

www.CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

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Post Office Box 4254 • Culver City, California 90231-4254

General Meeting on Zoom — 7p.m. Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Speaker: LA County DA George Gascón

President's Message by Jeff Schwartz

One advantage of living in a small city

Dear Club members,

Last Friday I wrote around 800 words on the Culver City Police Department's proposed 2021-2022 work plan, which I emailed to our City Council members after letting them sit overnight. If I lived a mile north I would be represented by Los Angeles City Council member Paul Koretz and, whether or not he is a good dude, and I do not doubt that he is, he has over a quarter million constituents and a paid staff to summarize his correspondence, so "@PaulKoretzCD5 #DefundLAPD" would probably have nearly as much impact as my essay.

In Culver City, however, I am confident that a majority of our City Council members, if not all of them, will read and consider my 800 words. This is not because I am the President of this Club, because I donated to their campaigns, or because I am a person of unusual insight, but because Culver City has under 30,000 registered voters.

Culver City residents' desire to be a small town in the middle of the greatest city in world history is almost as absurd as their love of crispy tacos with iceberg lettuce and orange cheese. My series of music articles in the Culver City Catalyst have been driven in part by a desire to show the creative and perverse sides of "Mayberry." Fatty Arbuckle owned a nightclub here called "The Plantation," and if that's not perverse enough I can go on.

However, living in what is at least administratively a small town gives us unusual access to our elected officials. I encourage you to use it. If you DM @AlexFis-

chCC, he will reply. Often this access is just used for constituent services: if the sidewalk on your block is a mess or you're having trouble getting a permit for your ADU, you can yell at the mayor, but we can also use it for positive social change.

It is very likely that everyone who wrote to the Council about the departmental work plans could fit in a diner booth (post-COVID, of course). So, every voice here really counts. Our power diminishes quickly as we go into bigger arenas. Each county supervisor represents 2 million people. Senators Feinstein and Padilla represent all 40 million Californians. Also, despite the unprecedented spending by real estate, landlord, and police political action committees last November, Culver City politicians do not yet need to engage in the kind of year-round fundraising that too often pulls higher office holders away from their constituents.

I was at an ADEM meeting with Assembly member Sydney Kamlanger a few months ago, and she mentioned that the calls and emails she got from Culver City were overwhelmingly conservative. So, even a small mobilization can make a difference in the State legislature. Those

conservative messages may not have affected her votes, but they affected her perception of Culver City. Unfortunately, it is not enough to elect liberal and progressive officials. We need to regularly remind them that we elected them and why. Whoever our next assembly member and state senator are, we will need to do a better job of representing our community to them, to help them better represent our community.

I am planning that, in the next few months, the Club will begin using our social media and email list to alert you to upcoming items which you may wish to contact your representatives about, on the city, county, state, and national levels. These won't be endorsements or recommendations, just links to upcoming meetings and legislation where your contributions will be especially valuable. I do not plan to do this alone. Please let me know if you'd like to help with this, if you are interested in any of the Club's standing committees (Ways and Means, Newsletter, Community / Legislative, Politics / Elections, and Financial Review), or if there is a project you'd like to propose. You'll be hearing more about these committees too. Thanks!

Los Angeles DA George Gascón will speak at our March 10 General Meeting

[CLICK HERE](#) to register in advance for this meeting. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

A limited number of participants will be able to attend this Zoom meeting. Guests are welcome, but preference will be given to Club members.

[CLICK HERE](#) to join the Culver City Democratic Club for \$30 a year.



To fix our climate, we must fix democracy

By *RL Miller, Climate Hawks Vote*

It's by voting—and turning out marginalized and disengaged folk to be fired up about voting—that pro-democracy forces flipped the Senate in January and gave our climate bills a fighting chance. To repair our fragile democracy, we must make it easier to vote.

HR 1—the [For the People Act](#)—is a once-in-a-generation democracy reform package to clean up our political system, expand and protect voting rights, get big money out of politics, hold elected officials accountable for corruption, and create a democracy that values the voices of all Americans. Democracy is intertwined with our climate—just ask any climate scientist who tells us that “we have the technology, we just lack political will.” If Americans are ever going to see climate action, we must have a democracy that responds to the needs and priorities of voters—not fossil fueled donors.

Tell Congress: pass HR 1 to protect and strengthen our democracy.

The House reintroduced HR 1 on January 4. Now it needs to pass both chambers. Together, we can build the support we need to transform our democracy into one that truly represents the American people clamoring for climate justice. The Brennan Center has a [report](#) on HR1, and Representative John Sarbanes (D-MD) has a [fact sheet](#) about the bill

Di's Corner:

by *Diane Rosenberg*

Update on Club member Charlotte Gunter: Charlotte is still doing well. Her strength in that elbow and hand is slowly coming back. She still does her exercises and she walks almost everyday with her caregiver. Her attitude is excellent.

At our February 10 General Meeting the new, 2021 officers were sworn in by Culver City Councilmember Yasmine-Imani McMorrin. The new officers are: President, Jeff Schwartz; 1st Vice President, Freddy Puza; 2nd Vice President, Jeanna Harris; Corresponding Secretary, Cynthia Hart; Recording Secretary, Shannon Theus; Treasurer, Eric Fine; Membership Chair, Diane Rosenberg. The Club members congratulated them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Club website: www.culvercitydemocraticclub.com

Follow us on Twitter: @CulvCityDemClub

and Instagram: CulverCityDemClub

March 2, 2021

Special Election State Senate SD 30

March 5, 2021

Registration Opens for CDP Spring Convention
(Non-delegates can register for an “Observer Pass”)

<https://cdpconvention.org>

March 10, 2021

CCDC General Meeting via Zoom
Guest Speaker—LA County DA George Gascon
“Justice with Safety and Humanity”

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

7:00 PM

March 31, 2021

Cesar Chavez Day

April 14, 2021

CCDC General Meeting via Zoom
(Members with email addresses receive the link automatically
Others are welcome to RSVP to CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com)

7:00 PM

April 29, 2021 - May 2, 2021

California Democratic Party Spring Convention 2021

<https://cdpconvention.org>

Culver City DEMOCRATIC CLUB  **ENDORSEMENT**

California State Senate District 30 Special Election

MARCH 2 - VOTE FOR

CULVER CITY VICE MAYOR

DANIEL LEE

VETERAN · ACTIVIST · ORGANIZER · SOCIAL WORKER

[DONATE](#)

When We Women Own Our Own

By ZiggZaggerZ

It is known,
 When we women
 Own our own,
 We are prone
 To evolve the nature of the throne.
 It's why the feudal lords fight
 With grit & might
 To keep the power to the right.
 For women incite with our light,
 Evolving repressed bodies to new heights.

When we women own ourselves,
 Greater freedoms can be felt.
 So much imbalance can be dispelled,
 With greater access to our own wealth.
 When women own ourselves
 The world will come into better health.

When we women own our own,
 It's not just a feminine win alone.
 For, we are the cornerstone,
 Of :

All in Earth that has been grown,
 All of Mind that has been known,
 All of sight that has been shone.
 Self-possessed we can atone
 Of generations of being disowned,
 By our brothers.
 It's time to no longer condone
 The owning of each other.
 It's time to end what's been postponed
 It's for certain.
 It's time for Women to own our own person.



ZiggZaggerZ

"ONCE SOCIAL CHANGE BEGINS, IT CANNOT BE REVERSED.
 YOU CANNOT UNEDUCATE THE PERSON WHO HAS LEARNED TO READ.
 YOU CANNOT HUMILIATE THE PERSON WHO FEELS PRIDE.
 YOU CANNOT OPPRESS THE PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT AFRAID ANYMORE."
 —CESAR CHAVEZ
 MARCH 31, 1932-APRIL 23, 1993



Political/Elections Committee Chair Leah Pressman votes for California State Senator

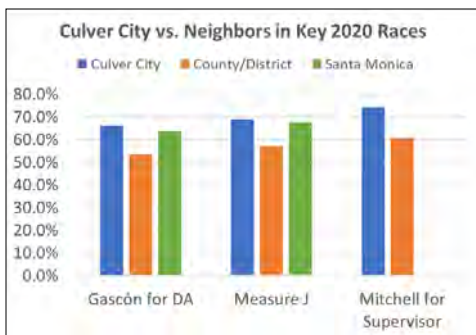


Analysis: Culver City voted to the left of Santa Monica in November 2020

By Noah Zatz

This article first ran in the Culver City Catalyst

A new City Council has been seated, and it has already begun [wading into](#) controversial issues of racial equity, inclusionary housing, policing, and reimagining public safety. Many wonder what the election results tell us about where Culver City’s voters stand and what this portends for the future. Of course, we know that Yasmine-Imani McMorris and Albert Vera won decisive [victories](#) to replace Meghan Sahli-Wells and Thomas Small and that incumbent then-Mayor Goran Eriksson edged out challenger Freddy Puza by just 28 votes (.1%). Vera [declared](#) at his swearing-in that his triumph represented some kind of backlash against the prior Council’s progressive stances. On the contrary, an analysis of the full range of races shows that Culver City voters are staunchly progressive. Indeed, we are consistently to the left of Santa Monica, galling though that may be to the old guard and hard right, which imagine Culver City as a (white) “[oasis](#)” amidst West-side leftism and “[urban chaos](#).”



Consider, for instance, the [marquee race](#) in LA County over restraining police power and pursuing policies of accountability, decarceration, and decriminalization. Then-incumbent District Attorney Jackie Lacey was the primary target of Black Lives Matter-LA and, in complementary fashion, the only non-Culver City candidate to receive the [endorsement](#) and financial backing from the Culver City police union (CCPOA). [Countywide](#), challenger George Gascón defeated Lacey 53.5% vs. 47.5%, but [in Culver City](#), the gap was five times wider: 66.3% vs. 33.7%. Similarly, for County Supervisor,

Holly Mitchell defeated Herb Wesson—the most prominent endorser of both Vera and Eriksson—60.6% to 39.4% district-wide but 74.2% to 25.8% in Culver City, in a race widely understood as pitting the progressive Mitchell against the establishment Wesson heavily [backed by police unions](#). County Measure J, which commits at least 10% of the budget to [reimagining public safety](#) outside of law enforcement, similarly had overwhelming support in Culver City (69%), far above its countywide level (57%).

Strikingly, in each of these cases, Culver City not only consistently voted far to the left of the County or District as a whole, but even to the left of Santa Monica, often used as a benchmark for progressive politics. Moreover, this pattern holds across the board, not just in criminal justice. A detailed table shows Culver City voters’ positions on everything from the presidential race to a wide range of state ballot measures addressing commercial property taxes (Prop 15), affirmative action (Prop 16), repealing criminal justice reforms (Prop 20—also [endorsed](#) by CCPOA), rent control (Prop 21), and gig workers’ rights (Prop 22). In every single case, Culver City voted to the left of Santa Monica, which voted to the left of LA County, which voted to the left of California as a whole.

	Culver City	Santa Monica	County/District	CA
Registered	29,094			
Voted	24,943 86%	80%	75%	81%
President	BIDEN 20,455 83%	81%	71%	64%
Prop 15 (commercial property tax)	YES 15,579 65%	64%	54%	48%
Prop 16 (equity/affirmative action)	YES 14,903 64%	61%	51%	43%
Prop 20 (repeal justice reforms)	NO 18,150 78%	75%	66%	62%
Prop 21 (expand rent control)	YES 13,552 58%	57%	50%	40%
Prop 22 (limit gig worker rights)	NO 13,609 58%	55%	45%	41%
Meas. J (reimagine public safety)	YES 15,061 69%	68%	57%	—
LA District Attorney	GASCÓN 14,485 66%	64%	54%	—
County Supervisor	MITCHELL 15,318 74%	—	61%	—

Another prominent issue in Culver City is housing. Opposing rent control was supposed to be local right-wing [extremist Ron Bassilian’s](#) Trojan Horse. It would allow him to build white nationalist power “behind enemy lines,” as he put it, through his vehicle Protect Culver City (PCC), which also [teamed up](#) with the police union. Eriksson staunchly [opposed rent control](#) on the Council, even before the state enacted its own weak version. Vera opposed it in his campaign.

Both [endorsed PCC’s flagship effort](#) to use Measure B to repeal the last Council’s groundbreaking action to enact rent control as part of the first-ever renter protections in Culver City. Despite the [torrent of landlord money](#) and the misleading “voter choice” window dressing, the voters rejected Measure B by a substantial 9% margin (54.5% to 45.5%). By even larger margins (57.4% to 42.6%), Culver City voted to strengthen rent control further through Prop 21; it failed statewide but would have automatically narrowed the local ordinance’s existing small-landlord exemption and extended rent control to newer buildings. Clearly, it’s not the last Council majority that was out of step with the voters, who likewise approved the Measure RE transfer tax that was generally opposed by the same crowd fighting rent control. In contrast, both [McMorris](#) and [Puza](#) campaigned on their advocacy for rent control as part of [Protect Culver City Renters](#) (whose name PCC later echoed) and [opposed](#) Measure B.

	NO	YES	%
Measure B (rent control repeal)	12,231	55%	
Measure RE (transfer tax)	11,510	52%	
Council (three seats)			
ALBERT VERA	10,665	56%*	
Y MCMORRIN	10,474	55%	
GORAN ERIKSSON	8,700	46%	
FREDDY PUZA	8,672	46%	
DARREL MENTHE	7,846	41%	
HEATHER WOLLIN	3,900	21%	
KHIN KHIN GYI	3,088	16%	
ROBERT ZIRGIJULIS	2,163	11%	
ANTHONY RIZZO	1,413	7%	
School Board (two seats)			
KELLY KENT	10,654	59%*	
P AMEZOLA	9,197	51%	
SCOTT ZEIDMAN	6,048	33%	
ANNE ALLAIRE	4,791	26%	
TIFFANY SPELLMAN	2,976	16%	
LAUREN JAGNOW	2,692	15%	

* For comparison, normalized to presumption that voters voted for all seats or none.

In other local races, many were probably surprised to see outspoken progressive activist and first-time candidate Paula Amezola (on whose campaign I worked) sail to School Board victory, more than 3,000 votes ahead of Scott Zeidman and even further ahead of incumbent Anne Allaire. Zeidman, a former school board member, whom Ron Bassilian and PCC recruited to run, was [endorsed](#) by the police union and their old-guard allies of twelve former mayors, as well as by Eriksson and Vera. His signs were ubiquitous alongside PCC’s “Defend Don’t Defund” signs. But all that firepower and visibility from the old-guard/landlord/ (See Election Analysis on page 5)

(From Election Analysis on page 4)

right-wing alliance didn't get him very far at all. And progressive incumbent Kelly Kent, who was the direct target of one of the police union's attack ads, was by far the top vote-getter overall.

Similarly, in the City Council races, the same configuration of reactionary forces went to the mat for Heather [Wollin](#), in addition to Eriksson and Vera. Wollin is an avowed conservative who [worked closely with Bassilian](#) in his spurious attack on the last Council soon after it was sworn in. Those attacks seemed enough to win the allegiance (at such a low price!) of an embittered old guard still dumbfounded that Daniel Lee had defeated Vera in 2018 to become Culver City's first-ever Black Councilmember, as well as the rare elected renter. Perhaps it was no surprise to see endorsements of Wollin from Bassilian allies like former Mayors Jeff Cooper and Richard Marcus (both PCC donors), as well as notorious old-timers like former Mayors [Steven Gourley](#) and [Edward Wolkowitz](#). But even former Mayor Jim Clarke was willing to swing far to the right and embrace Wollin as part of the well-organized old-guard freak-out about progressive change and, above all else, [racial reckoning around housing and policing](#). When they were on the Council together in 2017, Clarke had broken with Cooper and [Eriksson](#) to [support](#) sanctuary policies, and Clarke had been endorsed by the Culver City Democratic Club when he ran for Council back in the day; he also declined to endorse Measure B. Yet, with all that firepower and credibility lined up behind Wollin alongside Eriksson and Vera, Wollin got less than half the votes of any of the three progressive candidates (McMorrin, Puza, and Menthe).

The contrast between Menthe and Wollin is particularly instructive. Menthe ran the most moderate campaign of the three progressive candidates, emphasizing his ties to the Culver City business establishment and avoiding making any clear commitment to significantly downsizing policing. This tilt toward the center provided no electoral advantage, and he finished behind McMorrin and Puza—yet still got twice as many votes as Wollin. In contrast, McMorrin came out [early, strong, and very explicitly](#) for defunding CCPD by 50% to reallocate public safety dollars and response toward other methods. She received the

most intense and direct [attacks](#) for it, yet still garnered the most votes among the progressive trio. She nearly tied the vastly better funded, well-known, and connected Vera, who is the son of a former Mayor, owner of the popular (and delicious) Sorrento's market, and generous donor to many local causes. Even Vera sought votes from his left and claimed, despite his CCPOA endorsement, in a mailer targeting Democrats to be “leading the charge for reimagining our police department,” though a different mailer [flashed](#) his [Thin Blue Line](#) bracelet. To his credit, Vera also explicitly rejected the support of Ron Bassilian and PCC.

Meanwhile, Eriksson [took credit](#) for helping to create the City's public safety review—without mentioning that he opposed giving it a mandate to pursue structural change. And his [campaign website](#) touted his concern about affordable housing and houselessness—without acknowledging his staunch opposition to rent control. Even without considering outside expenditures, Eriksson's campaign had more than two-and-a-half times the [money](#) of Puza's (a \$60,000+ advantage) and the benefits of incumbency over a first-time candidate, yet he won by just 28 votes. Obviously, in the end, the results and City Council composition are what they are, but none of this suggests either a reactionary mandate or voter rejection of ambitiously progressive policies, especially given McMorrin's victory.

Culver City Voter Demographics		
	Among All 2020 Registered Voters	Among 2020 Registered Voters Who Voted in Any Local Election 2014-18
Voted in Any Local Election 2014-18	23%	100%
Homeowner	47%	72%
Age 56+	38%	63%
White/Other	66%	73%
Latinx	16%	9%
Asian/Pacific Islander	11%	9%
Black	7%	9%
Children in Home	16%	21%
Republican	11%	13%

To better understand how Culver City's old guard keeps fooling itself on these points, it is worth taking a brief look at Culver City voter demographics. Culver City had a very high (86%) voter turnout in 2020. This was the first year both the City Council and School Board races were consolidated with the general election rather than sequestered into low-turnout, off-cycle local-only elections—another change championed by the outgoing Council and [resisted](#) by the

old guard.

Consider registered voters who had turned out for any of the local-only elections in 2014-18. Unsurprisingly, these voters had a tremendously high turnout (96% (not shown)) in 2020, and yet they made up only about one-quarter of all 2020 voters (not shown). These regular voters with relatively high local engagement dominate many civic leaders' “common sense” and social networks. However, they are sharply different demographically than voters overall (let alone the entire resident population): much more likely to be white, to be older, to be homeowners, and not Latinx. Of course, there is political diversity among these voters, but nonetheless, there are strong demographic patterns to politics ([recent data here](#) on race, age, and attitudes toward policing in Culver City). These familiar faces likely differ significantly on average from voters overall in their political preferences and priorities. But it is this narrow group whom the old guard seems to imagine Culver City to be when they claim a “[silent majority](#)” on issues like policing, property taxes, rent control, and immigrant-protective policies like sanctuary.

The lessons for Culver City progressives are, above all, not to be cowed by claims of voter backlash. On the contrary, the task at hand seems to be to make sure that a strong progressive message comes through clearly and to ensure that voters know it when candidates talk the talk but don't walk the walk. That should be easier next time around, when post-pandemic campaigns with grassroots support can return to door-to-door and face-to-face campaigning rather than needing to rely so heavily on tremendously expensive direct mail (let alone giant [billboards](#)).

Noah Zatz lives in Culver City, has two kids in CCUSD, and is active in the Culver City Action Network. He also is a law professor at UCLA and likes to bake.

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

The following resolution, written by ADEM delegate and Club member Wayne Liebman, will be voted on at the Club's General Meeting on March 10. Wayne plans to submit this resolution at the California Democratic Party convention and he's hoping the Culver City Democratic Club will endorse it.

RESOLUTION

CITIZENS' INITIATIVE REVIEW (CIR)

Whereas California voters in recent decades have been asked to weigh in on an increasing number of complex, highly technical ballot propositions. This has been accompanied by an infusion of partisan advertising which, while purporting to educate voters about ballot propositions, in many cases is designed to obfuscate the issues. Such misinformation has become a source of frustration, confusion, and bad decision making on the part of voters. Indeed, a recent poll conducted by the Public Policy Institute of California showed that ninety percent of Californians believe that the initiative process is controlled, at least in part, by special interests; and

Whereas 10 years ago, civic reformers worked with the Oregon State Legislature to establish a Citizens' Initiative Review (CIR) process that draws on core principles of deliberative democracy. The CIR process scrutinizes selected statewide ballot measures by assembling panels of 20-30 registered voters chosen by democratic lottery who, like a jury, hear from both experts and pro and con partisans on the impact of a measure. The panel deliberates and composes a 750-word statement, in plain language, honestly and objectively listing the pros and cons and their implications for the voter. The statements are published in the official Voters' Pamphlet, which is distributed to every Oregon household that has one or more registered voters. The program is enormously popular; and

Whereas implementation of a Citizens' Initiative Review creates an opportunity to meaningfully improve the initiative process independent of any other campaign finance reforms. CIR further creates opportunities for voters to participate in this aspect of direct democracy, setting standards for accuracy and multi-dimensional analysis of propositions that are currently missing from the discourse; therefore be it

1. Resolved, that the California Democratic Party calls for the enactment of public policy directed toward implementing the Citizens' Initiative Review process in the state of California; and be it further
2. Resolved, that the California Democratic Party recognizes that enactment of the CIR process will help to restore balance and objectivity to the initiative process, to counter the undue influence of money on initiative outcomes, to increase citizen engagement in government, and to restore the faith of the citizens of California in the democratic process.

Author:

Wayne Liebman, Assembly District 54

Contact Info: Wayne Liebman | 310 592 5502 | wayne.liebman@gmail.com

Don't sign a petition to recall Gavin Newsom

OPINION

By Pete Rockwell

It was nearly two decades ago that Gray Davis, the first Democrat the voters of California had elected Governor in 16 years, lost the first recall election of a governor in California's history. And he lost to actor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The election was held in October of 2003, less than one year after Davis had been re-elected Governor (he won his first term in 1998). When an election is held in an off year, and in a month other than November, the voter turnout is almost always lower. Low turnout elections are harder for Democrats to win.

During his time as governor, Davis made [education](#) his top priority and California spent eight billion dollars more than was required under [Proposition 98](#) during his first term. Under Davis, California's standardized K-12 school test scores improved for five straight years.

Davis signed the nation's first state law requiring automakers to limit auto emissions. He supported laws to ban assault weapons and is also credited with improving relations between California and [Mexico](#).

Davis began his tenure as governor with strong approval ratings but they declined as voters blamed him for the California [electricity crisis](#), the California budget crisis that followed the bursting of the dot-com bubble, and the car tax.

If the recall petition of Governor Gavin Newsom gets enough signatures to cause a recall election, it will be a very bad thing for California and for the Democratic Party.

The meeting program for April 14 will be about healthcare

AB 1400 California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act (CalCare)

**Assembly Members Ash Kalra, Lee, Santiago
Principal Coauthors » Assembly Members Chiu and Ting
and Senators Lena Gonzalez, McGuire, and Wiener
Coauthors » Assembly Members Carrillo, Friedman,
Kamlager, McCarty, Nazarian, Luz Rivas, Wicks and
Senators Becker, Cortese, Laird, and Wieckowski**

SUMMARY

Today's U.S. health care system is a complex, fragmented multi-payer system that still leaves wide gaps of coverage and poses significant issues of affordability. Despite health care spending in the U.S. far exceeding other high-income, industrialized countries that offer a publically financed single-payer system, we consistently report worse health outcomes and disparities among vulnerable populations.

AB 1400 sets in motion a single-payer health care coverage system in California, called CalCare, for all residents, regardless of citizenship status. By streamlining payments and lowering per-capita health care spending, CalCare guarantees quality health care and long-term care without creating barriers to care or out-of-pocket costs.

By affirming health care as a right to all Californians and establishing a payment system that eliminates waste and aligns reimbursements with the actual cost of care, we can make significant progress on financing and acquiring state and federal approvals.

represent an overwhelming proportion of the overall projected premium dollar — 75% of the projected 2018 premium dollar.

Americans use significantly less health care services than people in other industrialized countries³ — including physician visits and hospital admissions — yet spending is greater due to higher prices. Despite higher spending, Americans have worse health outcomes, including shorter life expectancy and greater prevalence of chronic conditions.⁴

Another challenge with our health care system is the pervasiveness in health disparities. California is a diverse state — racially, ethnically, economically, and geographically — and vulnerable populations face greater health risks and have less access to safety net programs.

California's growing senior population, aged 60 years and over, is expected to grow more than three times as fast as the total population,⁵ which will place additional strain on health care services. As more aging adults enter Medicare, there will be a need to improve access and lower costs by pooling state and federal funds.

continued »»

HEALTH SYSTEM STATUS QUO

An estimated 2.7 million Californians remain uninsured¹ and millions more with coverage often delay or are unable to access necessary medications or health care services due to cost. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, that number has grown as many workers have lost their employer-based coverage or were unable to afford the high cost of health care due to economic constraints.

Health care spending in the United States far outpaces other industrialized countries.² Based on prior years of health insurance rate filing data, hospital costs and physician services

- 1 Covered California estimates, Jan. 12, 2021.
- 2 I. Papanicolas, L.R. Woskie, and A.K. Jha, "Health Care Spending in the United States and Other High-Income Countries," *JAMA*, Mar. 13, 2018.
- 3 Health at a Glance 2017: OECD Indicators — number of doctor consultations per person, hospital discharges, and average length of stay in hospital.
- 4 "U.S. Health Care from a Global Perspective: Spending, Use of Services, Prices, and Health in 13 Countries," The Commonwealth Fund, Oct. 2015.
- 5 California Department of Aging website, "Facts About California's Elderly." https://aging.ca.gov/Data_and_Reports/.

CALIFORNIA'S GUARANTEED HEALTH CARE FOR ALL (CALCARE)

The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed how grossly flawed and inequitable our multi-payer health system is and how critical it is for all Californians to be guaranteed access to health care. AB 1400 will bring California closer to achieving a single-payer health care system by setting in place a comprehensive framework of governance, eligibility and enrollment, benefits, delivery of care, and health care cost controls and program standards.

By passing the California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act, the state can position itself to seek consolidated federal waivers from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These waivers would make it easier for California to consolidate health care dollars, provide flexibility, expand benefits, and eliminate cost-sharing.

Upon being authorized and financed, CalCare will establish a comprehensive universal single-payer health care coverage program and a health care cost control system. CalCare will be set up as an independent public entity governed by a nine member executive board with expertise in health care policy and delivery.

The CalCare Board's composition shall be reflective of California's diversity and free of any conflicts of interest. The Board shall convene a Public Advisory Committee to advise on all matters of policy and make informed recommendations.

THE CALCARE MISSION AND DUTIES

CalCare will be charged with overseeing the state's single-payer system, and will ensure the following »

» Comprehensive Benefits and Freedom of Choice

Californians will have access to comprehensive health care coverage, including all primary and preventive care, hospital and outpatient services, prescription drugs, dental, vision, audiology, reproductive health services, maternity and newborn care, long-term services and supports, prescription drugs, mental health and substance abuse treatment, laboratory and diagnostic services, ambulatory services,

and more. Patients will have freedom to choose doctors, hospitals, and other providers they wish to see, without worrying about whether a provider is "in-network."

» No Premiums, Copays, or Deductibles

Californians would receive health care services and other defined benefits without paying any premiums or deductibles. Upon receiving care, patients would not be charged any copays or other out-of-pocket costs.

» Addressing Health Care Disparities

CalCare would remove barriers to care and create a special projects budget to fund the construction, renovation, or staffing of health care facilities in rural or underserved communities.

» Long-Term Services and Supports for People with Disabilities and the Elderly

Long-term services and supports for daily living will be fully covered for medically determinable conditions, whether physical, mental or due to age.

» Reducing Health Care Spending and Improving Care

CalCare would move the state to a simplified health care payment system that will free health care providers from devoting time on billing and instead focus on patient care. The new system would establish reasonable payment methodologies for providers that are aligned with the actual costs of care rather than driven by profits. Health care professionals and institutional providers would be prohibited from overutilizing services. CalCare can negotiate bulk drug prices for all Californians and take other measures to lower the costs of prescription drugs.

» Global Budgets for Institutional Providers

CalCare would negotiate fair, adequate global budgets to hospitals and other institutional providers to help contain the exorbitant costs by aligning health care payments with the actual cost of care and eliminating waste present in the system today. Institutional providers may submit appeals to the global budget to address justifiable or unforeseen circumstances.



California
Nurses
Association



CALCARE
California Guaranteed Health Care for All

The text of the Equal Rights Amendment is simple. It says:

“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.”



ERA Yes! Now more than ever

“Feminism is the radical notion that women are people.”—*Marie Shear*

It must have been June 30, 1982 because that was the night the Equal Rights Amendment was set to expire. I was impossibly young at the time, and I was part of a huge crowd of women gathered in the Downtown LA Civic Center to hold vigil for the ERA. From the speaker's podium, someone said “I'm glad you are all here. This is not a good night for those who love the ERA to be alone.”

But the years went by, and certain crucial rights were won without the ERA. The Supreme Court seemed to be willing to apply the 14th Amendment to female people. So maybe we didn't need the dear old thing after all. Then came Trump bringing with him a hard right misogyny, and a judicial philosophy of “originalism.”

I recently got a clearer picture of just how bad that originalism thing can be, when I read the book *The Oath and the Office* by Corey Brettschneider. (Great book! Very approachable! Available on Audible Books, Kindle and even paper and ink!) According to Brettschneider, an originalist reads the Constitution and its amendments according to the historical meaning of the words at the time of their passage. When the Fourteenth Amendment was passed in 1868, the legal meaning of “person” was not yet widely under-

stood to include women.

Oh. Right. In 1868, women were not people. We need the ERA. Hell yes!

As Toni Van Pelt of the National Organization for Women said “It's not over until it's over.” On January 21, 2021, Congressional Representative Jackie Speier led a bipartisan quaternity from the House and Senate to introduce a resolution removing the time limit from the ERA. Once this is passed, we can patiently explain to the originalists that the words of the constitution don't actually say that Congress even had the power to include a time limit in the first place!

Representative Speier has asked ERA supporters to call our senators at (202) 224-3121 and the White House at 202-456-1111. Remember the first woman Vice President campaigned on support for the ERA!

Don't let Women's History Month go by

without making calls for the ERA!

For more information read Representative Speier's press release [here](#).

Or go to [MichaelMoore.com](#) to find his podcast episode #162 where Speier talks with Moore about possible paths to ERA ratification. Other resources include: [ERACoalition.org](#) and [Equal-RightsAmendment.org](#).

—by *Cynthia Hart*

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

Don't forget to renew your Club membership for 2021. You can do it online at ActBlue

How to Join the Culver City Democratic Club online

1. Go to the Club's website ([CulverCityDemocraticClub.com](#))
2. Click on the [Join / Renew button](#):



3. This will take you to the Actblue website

Join or Renew Your Culver City Democratic Club Membership!

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

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Yes, count me in for 12 months

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4. Join the Culver City Democratic Club for a \$30 Donation!
For more information on becoming a member of the Culver City Democratic Club, call Diane Rosenberg at (310) 398-5328

De-Trumpify American democracy with H.R. 1—the For The People Act

by *Cynthia Hart*

“American democracy urgently needs repair.” *The Case for H.R. 1*, Brennan Center for Justice

The lovely legislative twins of H.R. 1 and S. 1—called the “*For the People Act*”—comprise a once-in-a-lifetime package of reforms that reads like a patriot’s dream. I am in love with this piece of legislation! It does everything but make coffee. It’s so good that ALL the House Democrats co-sponsored it! Let me give you some highlights.

Voting Rights

H.R. 1 begins by protecting and strengthening our embattled voting rights. It...

- Requires on-line voter registration, same day voter registration, automatic voter registration (at the DMV, etc.), and at least 15 days of early voting.
- Requires states to adopt independent redistricting commissions for purposes of drawing Congressional districts.
- Prohibits a state from imposing restrictions on an individual’s ability to vote by mail.
- Limits the authority of states to purge voters based on interstate voter registration crosschecks.
- Prohibits [voter caging](#).
- Makes it unlawful to hinder, interfere with, or prevent an individual from registering to vote.
- Requires states to promote access to voter registration and voting by persons with disabilities and older individuals.
- Restores voting rights to those who have completed felony sentences.
- Requires states to use individual, durable, voter-verified paper ballots.
- Prohibits state chief election officials from participating in federal campaigns. (Hear that, [Kathleen Harris?](#))
- Prohibits using official authority to affect the results of elections

But wait! There’s more!

Campaign Finance Reform

H.R. 1 takes steps to end the outsized influence of big money in our political life.

- Establishes a publicly-financed six-to-one matching system on small-dollar donations for qualified candidates who demonstrate broad-based support and reject high-dollar contributions.
- Establishes a duty to report foreign election interference
- Takes aim at [Citizens United](#) by affirming Congress’s authority to regulate money in politics
- Strengthens FEC oversight and undoes various Republican provisions that have prevented common sense disclosure of political spending

But wait! There’s still more.

Ethics

Let’s finish off with ethics. Yes. Ethics for everyone, even the Supreme Court! Here is an overview of what it does:

- Requires Presidents to disclose their tax returns.
- Expands conflict of interest laws and divestment requirements
- Requires executive branch ethics waivers to be disclosed to the Office of Government Ethics and to the public.
- Prohibits incentive payments from corporations to individuals entering or leaving government service.
- Prohibits a federal employee from awarding a contract to a former employer for two years after leaving the company, and from working for a company after participating in a contract award to that company, for two years after leaving government service.
- Prevents members of Congress from serving on corporate boards.
- Closes loopholes for lobbyists and foreign agents.
- Creates a code of ethics for the Supreme Court!

Wow! Doesn’t that make you want to call Representative Karen Bass right now at (202) 225-7084 and tell her how much

you appreciate her continued support for the strongest possible version of H.R. 1?

Frederick Douglass told us a long time ago that “Power concedes nothing without a demand.” Let’s make H.R. 1 our Democratic demand!

Of course, in 2021 we might almost need to add that “Power concedes nothing until we kill the filibuster in the Senate!” So after I call Karen Bass to thank her, I will call Senator Feinstein at (202) 224-3841 to urge her to drop her support for the filibuster: what author Adam Jentleson calls democracy’s [Kill Switch](#).



Club President Jeff Schwartz votes for state senator



Club member Maggie Meinschein