the UN Charter in San Francisco. Did the bomb make the United Nations obsolete three weeks after its birth? The single most important individual in these events, U.S. President Harry S. Truman, certainly seemed to think so. Consider the unique position of the man and the moment. Although Alamogordo was still three weeks away, Truman's advisors had assured him by then that "success" was virtually certain. And he knew that he was the one human being on whom the yoke of decision would soon fall — regarding not only whether and how to use the ghastly new device against Imperial Japan, but what to do thereafter about the apocalyptic predicament about to descend upon all humanity. So what did he say at the signing of the document in San Francisco?...

[\[Click here to read the full article\]](#)

to exposing injustice "to the light of human conscience." People of Color for Social Change (#POC4Change) fights for change and new legislation to aid BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color).

In this moment of choice the Culver City Democratic Club should pay attention to the values these youth hold dear. Who and what do these youth challenge, and who and what do they endorse? According to our CCDC website, membership fees help us advocate for Democratic candidates and Democratic values."

In this moment of choice, we must ask ourselves the following questions:

- What are the "Democratic values" we espouse as a Club?
- What are the values of Democratic candidates we vote to endorse?
- Are we "white moderates" more devoted to "order" than to justice? Or will we stand with candidates and ballot measures that champion equity and racial justice?

—*Opinion by Carlene Brown*

Together, You Can Redeem the Soul of Our Nation

Though I am gone, I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe.

By John Lewis

While my time here has now come to an end, I want you to know that in the last days and hours of my life you inspired me. You filled me with hope about the next chapter of the great American story when you used your power to make a difference in our society. Millions of people motivated simply by human compassion laid down the burdens of division. Around the country and the world you set aside race, class, age, language and nationality to demand respect for human dignity.

That is why I had to visit Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington, though I was admitted to the hospital the following day. I just had to see and feel it for myself that, after many years of silent witness, the truth is still marching on.

Emmett Till was my George Floyd. He was my Rayshard Brooks, Sandra Bland and Breonna Taylor. He was 14 when he was killed, and I was only 15 years old at the time. I will never ever forget the moment when it became so clear that he could easily have been me. In those days, fear constrained us like an imaginary prison, and troubling thoughts of potential brutality committed for no understandable reason were the bars.

Though I was surrounded by two loving parents, plenty of brothers, sisters and cousins, their love could not protect me from the unholy oppression waiting just outside that family circle. Unchecked, unrestrained violence and government-sanctioned terror had the power to turn a simple stroll to the store for some Skittles or an innocent morning jog down a lonesome country road into a nightmare. If we are to survive as one unified nation, we must discover what so readily takes root in our hearts that could rob Mother Emanuel Church in South Carolina of her brightest and best, shoot unwitting concertgoers in Las Vegas and choke to death the hopes and dreams of a gifted violinist like Elijah McClain.

Like so many young people today, I was searching for a way out, or some might say a way in, and then I heard the voice of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on an old radio. He was talking about the philosophy

and discipline of nonviolence. He said we are all complicit when we tolerate injustice. He said it is not enough to say it will get better by and by. He said each of us has a moral obligation to stand up, speak up and speak out. When you see something that is not right, you must say something. You must do something. Democracy is not a state. It is an act, and each generation must do its part to help build what we called the Beloved Community, a nation and world society at peace with itself.

Ordinary people with extraordinary vision can redeem the soul of America by getting in what I call good trouble, necessary trouble. Voting and participating in the democratic process are key. The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic society. You must use it because it is not guaranteed. You can lose it.

You must also study and learn the lessons of history because humanity has been involved in this soul-wrenching, existential struggle for a very long time. People on every continent have stood in your shoes, through decades and centuries before you. The truth does not change, and that is why the answers worked out long ago can help you find solutions to the challenges of our time. Continue to build union between movements stretching across the globe because we must put away our willingness to profit from the exploitation of others.

Though I may not be here with you, I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe. In my life I have done all I can to demonstrate that the way of peace, the way of love and nonviolence is the more excellent way. Now it is your turn to let freedom ring.

When historians pick up their pens to write the story of the 21st century, let them say that it was your generation who laid down the heavy burdens of hate at last and that peace finally triumphed over violence, aggression and war. So I say to you, walk with the wind, brothers and sisters, and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide.

Mr. Lewis, the civil rights leader who died on July 17, wrote this essay shortly before his death, to be published upon the day of his funeral.