



[www.CulverCityDemocraticClub.com](http://www.CulverCityDemocraticClub.com)

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

## General Meeting On Zoom — 7p.m., Wednesday, August 11, 2021

### State Party Vice Chair Betty Yee will be our featured speaker

*President's Message by Jeff Schwartz*

# Stop the Republican RECALLS

This month's general meeting program will feature party leaders explaining how and why we should fight the Republican-led recall of Governor Gavin Newsom. I'd like to add my voice to theirs and expand this critique to the other recall campaigns threatening to come our way in the next few months.

As illustrated in the accompanying cartoon by Bay Area activist and friend of this Club Alfred Twu, the gubernatorial recall this September will include two questions: Should Newsom be recalled? and Who will replace him? If the recall passes, then the person with the most votes becomes Governor. A replacement for Newsom will not need 50%+1 of the

votes and a runoff between the top two would not be required, instead the top vote-getter wins right off.

I don't love Gavin Newsom. Running the world's fifth largest economy and the nation's most populous state is a tough job, and I'm sure we can all find areas where he has disappointed us. However, there is nothing to be gained by considering this now. Liberals and progressives in California have united to keep him in office.

When I first heard about the recall, my hope was that I'd be able to vote "no" on the recall and choose a progressive replacement, just in case the recall was

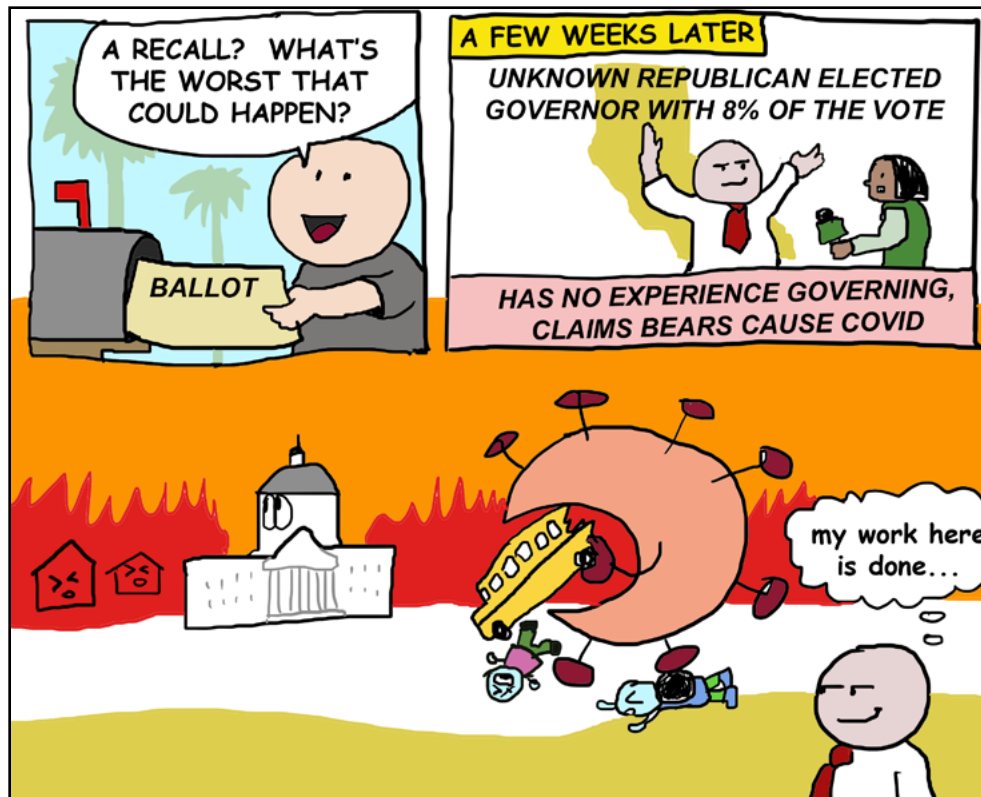
successful, but that's not an option. The [list of replacement candidates](#) is made up entirely of Republicans and cranks, several of whom also ran to replace Gray Davis eighteen years ago, including [Angelyne](#), who may be the best of them.

A progressive primary challenge to Newsom in 2022 will be entirely different from this recall. It will involve many more voters and not risk installing a Republican. Voter turnout in the 2018 primary, which yielded Newsom and Republican John Cox as the top two, was 38%, and 50% of voters showed up for the general election where Newsom beat Cox 62% to 38%.

While an impressive 62% of voters participated in the 2003 recall election, neither Angelyne nor Caitlyn Jenner are celebrities on Schwarzenegger's level. It is much more likely that turnout for this special election will resemble that for the recent ones for the 30th State Senate District and the 54th State Assembly District, which was rather low. If the recall passes, John Cox could easily become Governor with significantly fewer votes than he lost with in 2018. Whether or not Newsom is removed, it is almost certain that more people will vote to keep him than for any one of his 46 potential replacements. The combination of a low-turnout special election, a giant field of candidates, and no runoff or primary process means that, if Newsom is recalled, our next Governor will have been elected by a tiny minority of voters.

This is exactly what Republicans want. Because their candidates and policies are so unpopular, especially in California,

**Continued on page two**



## Continued from page one

their strategy is to discourage voter participation. With a recall election, a handful of wealthy reactionaries can hire professional signature gatherers, then flood voters with negative ads that motivate their base and depress general turnout by creating cynicism and alienation.

We can also see this in the attempts to recall LA County District Attorney George Gascón within the first year of his term. Gascón has barely begun to implement his transformative program, which we endorsed. In 2020, Gascón got [58% of the vote with 86% turnout in Culver City](#), compared to [54% with 76% turnout countywide](#). Despite this potent mandate, reactionaries are trying to buy a do-over and gambling that they can replace him in a low turnout special election.

The budding recall of the three progressive members of the Culver City Council is a similar move. As [Noah Zatz](#) and [I](#) have documented, greater voter participation here yields more liberal results. And yet, the record turnout in November 2020 elected the two conservatives currently on the Council at the same time it delivered strong endorsements for Gascón and [County Measure J](#). I encourage you to read Noah's analysis. My own, which overlaps a bit with his, is that the two conservatives won narrow and ugly victories using [piles of landlord and police money](#) and, in one case, pulling the strings attached to a lifetime of giveaways.

The Culver City establishment [opposed consolidated elections](#) because “the wrong people” would vote, [motivated by issues beyond the city limits](#). Now some of them are planning to buy a “locals only” special election to restore the old guard. These recalls do not increase accountability or democracy. Instead, they allow a small group of rich conservatives to undo regular elections. I hope you will join me in opposition. We must not let the right buy power again.



# CCDC is sponsoring a Phone bank against the REPUBLICAN Recall on August 14

There are URLs for stopping the REPUBLICAN recall below:

[Join us for a #StopTheRecall Phone Bank](#)

[Write postcards](#)

[Get a #StopTheRecall Yard Sign](#)

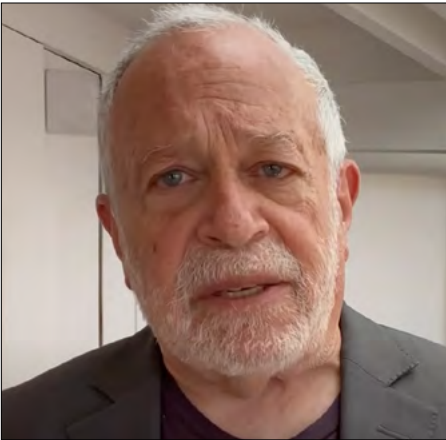
## ***NO on RECALL*** cartoons by Alfred Twu



## The bill Jeff Bezos doesn't want you to know about

Union members have been mobilizing to pass the PRO Act, but many people have still not heard about this critical bill which will give workers the tools they need to build power at their workplaces.

A new video from economist and former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich explains how the PRO Act will make it easier for workers to join unions and fight for better working conditions. Watch and share! Click on the photo of Robert Reich:



### Di's Corner: by Diane Rosenberg

Update on Club member Charlotte Gunter: Charlotte is still doing physical therapy. Her arm is not quite, but almost, back to normal. She still has her caregivers. We speak every couple of days. Her attitude is remarkable. She misses everybody and is looking forward to when we can all meet again in person.

Amy Cherness, past Club president, was appointed by the City Council on June 14 this year to serve on the Advisory Committee on Housing and Homelessness. She is joined by her husband Darryl Cherness (also past president) on the committee.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Club website: [www.culvercitydemocraticclub.com](http://www.culvercitydemocraticclub.com)

Follow us on Twitter: @CulvCityDemClub

and Instagram: CulverCityDemClub

Links To Volunteer to help Stop the Republican Recall

with CADEM or Westside Democratic HQ

<https://www.mobilize.us/cadems/>

<https://westsidedemhq.org/volunteers/>

**August 9, 2021 - 7:00 PM**

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

**August 11, 2021 — 7:00 PM**

[CCDC General Meeting via Zoom](#)

**August 12, 2021—7 PM**

[Understanding Housing First—virtual Zoom event](#)

Panelists to include: Anna Laven (Executive Director of the Bakersfield-Kern Regional Homeless Collaborative); Christina Miller (Senior Policy Fellow for California State Policy, National Alliance to End Homelessness); Moderated by Mark Lipman

**August 16, 2021**

Ballots drop for the September 14th Recall Election of Gavin Newsom

**August 18, 2021 - 7:00 - 8:00 PM**

[Santa Monica Library Virtual Book Event](#)

Sarah Schulman: "Let the Record Show: a Political History of ACT UP New York." Organized by Jeff Schwartz

**August 23, 2021 - 7:00 PM**

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

**August 25 - August 29, 2021**

CDP Virtual Summer Executive Board Meeting

**August 30, 2021**

[Last day to register to vote in September 14th Recall Election](#)

**September 8, 2021- 7:15 PM**

CCDC General Meeting via Zoom

**NOTE CHANGE IN TIME DUE TO HOLIDAY**

**September 14, 2021**

Last day to vote to Stop the Republican Recall

The California Democratic Party needs small donors to help fund the Blue Wave

[Click here to join the DEM2022 campaign](#)



# Metropolitan Water District workers applaud approval of state audit request

On the heels of MWD reform bill [Senate Bill 480](#) last week passing through the State Assembly Local Government Committee with unanimous and bipartisan support, today the California Joint Legislative Audit Committee approved the wide-ranging request for the state of California to perform a comprehensive audit of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

This groundbreaking announcement comes after an LA Times article, reported over three months ago, unearthed a workplace culture of [widespread sexual harassment, discrimination, bullying and retaliation](#) at the MWD, particularly for women and LGBTQIA+ people.

In a statement released reflecting on the state audit request being approved, AFSCME 1902 President Alan Shanahan commented:

“The hardworking women and men of AFSCME 1902 never quit in our efforts

for a fair, equitable, safe and transparent workplace. So we are thrilled that the California Legislature’s Joint Legislative Audit Committee voted in favor of a state audit of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

“After months of calling for a comprehensive, independent investigation into the wide variety of workplace abuses at MWD, today’s vote is a critical step that we believe will result in an agency better able to deliver the quality services our communities depend on while respecting and supporting its workforce.

“We are eager to work with state investigators to ensure the success of the state audit, and look forward to working with our new General Manager to implement the recommended changes to finally create a workplace free from bullying, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and other abuses while we continue modernizing Southern California’s sup-

ply of safe, reliable water.”

Today’s announcement also follows the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California recently selecting Adel Hagekhalil as the new General Manager of the organization. Additionally, an Los Angeles Times editorial last month urged the MWD to [acknowledge the sexual abuse that has been inappropriately tolerated in its ranks](#), after initial reporting exposed the culture of rampant sexual harassment, retaliation and bullying in the workplace.

AFSCME Local 1902 represents the working people of the Southern California Water Districts, including accountants, designers, electricians, engineers, environmental specialists, inspectors, IT, mechanics, various trades, apprentices, PR specialists, and everyone in between who support the delivery of clean, safe, and affordable water to residents and businesses of Southern California.

## Understanding Housing First

August 12, 7 PM

[REGISTER FOR ZOOM EVENT](#)

Understanding Housing First—virtual Zoom event.

Panelists to include:

### Anna Laven

Executive Director of the Bakersfield-Kern Regional Homeless Collaborative

### Christina Miller

Senior Policy Fellow for California State Policy, National Alliance to End Homelessness

**Moderated by  
Mark Lipman**

Understanding Housing First  
a community education panel  
Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm

Discover how we can end homelessness today from the people who have actually done it.

Panelists include:  
Anna Laven (Bakersfield-Kern Regional Homeless Collaborative)  
Christina Miller (National Alliance to End Homelessness)  
Moderated by: Mark Lipman

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ENHANCED ACCESS TO ROOFTOP SOLAR AND NET METERING

Whereas, Over the past two decades, hundreds of thousands of Californians have invested in rooftop solar to combat climate change, lower energy bills, and invest in local communities; and

Whereas, The State of California encouraged these investments via policies like net metering, which lets solar users share their extra energy with their neighbors for a bill credit and today rooftop solar, often paired with battery storage, is an increasingly affordable investment embraced by working class communities as a common and increasingly affordable solution to wildfires, blackouts, and rate increases; and

Whereas, net metering and, therefore, rooftop solar is at risk of being jeopardized by California's investor-owned utilities, who are opposed to the growth of rooftop solar and storage because it threatens their business model, which depends on building an ever bigger and more expensive grid at the expense of ratepayers, therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the Culver City Democratic Club calls on Governor Newsom and the California Public Utilities Commission to:

1. Keep rooftop solar growing to fight climate change and build a safer, more resilient grid;
2. Prioritize equity by bringing rooftop solar and storage to more lower-income families and disadvantaged communities; and
3. Make solar-charged batteries standard with rooftop solar by 2030; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the Culver City Democratic Club calls on Governor Newsom and the California Public Utilities Commission to reject any proposals by investor-owned utilities or organizations that side with them to slash solar bill savings or impose new fees on solar users that collectively would set back California's climate change and environmental justice goals, consign the public to annual power outages, reduce customer bill savings, and harm access to solar energy by lower-income ratepayers.

Adopted at the general meeting of the Culver City Democratic Club on July 14, 2021.

## The first question on the recall ballot is the ONLY important one

There will be two questions on the recall ballot that will be mailed to voters August 16. The first question asks if Gavin Newsom should be



recalled from the office of governor. The second question asks who should succeed Newsom if he is recalled.

It takes a majority of the votes cast to recall the governor. If the question of whether to recall him wins a majority, the second question on the ballot will determine Newsom's successor, but this person can win without a majority. Whoever gets the most votes, of the more than forty people running to replace him, will serve as governor for the rest of Newsom's term.

The recall of the governor of California has only succeeded once in the history of the state. In 2003, Governor Gray Davis was recalled and Arnold Schwarzenegger was elected to replace him. Schwarzenegger got less than 49 percent of the votes cast.

This time around it's quite possible that Newsom will be recalled. If that happens, there are no good options. The most likely winner will be John Cox, the Republican that ran against him in 2018. If Newsom is recalled and Cox gets the same percentage of the vote he got in 2018 (38.1%) he will win, as long as he gets more votes than the other people on the ballot.

Ballots for the recall will be mailed out August 16. The election will be held September 14. Vote NO on the recall as if your life depended on it (because it might).

# Increasing Scarcity in Times of Climate Chaos

by *Mark Lipman*

At our last CCDC meeting I was asked to prepare a resolution calling on our state to shut down the Nestlé water pipeline at Strawberry Creek in the San Bernardino forest. As you may already know, Nestlé has been operating a water bottling facility here for going on 75 years on an expired permit, draining our state dry, at a rate of 58 million gallons of water per year. This far exceeds the 2.3 million gallons they could legally claim.

In April, state water regulators issued a cease and desist order to Nestlé. However, Nestlé continued pumping water, so the fight is far from over. The proposed resolution (on this page) is a long overdue call to shut down the Nestlé water extraction pipeline. It's what is needed to let our governor and state officials know that in these times of ever increasing drought and wildfires driven by the undeniable effects of climate change, we need to preserve as much water as possible for our public needs. Water is life.

It is my hope that we will be able to quickly pass this resolution and send it to our state representatives for action. However, our action as a community cannot end there. We must responsibly plan for the future, to prepare for the inevitable changes that we know are going to come with an ever warming planet, where both water and food may very likely become ever scarcer for all of us.

As we have seen with the various mutual aid and food pantry programs that have sprung up since the start of the pandemic, which show no signs of decreased demand, we can see that this just may be the beginning of a much greater emergency yet to come. As a community, it is on us to do what we can at the local level to ensure that we give ourselves the greatest possibility to weather the potential storms that are, as we know, more a matter of when than if.

Right now, we are in the process of creating a General Plan to envision Culver City in the year 2045. However, besides some minor political rhetoric about saving our world by reducing car traffic within 5.14 square miles, there has been very little planning to actually reimagine the needs of our city infrastructure in a world that may quite possibly have al-

ready reached more than 3 degrees Celsius warmer in the next 25 years.

For those who do not already know, at 3 degrees warmer our agricultural structures begin to break down and droughts and famines become commonplace. This could mean hundreds of millions—or even billions—of refugees moving from areas of famine and drought in the sub-tropics and coming to the mid-latitudes, with tens of millions of people perishing as a result. This is what the scientists say.

While we should do everything we can to reduce and eliminate the amount of pollution that we, as a community, put into the atmosphere, to mitigate the level of global warming as much as possible, we must also simultaneously prepare for those worst case scenarios.

To this, might I suggest we consider creating our own community agriculture programs, where we use as much of the unbuildable open public land—like those wide sections adjacent to the sidewalks that run through a great many of our neighborhoods—for planting public fruit and vegetable gardens. We should invest in things like community-owned aquaponics systems and vertical gardens. We should incentivize things like front yard gardens in our residential neighborhoods, so that as our climate continues to warm we might be able to reach some level of local food security and independence. We all remember how quickly the shelves at the stores emptied at the first sign of an emergency and general panic. We must ask ourselves what will happen next time. If, due to even more extreme circumstances, those supply lines wind up getting cut, will we be ready?

## RESOLUTION TO STOP NESTLÉ FROM STEALING CALIFORNIA'S WATER

Whereas, water is life and the lack of water threatens all life; climate change is real and for California that means that water is even more precious due to ever increasing drought and fire cycles;

Whereas, Nestlé has been taking nearly 58 million gallons of water each year from California for nearly 75 years for their water bottling operations, far surpassing the 2.3 million gallons per year it could validly claim; and according to the U.S. Forest Service, Nestlé Waters North America has been using a permit that expired in 1988 to draw water from Strawberry Canyon in the San Bernardino National Forest;

Whereas, the continued siphoning of California's water by Nestlé threatens our state and national forests in California with even more devastating wildfires; and on April 23, 2021, California water officials issued a cease and desist order to Nestlé to stop pumping water from Strawberry Creek in California's San Bernardino forest; and Nestlé has continued to ignore this order; therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the Culver City Democratic Club calls upon Governor Newsom and our State Legislature to step in and immediately shut down Nestlé's water pipeline.

Submitted by Club member Mark Lipman

## RESOLUTION AGAINST ELIMINATION OF R-1 ZONING

Whereas, upzoning is nothing more or less than the deregulation of land use. Deregulation has been a central strategy of conservatives since the Nixon Administration. Hiding behind the notion that the markets are hampered by the “red tape” of governmental bureaucracy, free-market and anti-big-government conservatives have tried to apply the hammer of deregulation to weaken or eliminate “government interference” in most aspects of American life: civil rights, special education, rent control, voting rights, wildlife protections, climate change, and protections from threats to the environment caused by corporate irresponsibility and overdevelopment. The YIMBY movement has been pushing for eliminating R-1 housing here in Culver City and throughout the state with Senate Bills 9 and 10, and

Whereas, SB 9 and 10 will eliminate R-1 zoning, which threatens middle class and people of color communities. Developers can tear down single family residences and put in up to 4 and 10 units. Politicians promise more diversity, minimal displacement and affordable housing, but where laws eliminate single family zoning, neighborhoods get richer, whiter and younger. Families build wealth when they own their own home. As neighborhoods upzone, existing home prices go down once families sell and density increases. Wealth evaporates for people of color and the middle class. It turns current homeowners to permanent renters. It incentivizes Mom and Pop landlords to sell their rent-controlled apartments to developers who scrape the lot and build luxury housing no longer under rent control. It harms renters and increases the cost of rent to them. It’s a massive transfer of wealth to corporate landlords, major developers, hedge funds, and Wall Street. SB9 and 10, by eliminating R-1, robs homeowners of an essential way to build generational wealth in communities of color and the middle class, and

Whereas, there are places within cities where summertime heat can soar and giant swings in temperature are observed over a matter of blocks. Neighborhoods with little tree cover, few grassy areas, and a lot of concrete can be as much as 15 to 20 degrees hotter than the surrounding areas. During heat waves, these so-called urban heat islands are deadly. Extreme heat is an invisible yet dangerous consequence of human-caused climate change, killing more people each year on average than any other weather-related event, according to the National Weather Service. The urban heat island effect amplifies a heat wave’s already-oppressive temperatures: areas with a lot of asphalt, buildings, and freeways absorb the sun’s energy then radiate heat. Areas with green space—parks, rivers, tree-lined streets—absorb less. High density development will cause Culver City to have such negative impact on its environment. The demolition of buildings in a rampant manner, the scraping of the tree top canopy, and the lessening of green space will have an irrevocable and detrimental effect on Culver City’s environment and climate, exacerbated by eliminating R-1 zoning, therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the Culver City Democratic Club adamantly opposes any attempts to eliminate R-1 Housing in its entirety or in a wholesale manner and also opposes SB 9 and 10. It supports measured and reasonable growth, especially around transit oriented centers, but not unrestrained growth harmful to the environment and solely to satiate big tech, Wall Street and hedge funds. It supports affordable housing and housing for the homeless, but not hyper-gentrification and displacement of the middle class and people of color, and be it further

*Resolved*, that this resolution will be transmitted to: Governor Gavin Newsom, Speaker Anthony Rendon, Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins, California Assembly Member Isaac Bryan, State Senator Sydney Kamlager, State Senator Scott Weiner and the Culver City Council.

Submitted by Club member Ron Ostrin



# An Open Letter to the Senate

The undersigned have served as Chiefs of Staff in the United States Senate for, cumulatively, well over two hundred years. Our service was a great honor and privilege, and we revere the Senate as an institution. We write today to urge the Senate to repeal or reform a rule that is undermining the Senate's ability to meet the challenges of our time.

The filibuster rule was not designed or used by the Founding Fathers. The Senate passed legislation by majority rule for generations. When filibusters first arose, they merely reflected the fact that a Senator could not be forced to yield the floor, and so could delay action for as long as he could speak. Efforts to prevent that sort of delay led to cloture rules that unintentionally codified the ability of a minority to prevent the end of debate. For over a hundred years, this power was used sparingly, and most notably by Senators opposed to civil rights legislation.

However, over the course of the past twenty years, the filibuster rule has put a chokehold on the Senate. Legislation is now routinely filibustered, transforming the Senate from a place of meaningful debate and progress into a legislative graveyard. Worse, the mere threat of a filibuster hangs over the drafting and consideration of legislation.

We have thought carefully about the arguments in support of the filibuster. Indeed, many of us have made them in years past. But we think they ring hollow in light of today's political reality.

**The filibuster does not foster bipartisanship.** In our experience, bipartisanship occurs when Senators sense that they can enact legislation if they compromise. The potential to make policy is what makes the political risk worth the potential reward. Requiring 60 votes to pass legislation discourages bipartisanship by making compromises less likely to succeed.

**Ending the filibuster will not make the Senate more partisan.** The filibuster has been weaponized by an increasingly partisan Senate. Removing this weapon would be a step toward—not away from—comity. In particular, moderates and problem solvers of both parties will have more flexibility and authority in a Senate where legislation can be passed by 51-vote coalitions that are not built exclusively on party lines.

**The filibuster does not improve policy outcomes.** We have heard the concern that ending the filibuster will lead to drastic swings in federal policy making. However, such swings will occur only when the American people decide to elect a House, Senate and President that all agree on policy issues. When the people speak that authoritatively, policy should change.

Moreover, the policy failings of a Senate with a filibuster rule are all around us. The Senate has failed for decades to take adequate action on such critical issues as climate change and immigration. Much of that dysfunction results from the lack of majority rule in the Senate. There is no reason for 50 votes to be enough to enact massive tax cuts and to confirm lifetime appointments to Supreme Court

Justices while requiring other federal policies to obtain 60 votes.

**The filibuster does not protect minority rights.** Protecting the rights of a minority of Senators to block legislation has come at a great cost to the rights of millions of actual minorities. The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the For the People Act are only the latest examples of civil rights legislation imperiled by the filibuster rule, and they should be the last. The Senate should judge itself not by how well it treats other Senators, but how well it serves the American people.

We have proudly supported our Senators in filibusters in the past. Like any tool, the filibuster may be used to good ends. We know that repealing or reforming the filibuster rule will someday lead to policy outcomes that we deeply dislike, and that might have been blocked under current Senate rules. But we believe in a Senate where the people's business can be done. The Senate is now faced with a choice between functioning and the filibuster. We urge the Senate to choose progress over a procedural rule that has outlived its usefulness.

Sincerely,

Paul Bock (Senator Kohl, 14 years)

Ted Bornstein (Senator Kohl, 4 years)

Jim Brown (Senator Casey, 9 years)

Tony Bullock (Senator Moynihan, 4 years)

Lucy Calautti (Senator Dorgan, 20 years)

Guy Cecil (Senator Bennet, 2 years)

Julie Dwyer (Senator McCaskill, 10 years)

Julia Frifield (Senator Mikulski, 10 years)

Dan Geldon (Senator Warren, 3 years)

Huck Gutman (Senator Sanders, 4 years)

Steve Haro (Senators Heinrich and Feinstein, 6 years)

Mary Irvine (Senator Feingold, 16 years)

Mark Kadesh (Senator Feinstein, 7 years)

Phil Karsting (Senator Kohl, 6 years)

Maura Keefe (Senator Shaheen, 10 years)

Brady King (Senator Burr, 2 years)

Betsy Lin (Senator Hirono, 6 years)

Jennifer Luray (Senator Mikulski, 5 years)

David McCallum (Senator Reid, 15 years)

Eric Mogilnicki (Senators Kennedy and Kirk, 4 years)

Luis Navarro (Senator Biden, 1 year)

Bianca Ortiz-Wertheim (Senator Udall [NM], 5 years)

Susan Platt (Senator Biden, 2 years)

David Ramseur (Senator Begich, 6 years)

Amanda Renteria (Senator Stabenow, 5 years)

Drey Samuelson (Senator Johnson, 18 years)

Stephanie Schriock (Senator Tester, 3 years)

Daniel E. Smith (Senator Harkin, 4 years)

Michael Sozan (Senator Udall [CO], 6 years)

Andy Winer (Senator Schatz, 6 years)

Todd Webster (Senator Coons, 5 years)

Ivan Zapien (Senator Menendez, 5 years)

The letter on this page is from [FixOurSenate.org](https://www.fixourSenate.org). Fix Our Senate is a coalition of more than 70 organizations who are joined together to ensure that the promises of progress are not blocked by the filibuster. [CLICK to hear an interview with Eli Zupnick, the spokesman for the thirty-two Senate staffers who signed the Open Letter to the Senate](#)



# Legislative progress on criminal justice reform

When State Senator Sydney Kamlager departed the State Assembly, she left in the Assembly a basketful of terrific bills aimed at criminal justice reform. One of them (AB127) was recently signed into law.

## **AB127—Arrest Warrants: Declaration of Probable Cause**

It's not often that district attorneys initiate prosecutions against police officers who violate the law while on duty. One reason for this was the requirement that in order to issue an arrest warrant for a police officer, there had to be a declaration of probable cause provided by a fellow police officer. AB127 changed that. Now an investigator or prosecutor can make the required declaration. This reduces a procedural barrier to holding police accountable. Status: Enacted.

## **AB118—CRISES Act: Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems**

Did you know that police kill people with mental health conditions sixteen times more often than people without mental health issues? This bill would provide grant funding for a pilot program to promote community-based responses to the kinds of emergencies that do not require an armed response or a fire department paramedic. This would include, but not be limited to: mental health crises, persons experiencing homelessness, substance abuse, intimate partner abuse, natural disasters, and the like. Status: Detained in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

## **AB124—Justice for Survivors**

According to the ACLU, nearly sixty percent of the women in state prisons nationwide have experienced physical or sexual abuse before being incarcerated.



**State Senator Sydney Kamlager**

That is why the California Legislative Women's Caucus has made AB124 a priority. This bill would create a clear path to request a reduced prison sentence in cases where the defendant's victimization was a significant contributing factor to their criminal behavior. Status: Detained in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

## **AB333—The STEP Forward Act**

California's gang enhancement was originally enacted in 1988 to "seek the eradication of criminal activity by street gangs." The Act aimed to eliminate gangs by creating a three-year enhancement for gang-related offenses. Since then, the reach of the gang enhancement has been expanded and the definition of gang-related has become dangerously elastic.

Now ninety-two percent of people who receive gang enhancements are people of color. AB333 would advance the movements toward criminal, racial and social justice by ensuring gang enhancements are only used when necessary and fair. Status: Detained in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

## **ACA3 -Involuntary Servitude**

We all learned in school that the Constitution prohibits slavery and involuntary servitude (so far, so good) "except to punish crime." Yeah. About that. Jim Crow used that exception to re-enslave. Inmate labor is often compensated at as little as eight cents an hour. Inmate fire fighters risk their lives for little pay and no possibility of being hired as professional fire fighters upon release.

The California Abolition Act would amend Article 1, Section 6 of the California Constitution to prohibit slavery and involuntary servitude without exception. Status: Detained in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

As it happens, both State Senator Kamlager and Assembly Member Bryan sit on the very Appropriations Committees that have possession of the these bills. If you would like to express your thoughts to them, here are the email links:

Senator Kamlager <https://sd30.senate.ca.gov/contact>

Assembly Member Bryan <https://lcm-spupcontact.lc.ca.gov/PublicLCMS/ContactPopup.php?district=AD54>

## **Update on SB98—protect journalists' access to protests**

"Press access to first amendment events is critical to the future of our democracy." —Senator Mike Mcquire and Senator Anthony Portantino

SB98, a vital First Amendment protection, survived a near death experience through a poison pill amendment. Senators Mcquire and Portantino have apologized very prettily and fixed the problem. <https://sd02.senate.ca.gov/news/2021-06-04-statement-sb-98-senators-mike-mcquire-and-anthony-portantino>

As of this writing the bill, restored to its original wording, now sits in the Assembly Appropriations Committee waiting for us all to forget about it. Happily, our very own State Assembly Member Isaac Bryan sits on that Committee. You can email him at: <https://lcm-spupcontact.lc.ca.gov/PublicLCMS/ContactPopup.php?district=AD54>



# ERA Yes! Support SJ Resolution 1

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) States: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

How is this not part of the Constitution already? When the Amendment was passed by Congress in 1972, it was encumbered by an arbitrary 7-year time limit for ratification. That time was later extended by 3 years. Still, the Equal Rights Amendment fell three states short of the 38 required.

But, as Senator Ben Cardin put it, "There should be no time limit on equality." And now 3 more states have ratified. In January 2021, the same week as the first woman Vice

President was sworn in, a bi-partisan group of legislators sponsored SJ Resolution 1 to remove the time limit.

SJ Resolution 1 went to the Senate Judiciary Committee where it remains to this day. Happily, both of our Senators sit on the Judiciary Committee. Call them and ask for their support of ERA.

Senator Dianne Feinstein's office phone number is (202) 224-3841. Senator Alex Padilla's number is (202) 224-3553.

For more information, check out [Michael Moore's Podcast on the subject.](#)

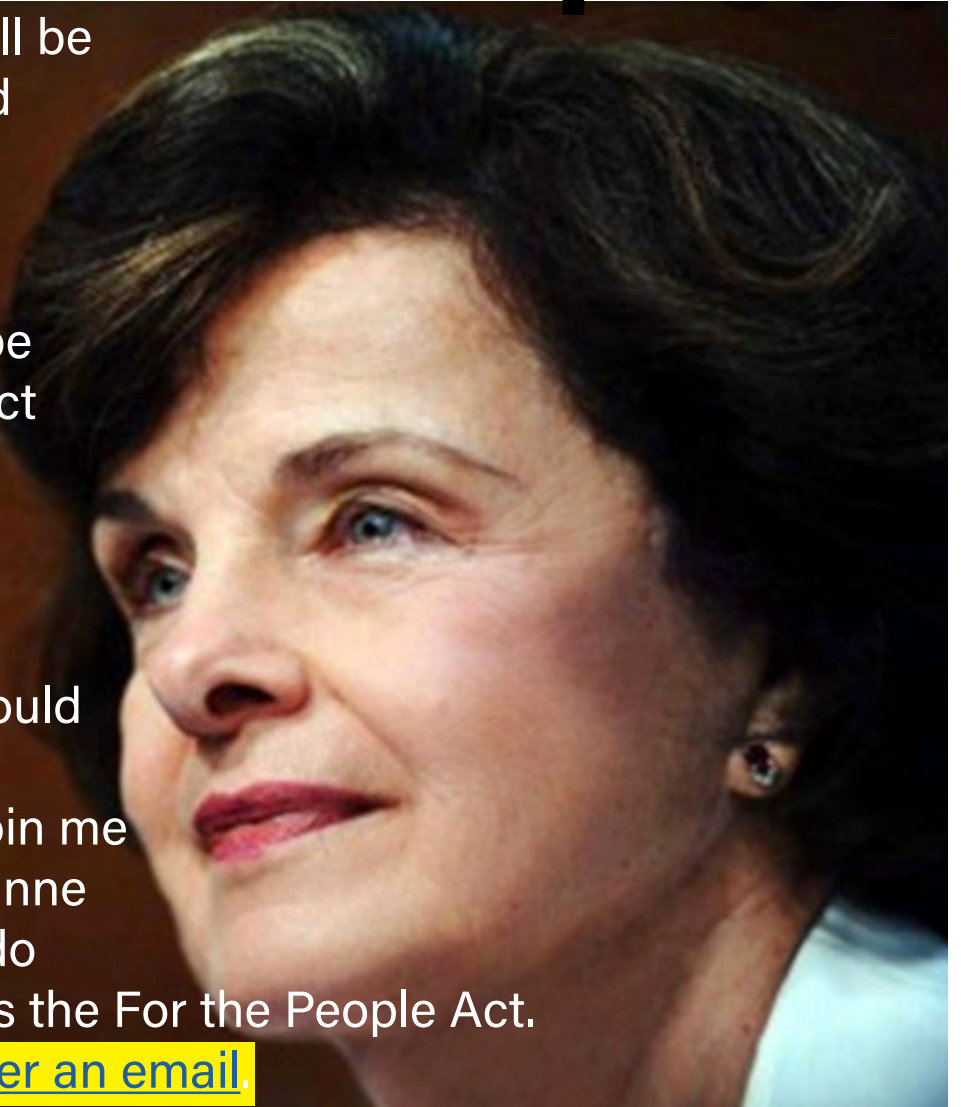
Other resources include: [ERACoalition.org](#) and [EqualRightsAmendment.org.](#)



# S 1—The For the People Act

The Census numbers will be released this month, and redistricting will soon be underway. Time is running out for S1—The For the People Act—to be enacted in time to protect voting rights in America for the next ten years. Republican state legislatures are building the infrastructure that could give them permanent one-party rule. Please join me in writing to Senator Dianne Feinstein urging her to do whatever it takes to pass the For the People Act.

[Just click here to send her an email.](#)





# The Missing Moral Middle

Dear Mayor Fisch,

As our City is growing ever more divided over housing needs, I am writing to appeal to the noble instincts in each of us. Let me begin by defining terms with the intent that together as a community we can come to a meaningful and morally beneficial “YES” in addressing this human need.

Per Dictionary.com, **moral**:

- relating to, or concerned with the principles or rules of right conduct or the distinction between right and wrong; ethical: *moral attitudes*.
- expressing or conveying truths or counsel as to right conduct, as a speaker or a literary work.
- founded on the fundamental principles of right conduct rather than on legalities, enactment, or custom: *moral obligations*.

Missing middle housing, [as coined by the architect Daniel Parolek](#), is intended to help meet the growing demand for walkable urban living. For whom? How to achieve this?

## Who are Culver City's truly missing middle residents in need of housing?

Over the years, we've witnessed ever-increasing numbers of homeless people living on the streets. As insensitive housed people viewed the unhoused with disdain, the police bulldozed the poor's belongings and forced them to move, and move, again and again, because too many entitled folks don't want “that element” nearby. (Which feels to me like eugenics by housing).

Mayor Fisch, I imagine as a former member of the homelessness committee you know and perhaps began to address this travesty? In one of your ads when running for City Council, you “helped Culver City procure a \$50,000 grant to create a plan to address homelessness.”

Thus in addressing the housing crisis, how about we begin with housing the homeless, then the missing moral middle? This will help stop those economically challenged from falling into homelessness.

Latest [reports show](#) that “Even modest

rental housing is now out of reach for millions of full-time workers — and the pandemic has made an already bleak situation even worse.”

As you may know, the pandemic's economic effects have caused an exponential increase in homelessness (as one can readily see driving along Culver Boulevard into the Ballona Wetlands).

## OPINION

Now that you're in your third year, Mayor, has Culver City created the plan yet? Implemented it? If not, how can we help expedite this moral need? How can we collaborate as a “City of Kindness” to address this inhumanity?

How do we, as people of conscience, keep our homelessness from escalating, from creating a dystopian city? This is the most egregious moral reality that must be prioritized as number one.

The logical next step is to address the missing moral middle housing. By providing for our minimum wage essential workers, it keeps this demographic from falling into homelessness.

Isn't that the intent of the RHNA (Regional Housing Needs Assessment) requirements? Looking at our City's past history, it is not clear to me if RHNA is a mandate to be fulfilled with actual housing being built, especially for the two lowest income levels. Or is RHNA only a pro forma document to send to Sacramento showing there is land available, thus entitling the city to receive funding?

If you look at Culver City's current numbers, the City has built less than fifteen percent of housing for our very low income residents, while providing over eight hundred percent of the housing built over the past eight years for above moderate income households.

In other words, the City is providing one hundred percent housing per year for the supposed “missing middle” folks, while having less than two percent housing annually built for our most vulnerable residents. In effect, Culver City is promoting homelessness. Instead of creating diversity, as many of our lower income residents are people of color, we are, in effect, advancing gentrification of Culver City's population.

Mayor Fisch, please clarify your intent and building priorities. As I look at your campaign ad once again, and as I re-read your commitment to accessible housing and responsible development, I'd like to trust you as a man of conscience.

I respectfully request that you set the example of critically-needed leadership at this moment in time. May I suggest neighborhood meetings, asking the community for meaningful input with respect to:

- Actually meeting all of our RHNA quotas, while
- Providing housing for our teachers and essential workers who request it, and
- Doing so in the most environmentally efficient manner.

This will not only bring about peace in this city, but will also promote the cohesiveness needed as we face ongoing exponential climate challenges. I know we can. Will you?

Respectfully,  
Dr Suzanne De Benedittis

See also:

<https://reports.nlihc.org/oor/about>

<https://www.fool.com/the-ascent/personal-finance/articles/housing-costs-have-risen-so-much-that-minimum-wage-earners-cant-afford-rent/>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2019/02/single-family-landlords-wall-street/582394/>

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



# We could have a price on carbon THIS FALL. But we need your help.

We've been waiting decades for this moment in the U.S. Senate. Your Senators are, right now, deciding what to do about climate change. In a nutshell: they can go big or they can stay small. Email them to tell them to go big with a price on carbon. Then, give them a call as well.

## What should I ask for when I email or call?

Ask your Senators to put a price on carbon in this year's budget reconciliation. They'll know what you mean. (You can [check out our FAQ](#) for more details about this request.)

## Once you've emailed and called, get others to act

You only need to write and call once yourself. But don't go back to your regularly scheduled activities just yet. THIS IS OUR FIRST CHANCE FOR MEANINGFUL CLIMATE ACTION THAT CAN'T BE BLOCKED BY THE FILIBUSTER. Share this page with any climate-concerned friends, family and coworkers. Better yet, keep reminding them. They'll want to take their shot to solve climate change, too.

[Click here for more info](#)



Citizens' Climate Lobby



## STOP THE REPUBLICAN RECALL OF GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM

Whereas, the effort to recall Governor Newsom is a partisan power grab spearheaded by Donald Trump's National Republican Party, the California Republican Party, and top Trump donors advocating to overturn fair elections, having already worked to delegitimize the American electoral process; and frivolously using California taxpayer dollars to fund this partisan ploy to derail the progress Governor Newsom has made to save lives, provide a safety net for struggling Californians as we are making significant strides returning our lives to normal, and

Whereas, the pro-recall ranks are filled with a coalition of anti-vaxxers, Q-Anon conspiracy theorists, and militia groups whose aim is to disrupt and distract from California's progress on COVID-19 recovery, mass vaccinations, and school reopenings while their leaders disseminate anti-vaccination and anti-immigration propaganda on social media sites, actively working against public interest and advocating for the microchipping of immigrants, and

Whereas, by uniting, Democrats will prevent Trump's Republican Party from taking over the California government, will condemn and stand united against any so-called Democrat who considers filing papers to run, thereby helping Republicans succeed, therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the Culver City Democratic Club opposes the recall of Governor Gavin Newsom.

Resolution to be proposed at the general meeting of the Culver City Democratic Club on August 11, 2021