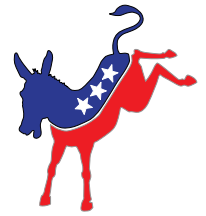


Culver City Democratic Club

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, September 9, 2020

Re-imagining LA, Yes on Proposition 19, and Reports from Convention

President's Message by Pete Rockwell

Trump tries to destroy the United States Postal Service in order to get re-elected

I used to work as a mail carrier years ago, in Brooklyn. Delivering mail is not an easy job. I also worked as a clerk, sorting mail, in San Francisco. I found that job even more difficult than carrier.

The Post Office is the oldest and most well-liked federal agency, with a ninety-one percent approval rating. It was started before the United States was even a country, in 1775. The first Postmaster was Benjamin Franklin.

The Postal Service employs more military veterans than any other employer, and has a large number of non-white and female employees.

Donald Trump hates the Postal Service. He wants to treat it like a profit-making business.

But the main purpose of the Postal Service is not to make a profit. It has always been there to provide an essential service to the nation and its citizens. Businesses, especially start-ups and small businesses, depend on mail delivery to operate. Citizens use the mail to send and receive letters, postcards, greeting cards, prescriptions, passports, identification cards, business documents, bills, payments, and bank deposits.

This year, because of Covid-19, more people than ever before will vote by mail. Trump has convinced himself that mail-in ballots will cause a huge increase in votes this year, and he believes the more people that vote, the more likely he will lose the election.

So now Trump is trying to slow down the mail. He installed a rich flunky named Louis DeJoy as Postmaster General, and DeJoy has removed mail drop boxes across the country and taken out high-speed sorting machines. He's put in place new rules against overtime and ordered drivers to stick to a stricter schedule, even if that means mail doesn't get delivered on time. He's done all this less than three months before a Presidential election in the midst of the the worst pandemic the country has seen in 100 years.

Trump's attack on the Postal Service may have as its main goal a desperate attempt to win his re-election, but it's in line with the Republican effort to privatize the agency (as the Washington Post's Paul Waldman spells out in [*The GOP's attack on the Postal Service is bigger than this election.*](#))

Will Trump's plan work?

I think Trump's attack on the Postal Service may backfire. There are signs that other Republicans running for office think keeping the number of mail-in votes low may hurt them more than Democrats. At the same time, Republican representatives from rural areas are feeling a lot of pressure from their own constituents. Many people who live far from cities need mail delivery more than urban residents.

The larger Republican effort to privatize the Postal Service has been going on since 2006, when George W. Bush signed a law called the [*Postal Accountability and En-*](#)

[*hancement Act*](#) requiring the Postal Service to pre-fund retirement benefits 75 years into the future. As far as I can see, the main reason Republicans want to destroy or privatize the Postal Service is that it's an example Americans see every day of how a government service works well. It proves that Ronald Reagan was wrong in his January 20, 1980 inaugural address when he said: "Government is not the solution to our problem, government is the problem." Some problems do require a government solution. Mail delivery is one of those solutions.

Di's Corner:

by Diane Rosenberg

Charlotte Gunter's right elbow is healing very nicely, although she had a bad reaction to one of the medications her doctor put her on. Her leg became swollen. The nurse who comes to her house called her doctor.

To make a long story short, her doctor put her in the hospital. This was July 21. She was in the hospital until July 30, then came home. She's doing much better. She still has physical and occupational therapy, and in between does the exercises for her elbow.

We still speak to one another. She called me Friday morning to tell me that she saw her primary doctor. He told her he was very pleased with how she is doing.

Our Club Website is back in Service
www.culvercitydemocraticclub.com
Follow us on Twitter @CulvCityDemClub

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

September 9, 2020

CCDC General Meeting via Zoom **Re-imagining LA, Yes on Proposition 19,** **and Reports from Convention**

members with email addresses receive the link automatically—
 others are welcome to RSVP to CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com
 7 PM

September 9, 2020 9 PM – September 10, 2020 8:59 PM

CCDC Election Buddy Endorsement Vote

Members in good standing will receive an email ballot
 Watch your email on September 11th in case a second ballot is needed.

September 12, 2020

Kidscoop Media Culver City Council Candidate Forum

6:30 PM

September 14, 2020

Culver City Council Meeting

Rent Control/Renter Protections on the Agenda
See: [How to participate in city meetings during a pandemic](#)
 7 PM

September 22, 2020

National Voter Registration Day

Register or verify your registration
lavote.net

September 29, 2020

Culver City Council Meeting

Findings of the Public Safety Task Force
To Reimagine Policing & Related Services
See: [How to participate in city meetings during a pandemic](#)
 7 PM

October 5, 2020

Your Vote-By-Mail Ballot for the November Election

Will be mailed to you!
 (Even if you did not request it!)

October 14, 2020

CCDC General Meeting via Zoom

George Floyd's Birthday

October 19, 2020

Last Day to Register to Vote for November Election

Vote YES on Prop 19

Opinion by Adam Seiden

Proposition 19 is good for seniors, people with disabilities and wildfire victims, and will close a longstanding loophole in Proposition 13. That's why it has been endorsed by the California Democratic Party, AFSCME, Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins, LA Council Member Paul Koretz, the Congress of California Seniors, and the California Labor Federation AFL-CIO.

As a quick reminder, Prop 19 does two things.

1) It allows seniors, people with disabilities and wildfire victims more flexibility to afford moving closer to their family or medical care. If someone bought a house in LA in the 70s that made sense as they were raising a family, but now their kids have moved to the Inland Empire, many seniors just can't afford to lose their Prop 13 tax rates to join them. Unlike current law, Prop 19 allows moves anywhere in the state. This geographic flexibility is especially important when entire communities are burned in a wildfire and nearby replacement homes are impossible to find.

2) Prop 19 also closes a major tax loophole whereby inherited properties keep their Prop 13 tax rates—even if they are used as rentals. The LA Times recently exposed that huge Malibu beach estates are renting for \$16k/month while the owners pay taxes from the 70s. This accumulation of wealth wasn't the intention when voters passed Prop 13. It was supposed to be about giving homeowners a stable tax rate and protecting seniors from getting priced out of their homes.

If Prop 19 passes, the lower taxes can only be inherited if the property is used as your primary residence. In doing so, it unlocks hundreds of millions of dollars in unclaimed property taxes for school districts and local governments, as well as supporting severely underfunded fire districts.

Now, I get the apprehension to support
(See Proposition 19 on page 3)

September City Meeting Alerts

Between ambitious projects like the General Plan Update and historic crises including the COVID-19 pandemic, the resulting economic crash, and the reckoning with racism inspired by the police killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and others, there are more public meetings than ever. Since they are held online, attendance no longer requires childcare, parking, or pants. However, there are some technological challenges, which I attempted to unravel in a previous newsletter: [How to Participate in City Meetings During a Pandemic](#).

Regular City meetings are listed at <https://culver-city.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> with agendas, staff reports, and other documents available at least three days in advance.

Re-imagine Policing

The Public Safety Task Force, charged with developing options to reimagine policing and related services, including one with a reduction of at least 50 percent in the police budget, will meet September 10 and 17, then deliver their findings to the City Council on September 29. Their work will affect just under 40 percent of the City budget and is literally a matter of life or death, as we've seen recently in Minneapolis, Kenosha, Louisville, Ferguson, and countless other towns, including this one. Participation is crucial. Start now, by completing their online [survey](#).

Renter Protections

As if that was not enough controversy, the City Council will vote to adopt permanent rent control and renter protections on September 14. This is the culmination of years of work by Protect Culver City Renters, a group including many Club members. Please take the time to join the meeting or email the Council.

For decades policing and rent control have been among the biggest issues this city has been unwilling to confront. Now, thanks largely to members of this Club who are serving on the City Council and the General Plan Update Committee and working in [Protect Culver City Renters](#), the [Culver City Action Network](#), and the [Culver City Community Coalition](#), there will be major progress on both this month. Join in if you can.

—Jeff Schwartz

(From Proposition 19 on page 2)

something that the realtors pushed to get on the ballot. There are certainly things they have advocated that I would never get behind. And yes, if Prop 19 makes it easier for a senior to sell their home and purchase somewhere else in the state, there are commissions to be made off both sales—but that doesn't make Prop 19 bad.

Just remember, whoever buys the previous home is now paying the higher taxes based on today's home value. And if a senior upgrades to a more expensive home, they have to start paying additional taxes on any increased value. There is a reason why the only organized opposition to the measure is the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association—they know it's going to overall increase revenue for schools and local communities. (The Legislative Analyst's Office conservatively pegs the new

revenues getting to hundreds of millions of dollars per year while other fiscal analyses show it growing to over \$4 billion per year.)

Personally, my favorite part of campaigning for Prop 19 is how well it complements the battle to end split roll in California. Prop 15 (Schools and Communities First) tackles the loopholes on the commercial side of Prop 13, while Prop 19 closes down the excesses on the residential side. And at the same time, with Prop 19 we are strengthening Prop 13's true purpose: to protect seniors and other vulnerable communities in their homeownership. So please join New Frontier Democratic Club, Stonewall Democratic Club, the LA County Democratic Party, and many others in supporting Proposition 19.



Re-Imagine LA with Measure J

At our September 9, 2020, meeting we will hear about Los Angeles County Measure J—"Community Investment and Alternatives to Incarceration Minimum County Budget Allocations" more popularly known as Re-imagine LA.

Learn more about Measure J on [Ballotpedia](#) and [our website](#).

Resolution to be voted on at the September 9, 2020, general meeting of the Culver City Democratic Club:

Resolution on Culver City Police Officers Association's public relations campaign against Culver City Action Network

Whereas police have a professional duty to protect and serve every community member;

Whereas police have too often surveilled, harassed, and attacked activists in the labor, civil rights, antiwar, gay liberation, and other progressive movements;

Whereas analysis of CCPD arrest records shows similar over-policing of Black and Latinx people;

Whereas right-wing conspiracy theories and vigilantism are spreading under the brand of "law and order;" and

Whereas the Culver City Action Network has worked publicly in Culver City to protect, educate and empower our most vulnerable community members; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Culver City Democratic Club joins City Council Members Alex Fisch, Daniel Lee, Meghan Sahli-Wells, and Thomas Small in condemning the Culver City Police Officers Association's public relations campaign attempting to demonize the Culver City Action Network, Kelly and John Kent, and other local activists seeking to reimagine public safety in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.

To read RL Miller's argument against Prop 19, printed in the August newsletter, [CLICK HERE](#).

Club Endorsement Vote for November 2020 Election

This month members in good standing of the Culver City Democratic Club will vote on endorsements of candidates and measures that will appear on the November 3 ballot. Here is what you need to know:

Our next general meeting is at 7pm on September 9, 2020, on Zoom. As part of our business meeting, the first 30 members to sign up will each get one minute to make a pitch for a candidate or for or against a ballot measure.

Directly after the September 9 meeting, the ElectionBuddy.com online election will begin. Members in good standing will receive an online ballot by email (please put CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com in your contacts so it won't go in JUNK MAIL). The ballot will include votes for President and Vice President of the United States, California Assemblymember for AD 54, three seats on the Culver City Council, two seats on the Culver City School Board—along with state, county, and local propositions.

The Club has already endorsed Holly Mitchell for L.A. County District 2 Supervisor, George Gascon for L.A. County District Attorney, Karen Bass for U.S. Congress, and state proposition 15, so those items will not appear on your September 9 ballot.

The ballots must be submitted (by email) by 8:59 PM on September 10, 2020. This completes the first ballot.

Article XI Section 6 of our Club bylaws states "If a first ballot does not result in an endorsement for all open seats, a second ballot shall be conducted." A vote of sixty percent is required for an endorsement.

On September 11, 2020, be sure to watch your email for a possible second ballot.

If you have questions, email the Club at: CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com

"The vote is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have."
—John Lewis

Resolution in Support of AB3216

Whereas COVID-19 has caused extreme hardship for workers at all income levels throughout California;

Whereas AB3216 provides protections for workers who are laid off and workers employed by businesses that are sold; and

Whereas AB3216 also expands unpaid leave under the California Family Rights Act; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Culver City Democratic Club supports AB3216.

This resolution will be voted on at the Sept. 9 meeting. For the text of AB3216 go to: https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=20190200AB3216

[The following article is reprinted from the August, 2020, CCDC newsletter]

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.

Yes on 15
SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES FIRST

An idea to engage would-be voters in the campaign of 2020—
**Public display of QR codes connecting mobile
 phone users to voter registration webpages**
*—a simple real-world/virtual-world tactic to
 bring more young Americans into the electorate*
a proposal by Gregory Wright

"Once they finished protesting, they went down to those communities and worked hard getting those people to vote."

*—Charlayne Hunter-Gault,
 on the lessons of the life of
 the late Congressman John Lewis.*

This messaging product for civic good needs to be produced, printed, and published as soon as possible: Clear, cell phone-scannable QR codes, linked to voter registration webpages, along with a text line such as "Register to Vote Here!" (and, when produced by us Democrats, with the additional text line "and then vote Democratic!") on...

Protest placards carried in marches and tied onto fences, fliers taped onto poles, walls, bus stop kiosks, adhesive stickers applied (non-destructively) to metal poles and mail boxes, large posters and small cards posted on walls and bulletin boards, yard signs, illuminated ads on bus stop kiosks, laminated ads on transit station and subway walls, electronic displays on kiosks and billboards, projections at political events, political mailer inserts, political television commercials, and even T-shirts.

These products—created and distributed physically and online by progressive and Democratic organizations—would enable more Americans, especially young Americans, to register to vote, confirm their registration status, become permanent mail voters (and, hopefully, on or before November 3, to vote!), all in the moment, as they are marching, or waiting for a bus at a bus stop, or checking out a campus kiosk or bulletin board, or watching a march on television news, or televised political commercials, and hopefully to enable many Democrats and people who will vote Democratic.

According to mid-summer 2020 news

reports, new Republican voter registrations are up over new Democratic voter registrations. In the current knife-edge margins of victory and loss in U.S. elections, getting more Democratic registrations and votes is crucial.

The under-participation of preponderantly progressive, Democratic-leaning young voters and other progressive voters in the mid-term elections of 2010 (a census and subsequent redistricting year) and 2014 blunted the ability of the Obama administration to enact a huge swath of its agenda and made life more miserable than it needed to be for the good citizens of too many way-too-red and blue states. It hasn't been so good for our declining planet either.

After our fellow citizens have done their duty of making sure they are registered, and registering or re-registering if they're not, and then voting Democratic, they should receive a nice "I VOTE DEMOCRATIC" sticker! (A graphic creation the Democrats should get done.)

These public voter registration QR codes could be one of the most direct and potentially effective ways for getting Americans with progressive souls to the polls, by getting them registered.

The imaginative Trump Statue Initiative that is memorializing some of Trump's most characteristic moments with public "living statues," has put online a QR code leading to a voter registration webpage, at www.trumpstatueinitiative.com/take-action/. Creative, but a visit to their site has to come first.

Political creativity can go a long way. Progressives and Democrats need to deploy as much of it as possible in 2020—and then in the slog into the party-centric 2022 midterm.

This would be a great project for Demo-

crats and progressives to robustly pursue between now and National Voter Registration Day on September 22.

We've gotta win this election. Getting more voters into the electorate—especially the detached younger Americans who need to get into the game of saving the country—is crucial. QR code voter registration links on public display is one of the ways progressives and Democrats at all levels can make the progressive rubber really meet the road to a better, fairer, more sustainable American and planetary tomorrow.

What's a QR code?

A QR code consists of black squares arranged in a square grid on a white background, which can be read by an imaging device such as a camera, and processed using Reed-Solomon error correction until the image can be appropriately interpreted. The required data is then extracted from patterns that are present in both horizontal and vertical components of the image.



Hold your smartphone camera so the QR code above is framed and tap the link that's generated.

Recording of the Culver City School Board Candidates Forum



Anne Allaire

These social turbulent times have presented us the opportunity to reshape equity and education. It is my top priority to ensure that we do not squander this opportunity and ensure that each student is served in the best capacity based on their individual needs. I plan to support the progress and success our district has achieved. I am excited about the direction the district is headed, with a strong focus on equity, family/community engagement, and preparing students for their future. It is important to me that we keep the education, safety, and well-being of each student at the forefront of our decisions while also being good financial stewards of our school district.



Paula Amezola De Herrera

I'm a first-generation bilingual bicultural Latina with an 18-year career in epidemiology dedicated to improving the health of underserved communities. As a parent of two CCUSD students and as someone who earned a BS from UC Davis and an MPH from UCLA despite the many inequities I faced, I saw how supportive teachers can make all the difference. My history left me determined to advocate for equity, diversity, and inclusion in our school district so every student receives a high-quality education. I'm committed to working together to build a community of learning for all, where our budget reflects our values.



Lauren Jagnow

As CCUSD continues to react to the COVID-19 pandemic and nationwide social uprisings, I want to help our district seize this moment and push even harder to ensure every student reaches their full potential. I'm the mom of two students, and I am a parent leader and advocate for students, serving on the PTA, Equity Advisory Council, Safe Routes to School Committee, Master Plan Core Planning Group and El Rincon's Inclusion Committee. I'm also a lunchtime supervisor at El Rincon. As a school board member, I will represent all of our district's stakeholders, especially those who struggle to be heard.

Recording of the Culver City School Board Candidates Forum



Tiffany Spellman

I am a candidate for the Culver City Unified School District Governing Board because I believe providing all students a high-quality education, inclusive of parent and community participation, is essential. As Culver City faces the challenges of distance learning and the COVID-19 pandemic, it is crucial that we work together to ensure the health and safety of students, families, the community, and district personnel. Whether we remain at home or are in the classroom, I am dedicated to facilitating the changes needed to ensure all students have access to relevant, personalized, and forward-thinking educational opportunities.



Scott Zeidman

The best way to invest in our future is to ensure our students receive the highest quality education possible, even during these challenging and uncertain times. That means electing a school board that demonstrates strong leadership by tackling tough issues, practicing fiscal responsibility, and by creating a healthy and safe learning environment. I've lived in Culver City since the 4th grade. I purchased a home here in large part due to our great schools. I helped successfully guide CCUSD through troubling times from 2007-2011, and I am now running to help guide the District through the difficult times we now face.



Kelly Kent

I have a passion for the science of education, 5 years of experience on the school board, and an unwavering commitment to equity and inclusion.

I also view the current moment as one for reimagining our schools. Meeting each individual student's needs requires a racial justice framework. I will use this framework to address the greatest needs first and foremost. It will inform recruitment and retainment of staff, our engagement of both students and families in decision-making, and it will guide a long-overdue shift in our K-12 curriculum toward one where students can see themselves reflected in the academic content.