

[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, April 13, 2022

### Program: Fatima Iqbal-Zubair for Assembly District 65, and other candidates

*President's Message by Jeff Schwartz*

## 2020 Vision

2020 was a terrible year for many reasons. Many of us would like to theatrically annihilate it, [like John Oliver](#). I am not confident that I will ever be able to leave home again without a mask in my pocket.

However, this month I am asking you to remember 2020 and resist attempts to erase it. There are three things in particular.

First, 2020 was a triumph for progressives in the Democratic Party, especially in California. Every incumbent member of the Squad was reelected. Jamaal Bowman and Cori Bush joined their ranks. Bernie Sanders won the California Primary with a majority in 47 of the 53 Congressional Districts and 50 of the 58 counties. I am not sure there has ever been a time in US history when socialism has been as popular. Eugene Debs, for example, never sought a major party's nomination and never won any electoral votes as a third party candidate.

In the past few years, reactionary nationalists have been using the term "American exceptionalism" to refer to the idea that the US is exceptional in our virtue and mission. However, for most of the 20th century the term was used by leftists to describe the phenomenon of the US being the only industrialized nation without a major left/labor movement. We can argue about whether the Bernie/Squad/DSA formation represents a left/labor movement, but it definitely represents a lot of people asking why our public sector is so underdeveloped, why we can't have the benefits and services that left/labor movements have won in so many other nations, and why inequality continues to worsen. This is an important moment.



At [our Congressional Forum](#) last month, we asked the three candidates who they had supported in the 2020 primary election. Two of them, Sydney Kamlanger and Jan Perry, answered "Biden and Harris." That was who we all voted for in [the November general election](#), but Kamala Harris wasn't even on [the primary ballot](#). If she had been, she would have been running against Joe Biden, not as his partner. It has been a strange couple of years, so I don't blame anyone for mis-

remembering, but this answer also seems like an attempt to erase that there was a primary election at all, that there had been disagreement about who the nominee would be, and specifically that Bernie Sanders won California.

At first, when he became the nominee and then the President-elect, Biden seemed to understand the profound challenge and change Bernie's movement

**See MESSAGE on page 2**

**Andy and Diane Rosenberg**  
*are sponsoring April's newsletter*

**IN MEMORY OF**

**Herb Rosenberg**

*beloved Husband and Father*

**Mark Stuart Rosenberg**

*beloved Son and Brother*

**MESSAGE from page 1**

represents. Sanders supporters were invited to join task forces to create Biden's platform, and progressive elements were incorporated. When Joe Biden took office, he had been transformed from one of the leading '80s New Democrats, who had triangulated the Party away from its labor and social justice base hoping to lure back Reagan-curious suburbanites, into the new FDR.

Unlike Roosevelt or LBJ however, Biden seemed reluctant to push too hard for his transformative agenda. He trusted Manchin and Sinema, the right wing of his party, who negotiated his program down to a stump then still refused to vote for it, while his allies attacked the left for asking him to actually deliver what he ran on. A month ago, Biden's first [State of the Union](#) was dominated by events beyond his control: COVID and Putin's invasion of Ukraine, but he barely mentioned climate change and seemed to accept defeat on his transformative domestic agenda, returning to a failed status quo.

When Biden invoked the threat of the fascist right, it was as a call to inaction: we cannot push for real change now, because we need to unite to keep what we have. Now is not the time to criticize Democrats like Manchin and Sinema, who put fossil fuel and medical industry profits ahead of human well-being, because we need their help to protect reproductive rights and fair elections. This logic was at centerstage in this spring's [California Democratic Party convention](#). The Party leadership celebrated their defense of the status quo against the progressive insurgency, using this same logic: we need all the resources we can get to hold back the Republican menace, which includes fossil fuel, medical industry, insurance, and police and prison money. State Party leadership used parliamentary shenanigans to block a campaign organized by the Progressive, Environmental, and African-American Caucuses which would have gotten fossil fuel and law enforcement money out of the party, and undermined AB1400, which would have established single-payer healthcare in California, and AB854, which would have reformed the Ellis Act. Again, they fear losing support from the right, from those who profit from human suffering and environmental destruction, more than they fear losing that of progressives

activated by the promise of Bernie, the Women's March, the Parkland kids, and Black Lives Matter. Conservatives in our party would like progressives to shut up or even to go away, to see Bernie's national primary defeat and Biden's general election victory as a repudiation of the left and a validation of the establishment, but we are not going anywhere. I encourage you to remember 2020 by supporting the groups working to hold the Democratic Party to its platform and values, not its fundraising goals: the [Progressive Caucus](#), the [Environmental Caucus](#), and the [Black Caucus](#), groups working outside the party such as the [Working Families Party](#), and the [Democratic Socialists of America](#), progressive PACs such as [Ground Game LA](#) and [Onward Culver City](#), and candidates who refuse to take police, oil, landlord, or corporate money.

Second, 2020 was the summer of [Black Lives Matter](#). Arguably the largest mass movement in US history was catalyzed by the police murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets despite the pandemic. Black Lives Matter formed in 2013, after the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's killer, and it is based in an established abolitionist movement, but the tragedies of 2020 brought it to the fore.

I am very proud that this Club has hosted speakers from [BLM-LA](#) and that we shared our 2021 Fiesta La Ballona booth with [West LA for Black Lives](#). We are the only Culver City group to have given BLM a platform. The Chamber of Commerce, in contrast, [met the moment with a panel](#) whose members they listed as: "Culver City Mayor, Goran Eriksson; Acting Chief of Police, Manuel Cid; and CCUSD Board President, Parent, and Wife of a Law Enforcement Officer [sic], Summer McBride." Note that we do not find out if the men are married, have children, or what their partners do. More importantly, none of the panelists represents or studies the abolitionist movement. The Other cannot speak; they must be spoken for.

Many organizations and officials put out solidarity statements but then ignored the actual analysis and agenda presented by BLM. It has been disheartening to see leading Democrats, such as Joe Biden, [Kevin DeLeon](#), and [Karen Bass](#), support increasing or maintaining police budgets

when BLM explicitly calls for [defunding the police](#): supporting care not cops, moving resources and responsibilities from systems of violence and punishment to those of healing and care. The City of Los Angeles [gave almost half of their American Rescue Plan funds to the LAPD](#). Again, it's as if 2020 didn't happen.

It was even worse to see a mass movement against police violence met with police violence. Portland police used so much tear gas that [it was detectable in the water supply](#) and [affected women's menstrual cycles](#). Buffalo police [shoved a 75-year-old man to the concrete, then dozens of officers protested an investigation of the shoving](#). [Police nationwide shot protestors directly in the head with rubber bullets, causing injuries including broken jaws and lost eyes](#). [Denver police were just found liable for \\$14 million for violence against BLM protestors](#).

On April 11, the Culver City Council will discuss bringing the City into compliance with AB481. [Written by Assembly Member David Chiu, passed by both houses \(with the votes of our Assembly Member Isaac Bryan and our State Senator Sydney Kamlanger\), and signed into law by Gavin Newsom in September](#), AB481 requires every law enforcement agency in the state to publish an inventory of the military equipment it has, set clear policies for future acquisitions, establish a clear and timely way for citizens to lodge complaints, and report all uses. The American Friends Service Committee has [excellent resources](#) on this issue.

[The policy proposed by CCPD](#) is not as bad as it could be. However, both the policy itself and [its announcement on the CCPD website](#) lead with misleading claims that CCPD "does not possess any tactical equipment that it has obtained from the military, nor does it possess any equipment that is designed solely for military use." While those claims are technically true, neither of them is the definition of "military equipment" in AB481. CCPD are attempting to distract and confuse. Once that preliminary feint is out of the way, the proposed policy document features the required inventory of military equipment conforming to AB481. CCPD has drones, over 100 assorted rifles (including two Bushmaster XM-15 assault rifles), tear gas, pepper gas

**See MESSAGE on page 3**



**MESSAGE from page 2**

projectiles, “flash bang” devices, Tasers, and a “less lethal projectile launcher” with a selection of projectiles including chemical irritants. It also reveals their intention to purchase a robot capable of dispensing tear gas.

The draft policy also contains multiple references to an Emergency Response Team. As the [Center for Public Safety Management report](#) linked on the CCPD website documents (see p. 106 of the PDF), this is another term for a [SWAT](#) team. As that report describes, this is a new project for CCPD, and one the report discourages for practical reasons (rather than SWAT’s [problematic history](#)). The ERT/SWAT project was never brought to the City Council and, as described in the CPSM report, involves extensive militarization of CCPD. While CPSM discourages the formation of a SWAT team, if the project proceeds they recommend working with the [California Association of Tactical Officers](#) and [National Tactical Officers Association](#) and give a list of suggested trainings. It also reports that CCPD expects twenty

officers to be part of this project, each giving it one quarter of their time. One fifth of the department will be immersed in these additional technologies of violence. Please look at the relevant section of the CPSM report and the CATO and NTOA websites. Police are literally preparing for war.

The draft policy establishes a clear process for CCPD to purchase, maintain, and use military equipment, but it is not the only option. Again, the American Friends Service Committee has [very useful recommendations](#). We have a chance to stop and reverse police militarization. My desire, of course, is that the existing arsenal be destroyed and CCPD banned from acquiring or using any gear covered by AB481. We have seen how police use this equipment and who they use it on. If you marched for BLM, put up a sign, or your organization made a solidarity statement, please email our Council Members and show up at City Hall on the 11th. They are gambling that we have forgotten about 2020.

Finally, I remind you what the Culver City Police Officers Association did in 2020.

On June 8, they released an open letter to the City Council, attacking every member except Goran Eriksson for considering reforms. [In July they appointed Luis Martinez, a cop who cost the City almost \\$9 million in a wrongful death suit after he gunned down an unarmed suspect in front of his children, to be the City’s first staff representative on the Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee](#), forcing the Council to remove him after public outcry. They also assessed each of their members over \$400 to hire [public relations consultants](#), who produced videos attacking community members including two UCLA professors (one of them a MacArthur Fellow), a member of the School Board, and her father, and whose participation in the November City Council election included the city’s first-ever political billboards as well as mailers with red “X”s over caricatures of candidates Yasmine-Imani McMorris and Freddy Puza, coincidentally the first Black woman and the first openly LGBTQ+ person to run. CCPOA’s contract is up in June. There will be a City Council election this fall. I hope you will remember 2020.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

[A quote from Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson—page 4](#)

[Announcements—page 4](#)

[A message from Gaia—page 5](#)

[Honoring Earth Day— book review by Carlene Brown—page 6](#)

[Di’s Corner—By Diane Rosenberg—page 6](#)

[Strengthening the California Public Records Act—page 6](#)

[Join the Club or renew your membership—page 6](#)

[RL Miller’s top three recommended bills of this session—page 7](#)

[Noteworthy health and education bills in the legislature—page 7](#)

[Bills to address the housing crisis—page 7](#)

[End the speculator eviction loophole in the Ellis Act—page 7](#)

[Reproductive freedom progress report—by Cynthia Hart—page 8](#)

[The story of Denim Day—by Cynthia Hart—page 8](#)

[Stop foreign influence in elections—by Cynthia Hart—page 8](#)

[Transform transportation in California—by Bubba Fish—page 9](#)

[CCDC’s endorsed candidates for the June 7 primary—page 10](#)

**You’re invited...**

**...to a photo shoot in  
Culver City with**

**[Lola Smallwood-Cuevas](#),  
the Culver City Democratic  
Club’s endorsed candidate  
for State Senate**

**Be part of the group photo  
this Saturday, April 2**

We’d like to invite Club members and friends to join us for a group photo at 4:45 p.m., April 2. The location will be Culver City Hall.

**Please RSVP to:**

CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com

**The more the merrier!**

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



During her confirmation hearing to become the first Black Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, California Senator Alex Padilla asked Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson what she would say to young people. [Here's what she said:](#)

"I hope to inspire people to try to follow this path because I love this country, because I love the law, because I think it's important that we all invest in our future.

"And the young people are our future. So I want them to know that they can do or be anything, and I will tell them what an anonymous person said to me once.

"I was walking through Harvard Yard my freshman year. As I mentioned, I went to public school and I didn't know anything about Harvard until my debate coach took me there to enter a speech competition, and I thought this is a great university. It was basically one of the only ones I'd seen, and I said maybe I'll apply when I'm a senior.

"But I get there and woah, it's so different. I'm from Miami, Florida, and Boston is very cold. It was rough. It was different from anything I'd known. There were lots of students there who were prep school kids, like my husband, who knew all about Harvard. And that was not me.

"And the first semester, I was really homesick, I was really questioning. Do I belong here? Can I make it in this environment? And I was walking through the yard in the evening, and a Black woman I did not know was passing me on the sidewalk. And she looked at me, and I guess she knew how I was feeling. And she leaned over as we crossed and said 'persevere.'

"I would tell them to persevere."  
*—Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Follow us on Twitter: @CulvCityDemClub

and Instagram: CulverCityDemClub

and Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CulverCityDems>

**April 2 - 4:45 PM**

**You're invited to a photo shoot with [Lola Smallwood-Cuevas](#)**

**The location will be Culver City Hall**

Please RSVP to: [CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com](mailto:CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com)

The more the merrier!

**April 11 - 7 PM**

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)



**April 13 - 7 PM**

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



**April 22**

Earth Day

**April 25 - 7 PM**

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

**April 27**

[Denim Day](#)

Whatever we wear/wherever we go

Yes means yes and no means no

**April 28**

Holocaust Remembrance Day

**May 9**

June Primary Vote by Mail Ballots Mailed

**May 11 - 7 PM**

CCDC General Meeting via Zoom

**For Volunteer Opportunities to help keep Congress Blue, go to:**

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

**California Legislative Calendar:**

**May 27**

Last day for bills to be passed in house of origin

**August 31**

Last day for bills to pass second house

**September 30**

Last day for Governor to sign or veto

# A message from Gaia

By Navdanya

I am Gaia. I am Bhoomi. I am Pachamama—the Living Earth.

For over four billion years, I have generated trillions of species, microbes, plants, and animals that mutually support each other, working through my patterns of interrelatedness to foster life on Earth. When climate systems and temperatures gave rise to the evolution of humans on Earth some 200,000 years ago, human species began to evolve and thrive, co-creating in diversity, freedom, and reciprocity. My being is interconnectedness and harmony by which all life on Earth has evolved.

My expression is diversity.

Humanity has survived and sustained herself down the ages by caring for the Earth, maintaining her cycles of food and water, life, and energy while providing for people's needs. Living within planetary and ecological laws and boundaries is a precondition for humans to survive the unprecedented crises they face today for the future of humanity.

For millennia, Indigenous cultures and Earth citizens have known me as Mother Earth. . . They know themselves as my custodians and live according to established laws as an Earth community—an Earth Family—not as masters, controllers, or owners.

Around 500 years ago, the notion of my inseparability and interconnectedness with humans began to fade in people's minds and the illusion of being separate and disconnected from the Earth took hold. With colonization and 'civilizing missions,' those who saw themselves as superior and masters of the Earth—blind to the vital, self-organizing life on Earth and to the people who have lived on and cared for the Earth for generations . . .

Humans soon began violating Earth's planetary and ecological boundaries by burning, extracting, and plundering Earth's living resources, polluting the soils, land, water, and air, unaware that it was the path of self-destruction. Stubborn illusions of superiority,

mastery, and being separate from Earth and intelligent, self-organizing living systems are at the root of degradation and desertification of both the Earth and the human spirit. Violence and injustice are their consequences, which lead to war.

Forests are burning, chronic diseases are spreading, and long-gone pandemics have returned as an industrial poison-based agricultural system invades into forests and across vast agricultural lands, poisoning all life from the smallest microbes to plants, animals, and people. Indigenous peoples and concerned Earth citizens are today fighting for their survival as never before as my habitats and biodiversity are being ravaged in the relentless pursuit of profits, control, and power led by corporations and billionaires.

Rapacious systems of profit and power-hungry billionaires are anathema to my self-organizing, regenerative, and life sustaining systems . . .

I grow diversity, and you impose monocultures and uniformity. I self-organize, self-create, maintain, and renew in interconnectedness. Their mechanized competitive mind imposes high-tech brutal controls. I promote harmony and freedom; they spawn violence and impose monopolies . . .

Whether they know it or not, the philanthrocapitalists of the world are creating an empire of disease . . .

Nature's intelligence continues to evolve and fights back in unpredictable and unexpected ways as the world is witnessing today with the COVID-19 virus pandemic. Ethical and long-term implications for the future of humanity find no space in narrow self-absorbed, power-hungry minds that disrupt my life-sustaining systems and threaten the biodiversity I have evolved over billions of years . . .

I call on all citizens to take energy and creativity from me and rise to protect their communities, societies, their humanity, and future from you and



Illustration by Joanna Rockwell  
[www.jorockwell.com](http://www.jorockwell.com)

your cohorts' mechanical, robotic, thoughtless, toxic urge to control everything that is living and free. My laws are higher than the laws made by powerful men for their limitless greed and hubris. By following my laws and respecting my ecological boundaries, humanity can find its way toward the regeneration of hope, freedom, and life in abundance.

Reclaim the seeds I have given you. Reclaim the living food that nourishes us. Reclaim your life and freedom, in unity and solidarity, in community and interconnectedness, through diversity and self-organization. Draw from me the power to speak, act, and live the truth of life in freedom, compassion, love, and oneness. Co-create with me an age beyond empires, an age of generosity and well being—an age of Gaia.

*Vandana Shiva is founder of Navdanya Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology (India) and President of Navdanya International*



# Honoring Earth Day

*A book review by Carlene Brown*  
*Philanthrocapitalism and the Erosion of Democracy: A Global Citizens' Report on the Corporate Control of Technology, Health, and Agriculture*—edited by Vandana Shiva

I was privileged to hear Vandana Shiva speak at *Yes!* Magazine's launch of this book, where she talked about many of the things included in the introduction titled "Philanthrocapitalism and Colonization in the Digital Age."

This is a collection of 27 essays from dedicated researchers, activists, journalists, and food systems professionals. "This global citizens' report unravels an obscure web of power, analyzing the dangers of technocratic solutionism and the billionaire philanthropic 'developments' pushing the future of our planet towards extinction and ecological collapse."

## Citizen report essays divided into eight sections:

1. A Global Empire
2. Patents, Gene Editing, and Digital Sequence Information
3. Biopiracy
4. Global Agriculture
5. The Third "Green Revolution"
6. Biotechnology & Geoengineering
7. Gene Drives & The Sixth Mass Extinction
8. Media, Health & Education

## Introduction highlights

"We are one Earth family, deriving our common humanity and identity from the land as Earthlings, sharing our common sustenance for life, breath, food, and water through community and mutuality . . . The Earth is mother, and we are children of the Earth."

Shiva decries the colonization, fossil fuel industrialism, and globalization that have separated humans from "the land to which they belong." She lauds the community control of land use that was more common prior to colonialism.

"The tech barons are the new landlords and feudal lords of the digital age," she writes, with Bill Gates emerging as "the biggest landlord of America." Shiva is highly critical of Gates' *Ag One* plan, with its very large farms using drones and robots, intensive chemicals, and genetically modified organisms (GMO's).

The work of Navdanya stands in stark contrast to the Gates approach. Navdanya focuses on "food sovereign farmers practicing regenerative organic agriculture, fair trade, and local circular economies" where they can grow more food and conserve more water without the use of chemicals.

## OPINION

"Farmers need freedom, justice, and fairness," writes Shiva. "Navdanya farmers are earning ten times more than chemical commodity producing farmers through defending their seed freedom, food freedom, and economic self-reliance."

Shiva is highly critical of "The Great Reset," launched at the World Economic Forum by billionaires like Bill Gates.

This "Great Reset," writes Shiva, "is not suggesting that we live like Indigenous cultures as one Earth Family, free of inequality, injustice, and hierarchies." Their agenda is "for the ultimate enclosure of all commons, privatization of the last resource and all the life-giving processes of the planet."

Concluding on an empowering note, she adds, "But we have a choice. We can use our living intelligence to return home. To return to the earth. To return to the land. To co-create with the land."

"Creation of local living economies rooted in the land is now an ecological, ethical, justice, and survival imperative. Returning to the land is the road to resisting getting caught in the web of power constructed by Gates and other philanthrocapitalists."

## Di's Corner:

by *Diane Rosenberg*

*Andrew Lachman*, a Lifetime Member of the Club, was re-elected to chair the Democratic National Committee's Small Business Owners Council.

Update on Club member *Charlotte Gunter*: She is doing well; still goes for physical therapy for her right shoulder once a week; is always positive; misses everyone.

## Marc Levine seeks to strengthen transparency in government

Marc Levine, State Assembly Member and our Club's endorsed candidate for State Insurance Commissioner, has authored [AB2370](#) to promote transparency in government by strengthening the [California Public Records Act](#) (CPRA).

The CPRA gives we-the-people access to public records whether paper or electronic. It empowers journalists, gadflies, good government groups, and just ordinary voters like you and me to hold our government accountable. But there is a catch. State agencies are allowed to decide for themselves how long they retain these records. So theoretically a state constitutional officer facing some legal unpleasantness under the CPRA could conveniently shorten the retention period. Shredding is forever.

State Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara had announced a policy of automatic deletion of emails after 180 days but backtracked after *Consumer Watchdog* and his own employees complained.

Marc Levine's AB2370 makes clear that public records must be retained for at least two years. The Assembly Judiciary Committee passed it unanimously.

Governor Newsom vetoed similar legislation in 2019 citing the high cost of records storage and management. Perhaps this year, the Governor will take note of advances in technology that have reduced the cost of data storage, and sign it. The LA Times Editorial Board asks him to "[weigh that \[cost\] against the moral penalty for keeping the public in the dark.](#)"

## Join the Club or renew your membership

For information on becoming a member of the

Culver City Democratic Club call Diane Rosenberg at (310) 398-5328 or [Click here to join the Club](#)

or [renew your membership online](#)

## RL Miller's top three recommended bills of this session of the legislature

[RL Miller leads [Climate Hawks Vote](#) and is the former chair of the California Democratic Party's Environmental Caucus]

[SB260](#)—The [Climate Corporate Accountability Act](#), requires public and private US-based corporations who do business in California and which have over one billion dollars in annual revenue to report their greenhouse gas emissions from their direct activities, the activities of their supply chain, and other major emission sources by 2025. The reporting required by this bill is fully aligned with the accepted international standard: the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. [\[more info\]](#)

[SB953](#)—*Oil and gas leases: state waters: State Lands Commission* would require the commission to [terminate all remaining oil and gas leases under its jurisdiction](#) in tidelands and submerged lands within state waters by December 31, 2023.

[SB1173](#)—*Public retirement systems: fossil fuels: divestment* requires California's public employee pension funds (CalPERS and CalSTRS) [to divest \\$9.9B from the Carbon Underground 200](#)—the largest publicly traded fossil fuel firms. They must divest by July 2027 and it prohibits new investments.

## Noteworthy health and education bills now in the legislature

[SB1014](#)—*Enhanced Clinically Integrated Program for Federally Qualified Health Centers. Commit to Community Care Plan:* Increases funding for community clinics. Would direct \$400 million plus additional federal funds to address healthcare workforce challenges at Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) to build the care infrastructure. The funding can be used to increase wages to retain workers or train new healthcare workers with oversight and accountability.

[AB2266](#)—*Community colleges: California*

*College Promise: fee waiver eligibility.* [This bill would remove](#), for the purpose of eligibility for the fee waiver, the qualification that students be first-time students and the exclusion of students who have previously earned a degree or certificate from a postsecondary educational institution.

[AB2371](#)—*Public postsecondary education: California State University: tuition.* This bill enables community college students who complete the California College Promise Program and Associate Degree for Transfer to be eligible to receive two years of a tuition-free education at the California State University system (CSU).

[AB2018](#)—*Personal Income Tax Law: refundable credit: student loan debt.* This would provide a tax credit for taxpayers with a degree from a university headquartered in the state who have worked in public service for at least 5 years, and who have at least \$5,000 in federal student loan debt.

## Bills to address the housing crisis

[AB2053](#)—*The Social Housing Act.* This bill will create and protect mixed-income homes that are federally built, sustainable, collectively owned, affordable, and financially self-sustaining for all income levels.

[SB914](#)—*The HELP Act.* This bill will require California's state and local homelessness plans to address how they will help domestic violence survivors and unaccompanied women experiencing homelessness. This bill would require the California Interagency Council on Homelessness to set and measure progress toward goals to prevent and end homelessness among domestic violence survivors and their children, and among unaccompanied women in California.

[AB1816](#)—*Reentry housing and workforce development.* This bill, co-sponsored by Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, would create the [Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program](#) to fund long-term rental assistance in permanent housing, incentives to landlords, and innovative or evidence-based services to assist formerly incarcerated individuals who participate to access permanent supportive housing.

## [AB2050](#)—Reforms the Ellis Act to end the speculator eviction loophole

Anastasia Foster, of the Santa Monica Rent Control Board, sees this reform as part of an effort to “preserve naturally-occurring affordable housing” and “curb speculative activity on buildings occupied by humans.”

Once there was a more or less well-intentioned law that was meant to protect aging “mom and pop” landlords who needed to exit the rental market because they could no longer take care of their properties. It was called the Ellis Act. But then the Courts stepped in and expanded the reach of the Ellis act. Soon



speculators swooped in to buy buildings and quickly “go out of the rental business.” What followed was eviction notices and loss of affordable housing.

According to the Coalition for Economic Survival: “Studies show that the vast majority of Ellis Act evictions transpire within the first five years of building purchases, indicating that these property owners had no intention of being in the rental business in the first place. In fact, there has been a trend of ‘Serial Evictors’ who evict tenants from multiple buildings to convert the units to other uses and then acquire new rental properties for the same purpose.”

That's why [Assembly Member Alex Lee \(D-San Jose\)](#) has introduced [AB2050](#), which seeks to end speculator abuse of the Ellis Act by imposing a five-year holding period before the Ellis Act can be used to evict tenants.



## California reproductive freedom progress report

by *Cynthia Hart*

In last [month's newsletter I wrote about the recommendations of the California Future of Abortion Council \(FAB\)](#). Now I am pleased to report that the California Legislative Women's Caucus is hard at work on [a basket of bills](#) to keep the Blue Beacon shining.

First, I have good news! The first bill on the list has already been signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom. [SB245](#), which eliminates cost sharing in abortion services, was authored by State Senator Lena A. Gonzalez and co-authored by our own State Senator Sydney Kamlager. Copayments, coinsurance, deductibles and other cost-sharing arrangements will no longer be a barrier to access after January 1, 2023.

Currently in Committee, we have the following protective measures that must pass the State Assembly by May 27 of this year in order to remain active:

### [AB1666—Reproductive Privacy Act.](#)

After Texas enacted its six-week abortion ban and empowered vigilantes to use the civil courts to enforce it, more than a dozen other states began considering similar laws. AB1666, authored by Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, makes clear that such civil actions are contrary to the public policy of our State and that California courts cannot be used to enforce this unjust law. This will provide civil protections to clinicians that provide abortions to patients from states with hostile laws, as well as those who assist people from out of state to access abortion services in California.

[AB2223—Reproductive Health.](#) Nationwide, as many as one in five known pregnancies end in miscarriage, and in California as many as 2,365 pregnancies end in stillbirth—often with no known cause. Even in Blue California, people who experience pregnancy loss [can be prosecuted for it](#). Assemblymember Buffy Wicks has authored AB2223 to protect people from prosecutions and criminalization of abortion or pregnancy loss. Assemblymember Wicks writes, “Every Californian should have the right to feel secure that they can seek medical assistance during pregnancy without fear of civil or criminal liability.”

[AB2091—Reproductive Health and Privacy.](#) Assemblymember Mia Bonta has authored AB2091 to enhance patient

privacy and shielding of medical records for people who have sought or obtained abortions. Assemblymember Bonta writes, “California must protect the confidentiality of medical records related to abortion to protect abortion providers and others who assist in providing abortion care from frivolous civil lawsuits and accompanying costs aimed at harassing providers, diverting resources, and shutting down clinics.” By the way, if this good bill passes, it will be up to the Insurance Commissioner to enforce its provisions against insurance companies. Just one more reason that it really does matter who we elect as Insurance Commissioner.

### [SB1142—Abortion Practical Support.](#)

If the Supreme Court rules as expected, over a million women from red states may find California their only hope. These refugees will need practical support. State Senators Anna Caballero and Nancy Skinner have authored SB1142, that would establish a web page for centralized information on services and support for those seeking abortion care, and a fund that would enable private and public sources to support the work of abortion providers and other community-based organizations that secure practical support and other needs for patients and providers.

[AB2134—Reproductive health care.](#) As you will recall, the Supreme Court ruled that even under the Affordable Care Act corporations who provide health coverage to employees may exclude benefits for abortion and contraception if those medical services violate the corporation's religion (Corporations are people with souls, I guess). Assemblymembers

## AB1819—Stop foreign influence in elections

by *Cynthia Hart*

Assemblymember Alex Lee has introduced [AB1819](#) to prohibit foreign-influenced corporations from contributing to candidates, parties, or committees, or from engaging in their own direct election spending. You may be wondering—how is that even a thing? Doesn't existing federal law and our State's Political Reform Act of 1974 take care of that?

Kind of, but there's a loophole. The current law applies to *foreign-incorporated* corporations. A foreign investor (like, for example, a foreign government-owned oil wealth fund) may own a significant interest in a corporation that is organized under U.S. laws and has the U.S. as its principal place of business. Such a foreign-influenced corporation can spend millions to influence our elections. In the last election, we saw how corporations can write their own self-serving legislation and get it passed through the initiative process.

AB1819 will close the loophole for California elections. It is supported by [Money Out Voters In](#), [Ground Game LA](#), and other good government groups.

Akilah Weber and Cristina Garcia have authored AB2134 in an effort to establish gap coverage for Californians who lack abortion and contraception benefits.

Other bills to promote reproductive freedom in California are expected.

## The story of Denim Day

On Wednesday, April 27, millions of people all over the world will wear denim in support of survivors of sexual violence. It all began in 1992 when a young woman in Italy was raped by her driving instructor. He told her that he would kill her if she told. But she told. Years later, the Italian Supreme Court overturned the rapist's conviction because the young woman was wearing jeans at the time of the attack. The next day the women of the Italian parliament wore jeans in solidarity with her. Women in other countries did the same, and so a tradition began of wearing jeans on Denim Day in April.

The moral of the story is: Whatever we wear! Wherever we go! YES means YES and NO means NO! —*Cynthia Hart*



# How 2022 could transform transportation in California

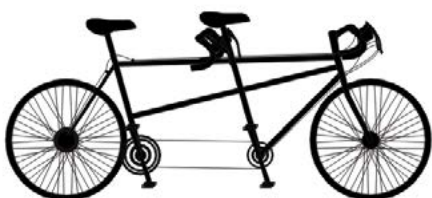
By *Bubba Fish*

*Legislative Advocate, Streets for All*

While the dysfunction and gridlock apparent in our national politics may at times feel insurmountable, we can once again turn to our state legislature for hope. 2022 has the potential to be a transformative year in California. Single-occupancy vehicles remain the [largest contributor](#) to greenhouse gas emissions in the state. Our traffic congestion crisis [costs workers weeks of their lives](#) and our economy [billions in productivity](#), and our state's record-breaking levels of traffic violence [disproportionately impacts marginalized communities](#). Legislators have responded by introducing an unusually strong crop of bills to address our ailing transportation system. L.A. County's transportation justice organization *Streets for All* has been hard at work sponsoring and supporting new legislation aimed to address these issues by reimagining mobility in California.



Active transportation such as cycling and public transit only thrive in places that prioritize those modes, and a pair of bills were introduced to do just that. [SB922](#), from Senator Scott Wiener, makes permanent a fast-track through the [California Environmental Quality Act](#) (CEQA). It would allow climate-friendly projects such as the Washington Boulevard complete streets initiative, *Move Culver City*, to complete development within a matter of months rather than years. [AB2237](#), by Assemblymember Laura Friedman, requires cities to evaluate transportation projects by how they each meet emissions reduction goals. Projects that prioritize active transportation are critical to addressing climate change and enabling everyone, not just those with the resources to own a car, to move through our cities safely and efficiently.



Other bills aim to reduce fatalities from traffic violence, which have increased substantially over the past decade in California ([especially since the onset of the pandemic as less traffic allowed for deadlier speeding](#)). Two bills to address the problem are sponsored by *Streets for All*: [SB932](#), from Senator Anthony Portantino, requires cities to implement traffic-calming measures on their deadliest streets; and [AB2264](#), by Assemblymember Richard Bloom, standardizes pedestrian head starts, making pedestrians more visible in the crosswalk before cars are given a green light. [AB2336](#), from Assemblymember Friedman, creates a pilot program for automated speed enforcement on high-injury streets and in school zones.



While less obvious than traffic violence, the issue of noise pollution and its [significant detrimental impacts on public health](#) are only recently becoming more widely known. Studies have linked noise pollution to higher risks of high blood pressure and heart disease. Two new bills attempt to address the issue starting with illegally loud modified mufflers commonly used in street racing. [SB1079](#), by Senator Portantino, and [AB2496](#), by Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris, both tackle the issue head-on, without law enforcement involvement, by creating a pilot program to automate illegal noise enforcement, and by adding muffler inspections to smog checks.



Reducing common barriers to active transportation, including interactions with law enforcement, is imperative to shifting travel habits towards active transportation en masse. [AB1713](#), by Assemblymember Tasha Boerner Horvath, allows adult cyclists to yield at stop signs when cars are not already present at the intersection, codifying normal cycling behavior. [AB2147](#), by Assemblymember Phil Ting, would decriminalize safely

crossing the street at non-intersections, or “jaywalking” (a term car companies coined to blame pedestrian victims of car crashes). Similar bills were both vetoed last year by Governor Newsom to significant backlash. [AB1909](#), by Assemblymember Friedman, unlocks more barriers to cycling by prohibiting cities from requiring bike licenses and from banning e-bikes on bike trails. It would also require drivers to use a full lane to pass cyclists whenever possible.



In an effort to reduce harm to marginalized communities through transportation policy, [AB1685](#), from our own Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, forgives up to \$1500 in parking fines for people experiencing homelessness; [AB1778](#), from Assemblymember Cristina Garcia, would prohibit freeway widening in communities experiencing high rates of poverty or pollution; and [AB1919](#), by Assemblymember Chris Holden, would require transit agencies to give free service to those 25 years old and younger.

Issues of equity, climate, and safety are only exacerbated by antiquated municipal codes. Parking requirements mandated in most cities for all new commercial and residential development create car-dependent communities, [increase the cost of housing, and make affordable housing projects financially unfeasible to develop](#). [AB2097](#), from Assemblymember Friedman, eliminates parking minimums throughout the state for all development within a half mile of high quality transit service.

With a plethora of new legislation aiming to shape how Californians get around, this year could be remembered as a pivotal one in the movement for better transportation across the State. To stay up to date on these bills, follow [@streetsforall](#) on social media or head to [streetsforall.org/state](#) to join the fight for safe, sustainable, equitable streets in California.



**These are the endorsed candidates of the Culver City Democratic Club that will appear on the Culver City ballot for the June 7, 2022, primary election. The Club's bylaws require candidates to receive sixty percent of the votes to be endorsed. No candidate for US House of Representatives or State Controller received enough votes for an endorsement**

US Senate

**Alex Padilla**



California Governor

**Gavin Newsom**



California Lieutenant Governor

**Eleni Kounalakis**



California Attorney General

**Rob Bonta**



California Secretary of State

**Dr. Shirley Weber**



State Treasurer

**Fiona Ma**



State Insurance Commissioner

**Marc Levine**



State School Superintendent

**Tony Thurmond**



State Senate SD28

**Lola Smallwood-Cuevas**



State Assembly AD55

**Isaac Bryan**



State Board of Equalization Dist. 13

**Tony Vazquez**



LA County Sheriff

**Eric Strong**



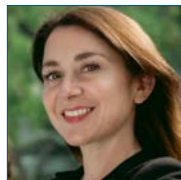
LA County Assessor

**Jeffrey Prang**



LA Superior Court Judge Seat 60

**Anna Reitano**



LA Superior Court Judge Seat 67

**Elizabeth Lashley-Haynes**



LA Superior Court Judge Seat 70

**Holly Hancock**



LA Superior Court Judge Seat 90

**Kevin McGurk**



LA Superior Court Judge Seat 118

**Carolyn JiYoung Park**

