

Women's March Saturday, Oct. 2

Grab your pussyhats! The Women's March is on again!

It's 2021, good people, and the question of human dignity for women is still contested on every ballot and on the dockets of the courts. So, again, we march in [Downtown LA](#), in [Westchester](#), in [Redondo Beach](#), in [Beverly Hills](#) and all over the country!

- Because the State of Texas is fixing to change itself into a misogynistic dystopia and others are expected to follow.
- Because the Women's Health Protection Act (S1975), which seeks to encode the protections of Roe v Wade into law, will only be enacted if all our Democratic senators can be coaxed into giving up the filibuster.
- Because the Violence Against Women Act has not been reauthorized since February 2019. At every try, the reauthorization is stopped by the filibuster.
- And because even some of our Democratic Senators seem to regard their right to unlimited filibuster in the Senate as more important than the life, health, well-being, and human dignity of women.

We march. Again. October 2, 2021.

Right to Life

A woman is not a pear tree
thrusting her fruit in mindless fecundity
into the world. Even pear trees bear
heavily one year and rest and grow the next.
An orchard gone wild drops few warm rotting
fruit in the grass but the trees stretch
high and wiry gifting the birds forty
feet up among inch long thorns
broken atavistically from the smooth wood.

A woman is not a basket you place
your buns in to keep them warm. Not a brood
hen you can slip duck eggs under.
Not the purse holding the coins of your
descendants till you spend them in wars.
Not a bank where your genes gather interest
and interesting mutations in the tainted
rain, any more than you are.

You plant corn and you harvest
it to eat or sell. You put the lamb
in the pasture to fatten and haul it in to
butcher for chops. You slice the mountain
in two for a road and gouge the high plains
for coal and the waters run muddy for
miles and years. Fish die but you do not
call them yours unless you wished to eat them.

Now you legislate mineral rights in a woman.
You lay claim to her pastures for grazing,
fields for growing babies like iceberg
lettuce. You value children so dearly
that none ever go hungry, none weep
with no one to tend them when mothers
work, none lack fresh fruit,
none chew lead or cough to death and your

orphanages are empty. Every noon the best
restaurants serve poor children steaks.

At this moment at nine o'clock a partera
is performing a table top abortion on an
unwed mother in Texas who can't get
Medicaid any longer. In five days she will die
of tetanus and her little daughter will cry
and be taken away. Next door a husband
and wife are sticking pins in the son
they did not want. They will explain
for hours how wicked he is,
how he wants discipline.

We are all born of woman, in the rose
of the womb we suckled our mother's blood
and every baby born has a right to love
like a seedling to sun. Every baby born
unloved, unwanted, is a bill that will come
due in twenty years with interest, an anger
that must find a target, a pain that will
beget pain. A decade downstream a child
screams, a woman falls, a synagogue is torched,
a firing squad is summoned, a button
is pushed and the world burns.

I will choose what enters me, what becomes
flesh of my flesh. Without choice, no politics,
no ethics lives. I am not your cornfield,
not your uranium mine, not your calf
for fattening, not your cow for milking.
You may not use me as your factory.
Priests and legislators do not hold shares
in my womb or my mind.
This is my body. If I give it to you
I want it back. My life
is a non-negotiable demand.

by Marge Piercy



Active Democrat

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

General Meeting On Zoom — 7 p.m., Wednesday, October 13, 2021

Program: Legislation Review with State Senator Sydney Kamlanger and Assembly Member Isaac Bryan

President's Message by Jeff Schwartz

Mayberry vs. Chelsea, Part One

Mayberry vs. Chelsea is not a Supreme Court decision or a UK sports rivalry. It's my shorthand for two competing visions of Culver City's identity and future. This month I'll talk about Mayberry.

Mayberry was the fictional North Carolina town where The Andy Griffith Show and its sequels took place, a fantasy of small-town life. [It was a set on Culver City's legendary Forty Acres backlot](#), with sequences also shot in El Segundo and on location. The recently released film [Black in Mayberry](#) looks at how the myth of Mayberry has affected people of color in El Segundo. Meanwhile, Culver City residents unselfconsciously describe our community as "Mayberry" and unironically call it an "enclave." Mayberry even made it into [the Request For Proposals sent to potential General Plan Update consultants](#), with a Norman Rockwell reference and the phrase "traditional small town atmosphere" also included.

Culver City Crossroads editor/publisher Judith Martin Straw [recently wrote](#) that anyone who refers to Culver City as "Mayberry" at a public meeting should have the mic cut and lose their remaining time, because Mayberry is not real: "You do not live in Mayberry anymore than you live in Grover's Corners, or Narnia." I am happy to join her in calling for the end of this misleading and harmful cliché, but I want to discard the myths it represents along with the signifier.

[Mount Airy](#), Andy Griffith's North Carolina hometown and the inspiration for Mayberry, [has made itself over in the image of its fictional representation to attract tourists](#). Its population is a quarter

of Culver City's, the median household income is one third, putting 20% of their population below the Federal poverty line. Seventy-seven percent of Mount Airy residents have finished high school, compared to [93% in Culver City](#), and 26% have a Bachelor's degree or better, compared to 58% here. In November 2020 [Culver City cast 82% of our votes](#)

[for Biden](#), while [Mount Airy went 75% for Trump](#).

Culver City is not a small town. It is a self-governing region of Los Angeles. Mayberry is not surrounded on all sides by the world's most diverse and creative metropolis. There are no major corpora-

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tions in Mayberry. Mayberry is not part of a global labor market. People from all over the world do not come to Mayberry to work, and the children of Mayberry have relatively few options. Mayberry is not a quick train or bus ride from [three great universities](#). There are no [Michelin-starred restaurants](#) or [theaters run by Oscar-winning actors](#) in Mayberry. Mayberry is not the Heart of Screenland. No [MacArthur fellows](#) or [Grammy winners](#) live in Mayberry. Mayberry has no connection to [Nirvana](#), [Prince](#), [Darby Crash](#), [Throbbing Gristle](#), or other musical icons. Floyd the Barber will not give you an androgynous multicolored high-fashion mullet.

Mayberry is not a suburb. The residents of Mayberry do not commute to the nearby city to work in offices or factories. Mayberry is not a bedroom community; it's the whole house. Everyone who lives in Mayberry works in Mayberry, and vice versa.

Culver City is the polar opposite. [Almost 90 percent of residents with jobs work outside the city, and only three percent of the jobs here are held by residents](#). Keep this in mind when the Chamber of Commerce attempts to speak for the community: their member businesses employ no more than ten percent of residents.

Culver City is economically and architecturally suburban, but geographically and culturally urban. This is the source of the major conflicts currently facing the community. The detached single-family home is the icon of suburban living, which is physically and economically viable when suburbs are on the periphery of cities, if we set aside the human and environmental cost of commuting by car. However, maintaining a suburban configuration on the scarce land in the middle of a major city has led to [housing demand vastly exceeding supply](#). The increase in prices has been so severe that many who bought here just a couple of years ago could not afford their homes at

current prices. I hear people talk about their children not being able to afford to live in Culver City at the start of their careers, but how many of us who are mid-to-late career could buy our homes now, and how many of us could afford to pay property taxes on the current market value instead of relying on the [despicable Prop. 13](#)? [RHNA](#) calls for deflating this bubble by gradually urbanizing our housing, as suits the city's location, economy, and demographics.

The public safety crisis is also linked to Culver City's attempt to be a suburb in the heart of the metropolis. [Jackie Wang](#), paraphrasing [Ann Markusen](#), writes:

Municipalities on the periphery of a city have a parasitic relationship to the city, whereby the suburban municipalities can evade having to shoulder a portion of the social cost of low wages and unemployment, ensuring that their tax dollars go toward reproducing their social class (through well-funded schools and a clean and safe living environment) rather than toward "unproductive" expenditures such as welfare programs, public housing, and policing.

A traditional suburb is geographically outside its urban host, but Culver City's prime westside location exposes it to the urban on all sides, which leads to Culver City spending [the greatest portion of its budget on police](#) who primarily [target outsiders](#). The cost of the suburban dream in money and blood is no longer tenable. People are dying in the streets and money which might have helped save them was instead spent on using force to keep them away.

That's enough about Mayberry. Next month I'll talk about Chelsea.

RESOLUTION OPPOSING UNDEMOCRATIC RECALL ELECTIONS

Adopted by the Executive Board of the California Democratic Party August 29, 2021

Whereas in the past decade, there has been a dramatic rise in the number of recall elections, with the year 2011 setting a benchmark of 150 recall efforts nationwide; recalls have become part of the Republican toolkit to disenfranchise voters and thwart the will of the electorate; and

Whereas recalls can be initiated without cause or merit and are funded by wealthy donors seeking personal gain, or by partisan interests wanting to force the party in power into spending enormous amounts of capital, and, the recall process often costs the taxpayers' millions of dollars; and

Whereas recalls are inherently undemocratic; as in California, where less than 7% of the voting population can initiate a recall of a governor who was elected by a majority of voters in the previous major election, and, if that recall is successful, a new governor can be elected with less than 20% of voters in a potentially low turnout special election; therefore be it

Resolved that the California Democratic Party supports all necessary actions to stop the undemocratic use of recalls which perverts our electoral process.

For information on becoming a member of the Culver City Democratic Club call Diane Rosenberg at (310) 398-5328. [Click here to join the Club or renew your membership online](#)

Free transit for CCUSD Students

Nearly 2 years in the making...

Another great way to drive less...

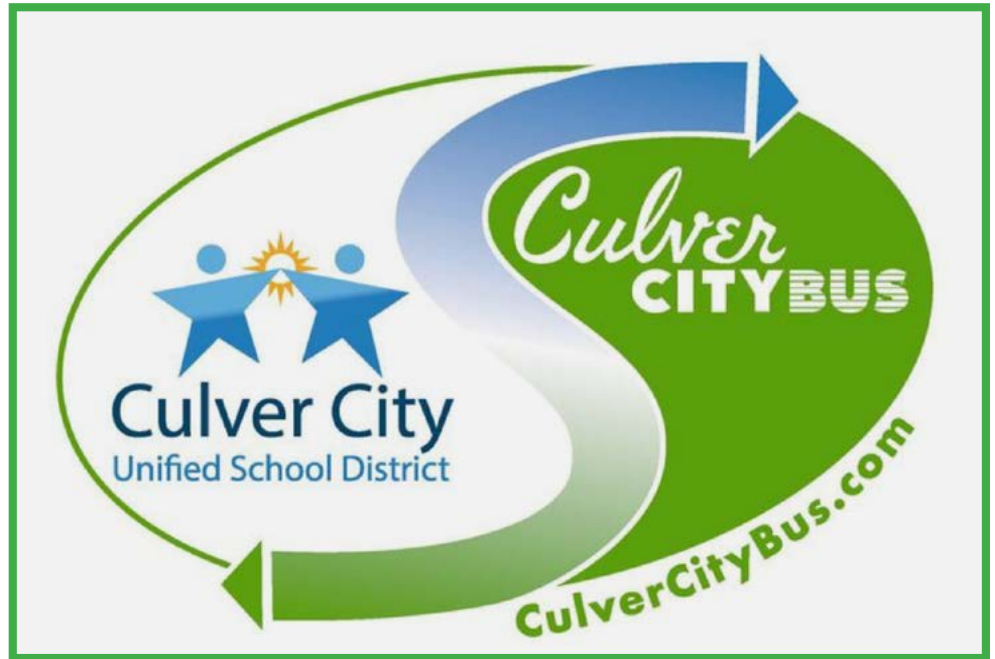
Welcome aboard!

Culver CityBus is launching a new pilot program for students in Culver City Unified schools to help kids ride transit for free. We are partnering with CCUSD to offer students unlimited rides at no cost on Culver CityBus, LA Metro bus and rail, and LADOT Dash. Additional transit agencies are being added, so visit culvercitybus.com for the latest updates.

Using the TAP card provided, students can ride for free to and from school, on trips after school and on weekends, now through June 30, 2022. If your student is already part of the TAP K-12 Reduced Fare program, they will need to pick up a new Fareless K-12 card from their school and register it prior to use.

Culver CityBus representatives will be on site during registration to answer questions.

Culver City is NOT the only place in Los Angeles County that students will be able to get free TAP cards, and school is NOT the only place the cards will allow them to travel to for free. Here is a [list of participating school districts](#), and here is [more information on the Metro website](#) about the program.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Club website: www.culvercitydemocraticclub.com

Follow us on Twitter: @CulvCityDemClub

and Instagram: CulverCityDemClub

October 2 • 10 AM

Women's March (womensmarch.com)

October 9 • 11 AM to 6 PM

[Art Walk & Roll](#)

October 11 • 7 PM

[Culver City Council Regular Meeting](#)

October 13 • 7 PM

[CCDC General Meeting via Zoom](#) [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

October 25 • 7 PM

[Culver City Council Regular Meeting](#)

October 29-31

[Fiesta la Ballona](#)

November 6

[Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Awards](#)

November 10 • 7 PM

CCDC General Meeting via Zoom

November 30

[Joint meeting of the City Council and the Planning Commission on the General Plan Update](#)

Di's Corner:

by Diane Rosenberg

Update on Club member Charlotte Gunter—her right arm is still in the healing process. Several weeks ago she broke her left foot. She is wearing a boot. Her doctor called it a “dancer’s break.” Her attitude is still good.

She sees her doctor again in three weeks, and she still misses everybody.

Bills waiting to be signed into law

As the California State Legislature's session draws to a close, here's the status of some of the bills we've been following this year. A bill is "enrolled" when it passes both houses. It is then proofread one more time and sent off to the Governor. Governor Newsom has until October 10, 2021, to sign or veto the enrolled bills.

Bills Enrolled

[AB46: California Youth Empowerment Act](#)

This bill would create the California Youth Empowerment Act to address, among other issues, the growing need to engage youth directly with policymakers. **Status: enrolled.**

[AB118: CRISES Act: Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems](#)

If signed by the Governor, AB118 will 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: enrolled.**

[AB124: Justice for Survivors](#)

If signed by the Governor, AB124 will 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: enrolled.**

[AB333: The STEP Forward Act](#)

If signed by the Governor, AB333 will advance the movements toward criminal, racial and social justice by ensuring gang enhancements are only used when necessary and fair. **Status: enrolled.**

[AB369: Street Medicine Act: Bringing Care to the Street](#)

If signed by the Governor, the Street Medicine Act will remove barriers to care by streamlining Medi-Cal enrollment for persons experiencing homelessness and allowing them to receive comprehensive Medi-Cal benefits outside the walls of a traditional medical setting. **Status: enrolled.**

[AB397: Unemployment Insurance: Benefits: Disqualification: Notice](#)

Requires the Employment Development

Department to provide an individual additional notification prior to disqualifying them from unemployment insurance benefits. **Status: enrolled**

[AB1043: Housing programs: rental housing developments: affordable rent](#)

Adds "acutely low income households" to the list of income categories for purposes of defining affordable rents. **Status: SIGNED.**

[AB1276 Single-use foodware accessories and standard condiments](#)

Expands and revises statute that limits the distribution of single-use plastic straws to only upon request by a consumer to apply to all single-use condiments and food serviceware distributed by food facilities or third-party food delivery platforms. **Status: enrolled.**

[SB2: Peace Officers: Certification: Civil Rights](#)

If signed by the Governor, the Police Decertification Act will Create a statewide process to revoke a peace officer's certification for a criminal conviction and certain acts of serious misconduct without regard to conviction. Additionally, the bill will correct misinterpretations and impediments to full civil rights enforcement using the Bane Act and bringing it into conformity with federal law. **Status: enrolled.**

[SB62: Employment: Garment Manufacturing](#)

To ensure that employees are paid for all hours worked, an employee engaged in the performance of garment manufacturing shall not be paid by the piece or unit, or by the piece rate. **Status: SIGNED.**

[SB65: Maternal Care and Services](#)

Would increase the number of students receiving quality education and training as a certified nurse-midwife or a licensed midwife **Status: enrolled.**

[SB98: Public Peace: Media Access](#)

#JournalismIsNotACrime

The California Journalists Coalition says that "...working conditions for journalists have steadily deteriorated across the state. While covering protests, many of our newspaper, television, radio, digital, freelance and student media colleagues have been detained or injured or arrested by law enforcement. These journalists

were just trying to do their job." If signed by the Governor, SB98 will extend existing state protections for journalists working in disaster areas and apply them to civil disturbances. **Status: enrolled.**

[SB354: Public Social Services](#)

This bill adopts changes to the criminal background check process during the resource family approval process for relatives of children placed in the child welfare system. **Status: enrolled.**

[SB406: Oil and Gas: Operations: Notice of Intention: Investigations: Data Availability](#)

This bill makes numerous changes to existing oil and gas conservation law to enhance public transparency, among other things. **Status: enrolled.**

[SB416: Corrections: Educational Programs](#)

This bill requires the department of corrections to make college programs provided by the various California college systems or other regionally accredited, nonprofit colleges or universities in the state available to state prison inmates with a GED certificate or a high school diploma. **Status: enrolled.**

[SB639: Minimum Wages: Persons With Disabilities](#)

This bill requires the development of a plan to phase out the use of the subminimum wage certificate program, which authorizes employers to pay less than minimum wage for employees with physical or mental disabilities. **Status: enrolled.**

[SB660 Initiative, Referendum and Recall Petitions: Compensation for Signatures](#)

If signed by the Governor, SB660, the Prohibiting Pay-Per-Signature Incentives Act, will help to eliminate the corrosive effect of paying per-signature bounties to professional signature gatherers. Author Senator Josh Newman says: "In recent decades, California's Initiative, referendum and recall—important tools of direct democracy that were intended by their framers as a means for 'the little guy' to achieve direct, reformist actions—too often have been co-opted by the very moneyed interests they were meant to offset. Colorado, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota,

See LEGISLATIVE on page 6

This resolution will be proposed at the
October 13 General Meeting of the Culver City Democratic Club

Resolution of **SUPPORT** for **Municipal Bank of Los Angeles**

WHEREAS a municipal public bank in the City of Los Angeles has the potential to improve the lives of city residents by enabling greater investment in affordable housing, small business development, green new deal initiatives, and city infrastructure; and

WHEREAS a Municipal Bank of LA (MBLA) would create a public and accountable source of capital for lending and investment in fiscally, socially and environmentally responsible activities that would allow investment in opportunities directly benefiting the City and its communities, such as rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure, transitioning to a 100 percent green energy grid, and bolstering environmentally friendly public transportation, among others; and

WHEREAS currently the city pays over one billion dollars annually in debt services and over 100 million dollars in interest and fees to private commercial banks for their services such as Bank of America and JPMorgan Chase where these banks invest LA City public funds in the oil industry and other markets antithetical to stated policy goals adopted by the city; and a public bank would finance public works at a fraction of the price of private capital and operate according to a public mandate thereby serving the interests of the City and its people, all while maintaining a fiduciary responsibility toward responsible financial management within an ethical framework with loyalty toward people and planet; and

WHEREAS there is only one public bank in the U.S., the state public bank in North Dakota, the MBLA would be the first municipal bank in the nation, thereby cementing this movement and all who brought it to fruition into history; and the City of LA can lead with vision and inspire cities across the state and the U.S. to follow suit with their own regional and municipal public banks, as we pave the way for a new era of an economic system with greater balance between local and public control of public funds and private finance; and

WHEREAS the City of Los Angeles has an economy that is larger than the entire state of North Dakota, with sufficient capital reserves to provide startup funding; and

WHEREAS MBLA would accept and insure city deposits, ensure liquidity, and provide all the banking and purchasing services the city requires; and make prudent, targeted loans to the City itself, community based small businesses with an emphasis on those that are traditionally underserved by commercial banking, and other responsible parties in sectors of the local economy where capital would make a measurable difference in the lives of Angelenos; and

WHEREAS MBLA should contain the following elements in its charter making it ethical, sustainable, inclusive, profitable, and financially viable: 1) explicit social/ environmental responsibility and anti-corruption clauses with those in charge held accountable to public scrutiny; 2) transparency of mandates, policies, and lending priorities; 3) a board of directors that includes persons associated with community development and financial experts; and 4) where these safeguards would ensure the most democratic bank possible; therefore be it

RESOLVED the Culver City Democratic Club takes a position of **SUPPORT** for the establishment of a Municipal Bank of Los Angeles (MBLA) and strongly urges the LA City Council to expeditiously move and pass motions in furtherance of establishing such an institution; and be it further

RESOLVED the Culver City Democratic Club supports the exploration of a cohesive public bank serving the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County communities including Culver City.

from **LEGISLATIVE** on page 5

and Wyoming have adopted similar legislation. California should do the same—our democracy and governance will be better for this reform.” **Status: enrolled.**

Other Bills

[ACA 3: The California Abolition Act](#)

Inmate labor is often compensated for as little as 8 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: active bill in the Assembly, two-thirds vote required.**

[SB710: District Attorneys: Conflicts of Interest](#)

According to State Senator Steven Bradford, “SB 710 is a straightforward measure that would address the conflict of interest between prosecutors and law enforcement officers who have committed misconduct. This bill will require prosecutors who have received a monetary benefit from an association that solely represents law enforcement to recuse themselves from the investigation, charging, and prosecution of an officer who is a member of that association. Communities throughout our state are rightfully critical of the relationship between district attorneys and law enforcement associations. This is a clear ethical issue, and our criminal justice system will benefit greatly by addressing this conflict of interest.” **Status: held in assembly appropriations committee under submission**

If you would like to express your thoughts to our electeds in Sacramento, here are the email links:

[Governor Gavin Newsom](#)

[Senator Sydney Kamlager](#)

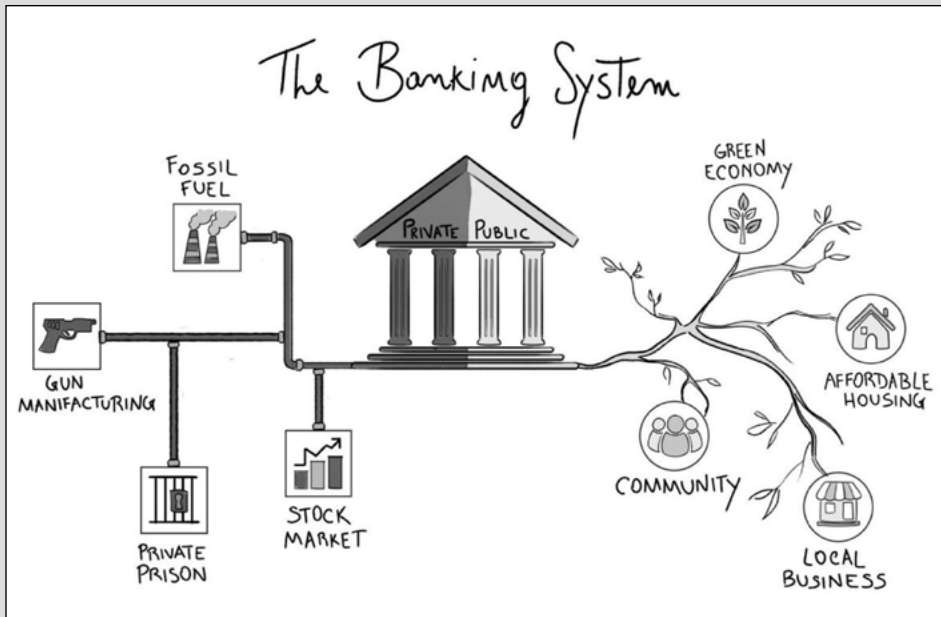
Senator Kamlager introduced AB118, AB124, AB333, AB369, and ACA3 and is a co-author of SB2, SB660, and AB1400.

[Assembly Member Bryan](#)

Assembly Member Bryan introduced AB1043, and is a co-author of AB46, AB397, AB1276, SB2, SB62, SB65, SB354, SB406, SB416, and SB639.

—*Cynthia Hart*

What is a public bank?



A public bank is a bank owned by a government entity, like a city or county, with a non-profit public purpose and governed by public mandate. Unlike private commercial banks, the interest and profits of a public bank belong to the community.

Public Bank LA is organizing to create the Los Angeles public bank—the first city-owned bank in the nation. Public banking serves as a powerful tool to keep taxpayer dollars in local communities. Cities and counties hold billions of dollars of public money in Wall Street banks. Private commercial banks own and control this money which they use to finance harmful industries including private prisons, fossil fuel pipelines, and other investments that prioritize corporate profit over the people and the planet.

About Public Bank Los Angeles

In 2019, Public Bank LA, a founding member of the California Public Banking Alliance (CPBA), helped pass Assembly Bill 857, empowering California cities, counties and regions to form public banks. AB 857 was signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom on October 2, 2019, legalizing public banking in California for the first time in history.

During the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, Public Bank LA and the California Public Banking Alliance collaborated on a State Public Bank bill to expand the existing California Infrastructure and Eco-

nomic Development Bank (IBank) and increase its capacity for recovery lending for small business and community development infrastructure.

Public Bank LA and CPBA are currently working on the California Public Banking Option Act (AB1177), with co-sponsor SEIU California, in the 2021 legislative session. PBLA is also working with Congresswomen Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez on the re-introduction of the federal Public Banking Act in 2021, a bill that would make it easier for states and local governments to form public banks.



R. I. P. George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021

by Cynthia Hart

This month we remember George Floyd. His birthday is October 14th, and wouldn't this have been a perfect time to celebrate the passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021?

This bill should have saved lives by banning chokeholds and no-knock warrants. It should have prohibited racial and religious profiling and mandated training and data collection to that end. It should have required body cameras. It should have improved investigation of police misconduct. It should have stopped sexual assault in law enforcement custody. It should have enhanced transparency and empowered communities to reimagine public safety in an equitable and just way.

But at her telephone town hall meeting on September 22, Representative Karen Bass announced that the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021 "is dead." It had passed the House of Representatives, but the House is run on a majority-rule basis. Then it went to the Senate (where justice requires a super-majority) with Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) as its champion. This seemed promising. With his years as a big city mayor, Senator Booker is not new to tough negotiation with Police Unions.

He took the bill to the "problem solvers caucus" in search of the necessary Republican votes. There Senator Tim Scott (the only Black Republican in the Senate) dangled the prospect of support if only the bill could be compromised just a little more...and then a little more after that. Senator Booker even met with the Fraternal Order of Police, trying to find the magic compromise. The bill was re-written beyond recognition. Even then, Sen-

[see POLICING on page 11](#)

Board of Supervisors passes landmark motions to phase out oil drilling and protect frontline workers

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved two companion motions led by Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, with co-authorship from Supervisors Sheila Kuehl and Janice Hahn, that sets LA County on a path to becoming the first in the nation to ban existing oil drilling and transition fossil fuel workers to family-sustaining careers in clean energy and other climate-friendly industries.

Tens of thousands of County residents live in close proximity to an oil well and nearly 73 percent of those residents are people of color. Within unincorporated communities of LA County, there are approximately 1,600 active and idle oil wells. Over half of those wells are within the Inglewood Oil Field alone, making it the largest urban oil field in the nation, located in Los Angeles County's Second Supervisorial District.

"We have an opportunity and responsibility as the home of the largest urban oil field in the nation to lead by example in creating an equitable path for phasing out oil drilling. Collectively, the motions that passed today center the needs of the communities and workers most impacted by oil drilling and build on LA County's momentum in fighting climate change and sunseting oil and gas operations," said Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell. "I applaud the Board for continuing to move the County forward on this critical issue and the countless advocates that have helped get us to this point. Our work is far from done but this is a promising step for environmental justice."

Mitchell's motion titled [Protecting Communities Near Oil and Gas Drilling Operations in Los Angeles County](#) co-authored by Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, updates the Department of Regional Planning's (DRP) Draft Oil Well Ordinance for unincorporated LA County to prohibit all new oil and gas extraction wells in all zones and designates all existing oil and gas extraction activities as nonconforming uses in all zones. This motion also requests a report back from DRP in 120 days on the financial cost to phasing out oil operations with actionable steps the County can take.



Supervisor Holly Mitchell

"Urban oil drilling isn't safe. People who live near active oil wells suffer high rates of asthma, with an even greater impact on people's lungs than living next to a freeway. For the health and well-being of our families and children, we need to end this practice as soon as possible. This motion gets us one step closer to that goal," said Supervisor Sheila Kuehl.

Phasing out oil drilling will require an intentional plan for transitioning workers on these sites into jobs and industries that are safe and provide family sustaining wages. This is the focus of Supervisor Mitchell's motion: [Developing a Comprehensive Strategy for a Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels](#), co-authored by Supervisor Janice Hahn. This motion helps operationalize the recommendations from the County's Just Transition to Clean Energy Task Force which includes centering the needs and perspectives of workers and frontline communities in workforce transition strategies that include all sectors of the fossil fuel industry.

"We don't have to choose between the environment and good jobs—we can, and we should have both," said Supervisor Janice Hahn. "But we need to be intentional about creating those jobs and investing in new opportunities for workers."

"Responsibly phasing out oil drilling and cleaning up old wells is critical to ensuring we protect public health as part of a just transition in LA County," said April Verrett, President of SEIU 2015. "We applaud the Board of Supervisors for taking this historic vote, and hope that it can represent a model for the rest of the state to protect both workers and public health."

In 2019, the Board adopted the Our County Sustainability Plan, which included a comprehensive strategy for a more equitable LA County, and two key directives for protecting communities from oil wells: (1) addressing the proximity between oil and gas operations and sensitive land uses and (2) developing a sunset strategy for oil and gas operations. The motions build on the County's progress over recent years to better regulate oil drilling and prioritize the public health and safety of its residents living near oil wells.

"Angelenos have been forced to live with dangerous oil drilling in our backyards for far too long, putting our families' health at risk and adding to the climate chaos we're already experiencing. This historic vote is the direct result of communities coming together to demand better," said Sierra Club Campaign Representative Nicole Levin. "Ending oil drilling in our communities is possible, and for the sake of our health and our climate, we must do so immediately. We look forward to working with the County to follow through on this vote by phasing out existing drilling as soon as possible, and we urge the rest of Los Angeles to follow suit."

"As someone who lives in close proximity to oil drilling, seeing motions introduced to begin the process to phase out oil drilling in LA County is exciting for frontline residents. Our County has the opportunity to right the wrongs of racist land-use decisions such as redlining and expedited oil drilling permit approvals and has the power to step up for vulnerable families living, playing, and praying right next to oil drilling," said Ashley Hernandez, advocate with *Communities for a Better Environment*.

Newsom defeats the recall

Governor Gavin Newsom defeated his recall by a landslide. Nearly 64 percent of voters opposed the recall, and only 36 percent supported it. One of the main reasons he won was Newsom's forceful handling of the Covid 19 pandemic. With Republican governors in states like Texas and Florida fighting mask and vaccine mandates at a time when the Delta variant is causing a surge in Covid infections, voters in California agreed with Newsom's framing of the election as a "Republican Recall." Most voters wanted no part of Republicans.

Now it's time to reform the whole recall process in California. [State Senator Josh Newman already has a bill on Newsom's desk](#), ready to sign, that outlaws paid signature gatherers. That's a great start. We should also increase the amount of signatures needed to get a governor recalled. Right now it's only 12 percent of the number of voters in the last election. To recall a legislator it takes 20 percent.

These pictures were taken by Club member Karim Sahli at the September 4 rally to defeat the recall. In addition to Governor Newsom and Senator Elizabeth Warren, the rally was attended by Congresswoman Karen Bass, Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, and Culver City Councilmembers Alex Fisch, Yasmine-Imani McMorrin, and Daniel Lee.



5G small cell antennas: too close for comfort

By Judi Sherman, Fox Hills resident

Wireless technologies have become such an integral part of our lives that we don't stop to think: Are they safe? Who creates the standards for all the products and services, such as our cell phones, wireless internet connection, our routers and telecommunication antennas and towers?

The answer is the Federal Communication Commission (FCC). It is FCC's responsibility to set safety exposure limits for wireless radiation. Presently, our country has the highest exposure level standards in the world, with Russia, China, India, Israel and others leading the way with safer standards. So, in the U.S. it is very easy for the telecommunication industry to be within the standards since the limits are set so high. Countries around the world have guidelines to protect their citizens, and many cities across our country are pushing for stronger protections.

On August 13, 2021, the Federal Court of Appeals in DC ordered the FCC to re-evaluate their justification for not changing their 25-year-old exposure guidelines on wireless radiation exposure showing a "flagrant disregard of science indicating potential harm to children and the environment."

The Court found the FCC failed to address the following issues: impacts of long term wireless exposure, impacts on children, on people injured by wireless radiation, impacts on wildlife and on the environment, and impacts on the developing brain and reproduction.

These issues are near and dear to many of us. We are trying to make our city a green city in order to protect our children and the environment now, and for future generations. Children are not small adults, and their cell division is rapid, leaving them more vulnerable to the impact increased radiation exposure will have on their development. 5G small cell antennas use up an enormous amount of electricity. Although 5G is promoted as being more energy efficient than 4G, it's important to note that this comparison is based on the number of bits of data transmitted for a given unit of energy consumed. In urban and suburban deployments this efficiency is offset by higher quantity of small cells required,

which increases overall power consumption. This increase will affect trees, as we "ask" them to absorb more emissions



that have been proven to greatly affect tree health, as well as bees' pollination and wildlife.

Equity is another issue that many of us have been working on. In that area, the telecom industry has let us down enormously, promising to fund low-income and underserved areas with the money they have tacked on to our phone bills, only to use those funds for their profits and cheaper 5G small cell installations that do not address the "digital divide."

I became aware only recently of the proposed plan to install four 5G antennas in Fox Hills, very close to residents and a school. It appears, from the information available, that there are more of these installations planned in Fox Hills than in other residential areas in Culver City. This is another equity issue, since other residential areas would not be impacted, but if four towers are installed in Fox Hills the effects will impact the most ethnically diverse population in our city. It has also been shown that property values decrease in areas with 5G small cell installations. This will affect more property owners in Fox Hills than anywhere else in Culver City.

A group of residents in Fox Hills has been reaching out to our city officials, and thus far, the response has been discouraging. The general tone of the responses centers on the view that their hands are tied due to FCC guidelines. There is nothing in the FCC guidelines that says cities cannot ask for installations where they would prefer them to be. While it is true that cities cannot prohibit installations, they can certainly ask to have them placed at other locations,

and can work with the providers to offer other options, such as on large streets in commercial areas away from residents and schools, so that people will not be involuntarily exposed 24/7. The impression is also that the city is afraid of being sued by the telecom companies. Fear of lawsuits cannot be a reason for a city not making a concerted effort to protect its citizens. In fact, if anything, the city may get more lawsuits from residents harmed by 5G. The city can also improve their ordinance, making it more protective, while remaining within legal bounds. Is the city motivated to make a better effort to protect its citizens? I certainly hope so. The city needs only to look at other local governments that have been successful with their requests and have more protective ordinances.

The truth is that the telecom companies are looking to save themselves money, because small cell antennas are cheaper to install. It is not the city's job to save them money, as these companies have plenty of funds. The city's Smart City fiber optic project is far safer and more reliable, and is not aesthetically displeasing, as these antennas often are.

Here's what you can do:

- Urge [members of City Council](mailto:council@culvercity.org) [City.council@culvercity.org], the [Public Works Department](mailto:public.works@culvercity.org) [public.works@culvercity.org], and the [City Manager's office](mailto:john.nachbar@culvercity.org) [john.nachbar@culvercity.org] to make a concerted effort to keep our citizens safe. We have no time for a defeatist attitude to prevail.

- [Sign the petition](#) telling Governor Newsom to veto industry sponsored bills AB537 and SB556 that limit local authority over installations.

- Inform yourself about this issue. Here are some useful resources:

www.americansforresponsiblettech.org
<https://mdsafetech.org>
<https://ehtrust.org>

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

California's recall law needs to be reformed

The headline in the LA Times reported the September 14 recall election results as “an easy win.” What? That “easy win” forced the anti-recall campaign to raise an estimated \$80 million and spend countless hours of volunteer time for canvassing, phone banking, text banking, postcarding, and nagging every voter within earshot to “Just say NO.” It pulled those resources away from urgent priorities of our party like voting rights, the climate crisis, justice in policing, reform of healthcare, reproductive rights, ending student debt, and so on. And the recall cost California taxpayers \$276 million.

The Times was referring to the [lopsided vote total](#) on question one: should the governor be recalled. The results won't be final until October 22, but as of this writing, with less than 450,000 unprocessed ballots, the secretary of state reports “YES” at 37.8 percent and “NO” at 62.2 percent.

Things get interesting when you look at question two. Much has been made of Larry Elder's easy win on that part of the ballot. True, he was the only one of the 46 candidates on the ballot to receive a seven digit vote total, and it has been widely reported that he received 48.2 percent of the vote. But look closer. [Elder received 48.2 percent of the votes cast on question two](#). More than five million of us left that question blank. So, if I recompute his percentage of the vote by comparing his 3,441,226 vote haul to the 12,513,877 ballots cast, only 27.5 percent of the total ballots cast were marked for Larry Elder. That looks less like a win than a wipeout.

We could easily have ended up with a governor who won less than 50 percent of the vote. Is this what democracy looks like? UC Berkeley Law School Dean Erwin Chemerinsky and UC Berkeley Law Professor Aaron Edlin don't think so. [They cite the hazard](#) of replacing a governor with a less popular candidate and the exclusion of the sitting governor from consideration on question two.

Then there is the problem of what the LA Times Editorial Board calls “[revenge recalls](#).” The recall should function as a kind of people's impeachment, but it

doesn't. A recall can be initiated for any reason or no reason. A common reason is revenge. If a relatively modest number of voters don't like the outcome of an election or disagree with a position taken by an elected official, the petition clipboards come out. An example of this is the apparently unsuccessful first attempt to recall LA County DA George Gascon. Voters disappointed with his election wanted to begin the recall campaign as soon as he took office in December 2020, but they were delayed by a rule that forced them to wait until he had been in office for 90 days. The recall of Gascon was filed in March 2021. The recallers have until October 26 to gather the required number of signatures, however they have already conceded that they will not make it. This time. They have promised to start a new campaign on October 27.

Ballotpedia lists more than fifty recall efforts statewide in 2021 alone. Not all of these are initiated by Republicans. An example of fratricide by recall is the one being launched against Sacramento City Council Member Katie Valenzuela. She explains that certain Democrats in her city that hold views out of the mainstream thinking of local Democratic voters know they would not likely win in a general election. They hope to oust the

more progressive Democrat in a low-turnout recall election.

The recall process is so much in need of reform that the California Democratic Party adopted a “Resolution Against Anti-Democratic Recalls” (reprinted on page 3 of this newsletter). Some reforms that have been suggested include the following:

- Increase the threshold to trigger a recall election from the current 12 percent to maybe 20 percent.
- Remove question two from the recall ballot and you remove the incentive to rig the system with a low turnout election. If a governor is removed, let the lieutenant governor succeed as they would if a governor resigned.
- Decrease the role of money in the system by prohibiting pay-per-signature professional signature gatherers—who, it is said, could qualify a ham sandwich for the ballot. (hint: Governor Newsom, please sign SB660! Pretty please!)

On January 3, 2022, when the state legislature begins its new year, State Senator Josh Newman intends to introduce legislation to reform the recall. Watch this space.

—*Cynthia Hart*

from POLICING on page 7

ator Scott could not support it. He said that he wanted to keep talking, though!

So compromised was the bill after the “problem solvers” treatment, that Representative Bass declared it worse than the status quo—so much so that if it were to continue, George Floyd's name must be removed from it. That was that. The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act was withdrawn.

How did it come to this? The filibuster. If the Senate were run on a majority-rule basis like the House, this and many good laws would be possible and President Biden would be able to get staff confirmed. Our country doesn't even have ambassadors to key allies, because the filibuster allows the minority to block their confirmation. You may have heard that LA Mayor Garcetti was

appointed ambassador to India, but strangely he has not packed his bags to move. He can't get a confirmation hearing because of the filibuster.

But wouldn't the Democrats need to use the filibuster when they're in the minority? Well, Representative Bass has come to believe that if Senator Mitch McConnell becomes majority leader again he will eliminate the filibuster on the very first day.

It is her further belief that Democrats must produce results for the voters if we want them to continue to be excited to vote for Democratic candidates.

If you agree, please call our Senators and tell them to support filibuster reform. Senator Alex Padilla is already on board, so call him to say “thank you.” Then tell Senator Dianne Feinstein to do whatever it takes to pass laws that will promote justice.



Culver City Rooftop Solar Resident,

SoCal Edison, PG&E, and other investor-owned utilities have been lobbying our state legislators and California's Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to approve the following measures:

- Raising the monthly grid-connection charge for solar customers to \$50 or more
- Reducing by up to 75% the net-metering credit that solar customers get for the electricity that they add to the grid?
- No longer allowing solar customers to carry forward unused solar credits from month to month?

The CPUC says any changes will apply to future solar users. We don't trust them to stick to that promise, because a) the utilities and other hostile parties are still lobbying to hit existing solar users with new fixed charges; b) they almost succeeded in doing so in the Legislature; c) CPUC's history of coziness with utilities. They are still lobbying hard to make any changes retroactive for existing solar users. Given the CPUC's history of bowing to utility pressure, we advise all solar users to speak up now.

These proposals will cripple the growth of rooftop solar in California and the nation.

If you care about global warming, now is a critical time to act. The CPUC is expected to make a ruling by the end of this year. The only person who has the clout to influence the five-member commission is Governor Newsom. To fight back, **Solar Rights Alliance** (www.solarrights.org) has mobilized 350 environmental groups and community organizations into a coalition called "**Save California Solar**". You can make your voice heard by:

- adding your name to our petition to Gov. Newsom at www.savecaliforniasolar.org.
- sending an email to Gov. Newsom at www.gov.ca.gov
- calling Governor Newsom directly at 916-445-2841.

If you want to learn more about the issues, send me an email requesting to join a zoom meeting with our Executive Director on **Wednesday, October 6th, at 7:00 PM**.

David Rusch, Culver City Resident and Solar Rights Alliance Board Member
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