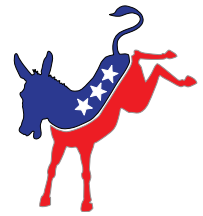


Active Democrat



www.CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Email: CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com • Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/culvercitydems

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

General Meeting on Zoom — 7p.m. Wednesday, May 11, 2022

**Program: Bike Month, with Streets 4 All
and More Special Guests**

President's Message by Jeff Schwartz

It's election time!

Fellow Democrats,

This month's message will be short and to the point. Election time is here. Our endorsement cards and the mail-in ballots will arrive in the next few days. We are sending them to every residence in Culver City except for those containing only registered Republicans.

While there will be a lot of campaign mail coming, our card is special. Every candidate on it was chosen by your votes, and it is funded entirely by your donations. We do not take money from businesses, PACs, or other organizations. It's all you.

This election we have been the first and so far the only Culver City organization to have organized forums and presented candidates in open meetings.

We are also so far the only one to record and publish these events. We have created over six hours of candidate videos for this election, all freely available on [our YouTube page](#).

You may have seen or heard attacks on me or on this Club. You may have even come across a man claiming to lead a rogue Democratic Club which appears to have no other members and is definitely not affiliated with the actual Democratic Party. These are all attempts to dilute the power of this Club's endorsements. Culver City has a huge Democratic majority and this Club is its only officially chartered Democratic organization. We have been for 70 years. We are the voice of Culver City Democrats. Our membership is open, our dues are low, and our process is public.

I believe that our endorsement card will stand out because of our history and Karim Sahli's design talent, but we can also use your help keeping it out of the recycle bin. When your card comes, ask your neighbors if they got theirs. Mention it again when election questions come up.

We have endorsements in almost every race, including the down-ballot ones which don't get a lot of press: even the judges. But people don't need to take our word for it. They can watch our videos and see the candidates for themselves, often fielding unexpected tough questions in an intimate group.

I've already gotten dozens of slick campaign mailers this year, created by consultants and paid for by PACs. We made our own and paid for it ourselves. It's as real as it gets.

Thank you for supporting this Club with your money, talent, and attention. Now it's time to get out the vote!

**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](#)**

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

Cynthia Hart

is sponsoring the May newsletter

IN MEMORY OF

Hazel Dixon Hart

her beloved mother

Born: April 28, 1920

Died: April 14, 2022

SATURDAY MAY 14

**WE WON'T
GO BACK.**

PROTECT ROE V. WADE
"BANS OFF OUR BODIES" RALLY



Birds chirping in the middle of the night will always remind me of being 17 years old, lying on a metal cot with a thin mattress, like the ones at Girl Scout camp, and writhing in pain. Birds chirping in the early morning when I'm awake in the middle of the night always take me there, even now. I wish that on no one. Nobody should ever have that association.

I was one of the lucky ones. My Dad was able to arrange an illegal abortion for me that would be safe, but it was still clandestine. I was led away in a blindfold. My mother had to drop me off at a White Castle hamburger place in Detroit to be met by a woman she didn't know who blindfolded me and took me away in her car. My mother later said she didn't know if she'd ever see me again. I spent 3 days in the basement of some building, who knows, in a tiny room with one of those high basement windows that we don't really have here in California. There was another cot with another girl in it who had already been there for at least a couple days and who was still there when I left, both of us in labor pain. It was January 1970. Soon after, abortions were legal in New York. I could say I can't imagine, but the fact is I can easily imagine what some of these young girls and women around the country will be going through with these laws changing.

In thinking about writing this last night, more of the vignettes kept swimming back to me in images, keeping me awake—having my high school star wrestler boyfriend tell me not to tell my parents because it was wrestling season and he was under too much pressure, waiting too long to tell my mother I was pregnant, some of the things my Dad said and did that humiliated me that I would tell you here, but don't want to be overbearing in my story. Stories of shame, humiliation, betrayal, isolation and fear. That's what women and girls have ahead without Roe.

All this is to stress how important it is to do what we can to stop going backwards to 1970. I invite anyone who can make it to attend the "Bans Off Our Bodies" Woman's March on Saturday, May 14th from 10am-12noon in downtown LA.

<https://www.womensmarchaction.com/may14-rally> to RSVP.

—Maggie Meinschein

Time:

Saturday
May 14 10am

Location:

200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles

About this event

Join Women's March Foundation, Planned Parenthood, and our partners for a national day of action! The Bans Off Our Bodies Abortion Rally in Downtown Los Angeles will be at City Hall on Saturday, May 14th, at 10am.

In the coming months the Supreme Court will issue its ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*, and legal experts widely expect the Court to severely curtail — or even overturn altogether — the 50 year precedent that established every woman's right to determine if they will give birth.

If that happens, 36 million people across the country will lose access to abortion.

Join us on May 14 in Downtown LA to say

"BANS OFF OUR BODIES!"

State audit of Metropolitan Water District

[Our Club voted to support this audit, on Director Houston's recommendation. Here is his update on its progress.]

Hello friends:

The State Audit of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) was released last Thursday, April 21, regarding allegations of hiring and workplace discrimination, sexual harassment, bullying and retaliation at the water agency. It notes that MWD has for years failed to commit resources to properly investigating complaints of misconduct, address housing problems at its desert pumping stations, and comply with state ethics laws. The auditors also said the agency's "actions demonstrate a failure of leadership and create a perception, at a minimum, that it tolerates harassment, discrimination and retaliation." The audit further excoriates MWD for never implementing needed Ethics and EEO reforms that were recommended in a previous state audit back in 2004 (reminder, it's 2022).

The audit calls for several reforms to be implemented by both MWD and by the State Legislature to permanently address these long-standing issues, notably by October 2022 in many instances. These

reforms need to happen, and we must keep the pressure on our legislators to act.

I call on the State Legislature and MWD to each implement the reforms recommended by the State Auditor to ensure permanent and meaningful safeguards are put in place that protect MWD employees and our ratepayer resources. No person should ever be made to feel unsafe or not valued at work. Employees and water ratepayers demand full accountability.

Here is a link to the [State Audit](#) released Thursday, April 21.

Lifetime Members

The following members donated \$500 to the Culver City Democratic Club to become Lifetime Members:

Paula Amezola De Herrera

Karen Bass

Isaac Bryan

Tom Camarella

Stephen Dunwoody

Alex Fisch

Esmeralda Fucci

Nancy Goldberg

Cynthia Hart

Justinian Jampol

Sydney Kamlager

Andrew Lachman

Patricia Levinson

Disa Lindgren

Holly Mitchell

Melina Pillar

Leah Pressman

John Riordan*

Pete Rockwell

Meghan Sahli-Wells

Jeff Schwartz

Ronnie Jayne Solomon

Albert Vera, Jr.

Jewett Walker

Michelle Weiner

Herb Wesson

*[*The Executive Board voted to make John Riordan an Honorary Lifetime Member in recognition of the hundreds of dollars he donated to the Club over many years.]*

Here is a link to [the Los Angeles Times article published Friday, April 22.](#)

Thank you for your diligence as I brought this to your attention last year leading up to the successful approval of a State Audit that is independent of MWD. I will continue to keep you informed as we work to ensure true reforms are passed and we demand full accountability.

Scott Houston

Director, Division IV

Vice President of the Board

West Basin Municipal Water District

Di's Corner:

by Diane Rosenberg

On Saturday, April 2, Assemblymember Isaac Bryan surprised Culver City Democratic Club member Jackie Hawthorne with a reception party at a home in Baldwin Hills. The celebration was honoring Jackie as "Woman of the Year." There were many in attendance, including Culver City Councilmember Yasmine-Imani McMorrin, Culver City Democratic Club 2nd V.P. Freddy Puza, and Recording Secretary Shannon Theus. Several other Club members were also in attendance. Here's a link to an article about the event in [the Los Angeles Sentinel](#).

On Saturday, April 9, California State Senator Sydney Kamlager Dove had her Campaign kickoff for Congress. It was held at Monteith Park, 4127 Monteith Drive, View Park, from 2-4pm. Shannon Theus, our Recording Secretary, and myself were there. Also from Culver City were former Mayor Meghan Sahli-Wells and Councilmember Yasmine-Imani McMorrin. Also attending was Congresswoman Karen Bass, who is currently running for Mayor of Los Angeles. Also from Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors was President Holly Mitchell. And attending were other dignitaries.

Update on Club member *Charlotte Gunter*: She is still hanging in there doing well. Misses everyone and keeps asking me "When is the Club going to meet in person?" I told her that I didn't know. But if and when we will I would let her know.

Table of Contents

[Announcements](#) [page 4](#)

[Resources to help voters](#) [page 4](#)

[Members tell why they voted to endorse](#) [page 5](#)

[Candidates endorsed in April](#) [page 6](#)

[Candidates endorsed in March](#) [page 7](#)

[Compost and seed giveaway](#) [page 8](#)

Resources to help voters

In preparation for our forum, each of the three Democrats running for the open State Senate seat and the open Congressional seat completed an extensive questionnaire on their platform and strategy.



Lola Smallwood-Cuevas

Over 60% of our members voted to endorse Lola Smallwood-Cuevas for the State Senate seat. Here are links to all three State Senate [candidates' complete individual responses](#). We appreciate them putting their time and talents in service of the community and participating in our endorsement process.



Each of the Democrats running for the open US Congress seat in CD37 (currently held by Karen Bass) also completed a questionnaire. No congressional candidate received the required 60% in our endorsement vote. The congressional [candidate questionnaire responses are at this link](#). We hope they will help you make your choice in the upcoming primary election.

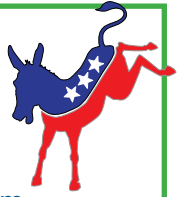
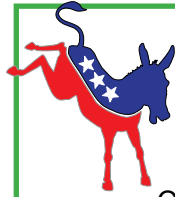
A technical problem on our side prevented us from getting the candidates' answers on our series of housing questions. Housing was discussed in the forum, and there will be many more chances to hear the candidates speak and take questions. We apologize to you and the candidates for our error. Please do not judge the candidates for the missing answers in that section. It is entirely our fault.



Here is a link to the section of the Club's You Tube channel that shows [videos of the candidate appearances](#) at our meetings and two candidate forums.



Santa Monica and Culver City Democratic clubs' [Sheriff Debate](#).
Progressive Caucus [Controller Debate](#).
Progressive Caucus [Insurance Commissioner Debate](#).



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Club website: www.culvercitydemocraticclub.com

Follow us on Twitter: @CulvCityDemClub

Instagram: CulverCityDemClub

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

May 9

June Primary Vote by Mail Ballots Mailed

May 9 • 7 PM

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

May 10 • 6 PM

[Culver City School Board meeting](#)



May 11 • 7 PM

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



May 14 • 10 AM

[Bans off our Bodies Rally](#)

LA City Hall

May 16, May 17, May 18 • 3 PM

[Special City Council budget meetings](#)

May 23

[Deadline to register to vote in June Primary Election](#)

[Verify your registration here](#)

[Sign up to track your Vote by Mail Ballot here](#)

May 23 • 7 PM

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

May 24 • 6 PM

[Culver City School Board meeting](#)

June 7

Last Day to Vote in June 7th Primary Election

June 26 • 9 AM - 1 PM

Culver City Pride Ride and Rally

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

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

“Why I voted to endorse . . .”

I support Eric Strong for Sheriff because I believe he is the kind of law enforcement officer who knows how to re-earn the trust of the community. He has successfully led investigations into incidents involving deputy gangs. He has been a crime victim himself and has a family member who has been incarcerated and been a victim of police violence.

—Cynthia Hart



Eric Strong

The LA County Sheriff’s Department is in a long-term crisis. Alex Villanueva ran in 2018 as a reformer, earned our endorsement, and became the first Democratic Sheriff in over 100 years. However, once in office, he made a hard right turn: ignoring mask mandates, defying the Board of Supervisors, harassing the unhoused (even in cities with their own police), abusing the press, and refusing to acknowledge the existence of violent gangs among his deputies. Most of Villanueva’s challengers visited our Club and, after spending that time with them, I am convinced Eric Strong is the best choice. Several of the others refused to admit deputy gangs exist or to call them “gangs.” Strong is the only candidate with a record of breaking up these groups and disciplining their members. He’s also the only candidate who supports giving the Board of Supervisors the power to fire the Sheriff.

—Jeff Schwartz



Marc Levine

I voted to endorse Marc Levine for Insurance Commissioner because I was impressed with his story about hearing from his Assembly District constituents about their insurance issues in the wake of the terrible fires. I know people who were similarly impacted, and are still dealing with insurance problems. He has a plan and his Couragescore indicates follow-through (B last session, now A+). His opponent is embroiled in issues around accepting campaign money from lobbyists and blocking efforts to access records.

—Michelle Weiner



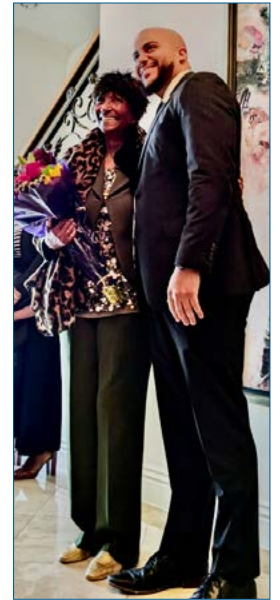
Michelle Reed, Shannon Theus, Sydney Kamlager, Diane Rosenberg and Lola Smallwood-Cuevas



Diane Rosenberg, Karen Bass and Shannon Theus



Freddie Puza, Michelle Weiner, Cynthia Hart, Jeff Schwartz, Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, Leah Pressman, Pete Rockwell, Haifaa al Moammar, Nancy Barba, and her daughter Milo Gottlieb



Jackie Hawthorne and Isaac Bryan



Jeanna Harris, Shannon Theus, Freddie Puza, and Michelle Reed

Candidates endorsed by the Culver City Democratic Club after the April 13 meeting

Five candidates running for various offices in the Los Angeles area appeared at the Club's regular meeting on April 13. We had a chance to ask them questions and then held a special endorsement vote on ElectionBuddy.com after the meeting ended. All five candidates have been endorsed by the Club. Only one of these candidates, judge candidate Patrick Hare, will appear on the Culver City Ballot. None of them will appear on the endorsement card that most Culver City voters will be receiving around May 9, because at the time of the vote the endorsement card had already been sent to the printer.

[Karen Bass](#)

Mayor of Los Angeles



[Fatima Iqbal-Zubair](#)

State Assembly 65th District



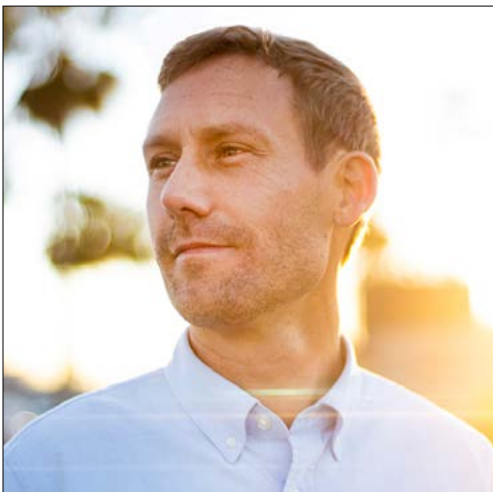
[Tina Simone McKinnor](#)

State Assembly 61st District



[Erin Darling](#)

LA City Council District 11



[Patrick Hare](#)

Judge of the Superior Court #151



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



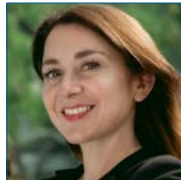
LA County Assessor

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



For questions &
more information,
scan here:



compost AND SEED GIVEAWAY

Material provided by Culver City Public Works

Afternoon event: Saturday May 7th from
2-4pm

Or pick up compost anytime from May
3rd-8th in the Middle School parking lot

Free USDA Certified
Organic compost and
seed drive-through

Bring your own bags,
containers & shovels



Culver City Middle
School Parking Lot:
4601 Elenda St.

