

Active Democrat



www.CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

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

Post Office Box 4254 • 6695 Green Valley Circle Culver City, CA 90230

General Meeting on Zoom — 7p.m. Wednesday, June 8 2022

Program: Abortion Rights — with John Erickson, Director of Public Affairs for Planned Parenthood LA and West Hollywood City Council Member

President's Message by Jeff Schwartz

Accept No Substitutes

Fellow Democrats,
If you are reading this newsletter, there is a strong chance that you follow Culver City politics in some detail. If so, you may have noticed a proliferation of organizations with similar names. In each case, a right-wing group has appropriated the name of a liberal one. When members of the Club formed [Protect Culver City Renters](#) to campaign for rent control and renter protections, alt-right provocateur [Ron Bassilian](#) launched "Protect Culver City," [funded by landlords and other housing profiteers](#). A perennial candidate (and member of this Club) has been operating under the name "Culver City Kennedy Democrats;" whose activities have thus far consisted of handing out anti-Biden flyers at the 2021 Fiesta la Ballona and holding a yard sale. One of the funders of the failed petition to recall former Mayor Alex Fisch and current Mayor Daniel Lee distributed a flier a few weeks ago attempting to rally support for CC Police having license to acquire and use military equipment without constraint. He used the name "Culver City Coalition," hijacking the brand of the long-established [Culver City Community Coalition](#).

Why do these men steal our names? I have four theories. All can be true at once, and additional explanations are possible.

First, trolling. It is difficult to overestimate the joy conservatives get in "[owning the libs](#)." Amanda Marcotte has written [a book](#) and [an ongoing series of columns](#) on this phenomenon. Calling our party the "Democrat" party or Mayor Lee

"Dan" instead of "Daniel" is an expression of dominance, no matter how trivial or juvenile. Being annoying is a kind of power over others.

Second, draining words of their meaning through indiscriminate use. If a man passing out "[Let's Go Brandon](#)" flyers is a Democrat, then being a Democrat covers almost the entire spectrum of American politics. If a word can describe anything it means nothing. If [the police have "progressive" in their mission statement](#), it is harder to use "progressive" to signify the left. Taking the names of our organizations similarly saps their power.

Confusion is the third desired product of this appropriation. Members of both Protect Culver City Renters and Protect Culver City have mistakenly identified themselves with the opposite group on the record, and the CC Observer has repeatedly switched the names. One can easily imagine the effect on less attentive community members. Google will mix up both in search results. This makes it possible for Protect CC to get an unearned glow from the work of PCCR or for a progressive group like PCCR to be tainted by the nasty rhetoric of their soundalike. The petty and ugly work of the soundalikes can create the illusion that "both sides do it." Was that the Culver City Community Coalition or the Culver City Coalition who left that weird flier on your door? Annoyance and confusion can create cynicism, which serves the status quo. The more people who check out of politics because it seems ugly, petty, or confusing, the better conservatives will do. The party that wants

to lower people's expectations of politics and government benefits when people disengage.

Finally, Culver City conservatives take our names to hide who they really are. They demand the right to call themselves "Democrats" and "progressives" because they cannot win as Republicans and reactionaries, although that accurately describes their platforms and records. I encourage you to read the [platform](#) of the California Democratic Party. It is a clear statement of our goals and values. We are here to advance them through elections, legislation, communication, and direct action. It is commonplace to denounce divisiveness, but when that ballot comes, you can't check every box. As the song says: [which side are you on?](#) If you are here to help promote the platform of the California Democratic Party and candidates who support it, I look forward to working with you.

Save the Date!

Saturday, July 23—Morning
The Democratic Club will hold a very special fundraiser at the Wende Museum featuring a national political superstar and refreshments from one of Culver City's favorite restaurants. Details and tickets available soon!



ENDORSEMENTS

US Senate (for the two contests)	Alex Padilla
U.S. House of Representatives – 37th District	No candidate received the 60% of votes required for endorsement
CA Governor	Gavin Newsom
CA Lt. Governor	Eleni Kounalakis
CA Attorney General	Rob Bonta
CA Secretary of State	Dr. Shirley Weber
State Treasurer	Fiona Ma
CA State Controller	No candidate received the 60% of votes required for endorsement
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
LA Superior Court Judge Seat 151	Patrick Hare



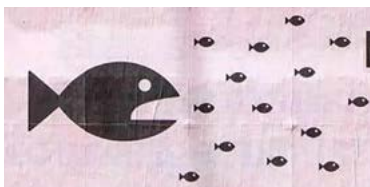
Lucy Scardino at the Culver City rally to preserve Roe v. Wade. Her sign says: "I can't believe I am still protesting this S__T!"

JOIN THE CLUB OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

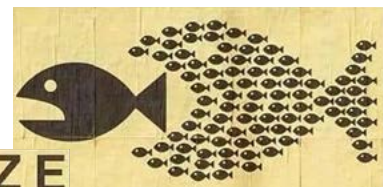


For information on becoming a member of the Culver City Democratic Club call Diane Rosenberg at (310) 398-5328 *OR*

[Click here to join the Club or renew your membership online](#)



DO NOT PANIC



ORGANIZE

Di's Corner:

by *Diane Rosenberg*

Update on Club member Charlotte Gunter. She is still hanging in there. Always with a positive attitude. Three weeks ago she had a small accident in her house and injured her right foot. Other than that she is fine.

On Saturday, April 30, Congresswoman Karen Bass opened her Campaign office for Mayor of Los Angeles at La Brea and Obama Blvds. Darryl and Amy Cherness and myself attended. Among the dignitaries who were there were the Honorable Diane E. Watson, Assemblyperson Isaac Bryan, Congresswoman Judy Chu, and, from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Holly Mitchell.

Table of Contents

[CCDC Endorsements](#) [page 2](#)

[Social Security](#)
[A Sacred Trust](#) [page 4](#)

[Culver City](#)
[Pride Ride June 26](#) [page 5](#)

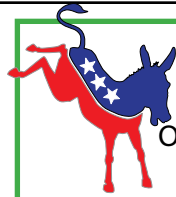
[Don't Tax the Sun!](#) [page 6](#)

[What Flag Day](#)
[Means to Me](#) [page 6](#)

[Endorsed](#)
[Candidates](#) [page 7](#)

[More](#)
[Endorsed Candidates](#) [page 8](#)

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



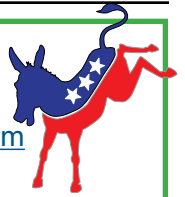
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Club website: www.culvercitydemocraticclub.com

Follow us on Twitter: @CulvCityDemClub

Instagram: CulverCityDemClub

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



June 2 • 10:30 AM

[Don't Tax the Sun Rally](#)

In support of rooftop solar
Grand Park – Downtown Los Angeles

June 6 • 7 PM

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

June 7

Last Day to Vote in June 7th Primary Election
Sign up to [track your Vote-by-Mail Ballot here](#)

June 9

Public Hearings of the House January 6 Committee

June 13 • 7 PM

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

June 14

Flag Day

June 18

[Mass Poor People's and Low Wage Worker's Assembly and Moral March on Washington and to the Polls](#)

June 19

Juneteenth



June 26 • 9AM - 1 PM

[Culver City Pride Ride and Rally](#)

June 27 • 7 PM

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

June 28

Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion

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

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

Join the Grassroots Democrats HQ for GOTV Opportunities
Phone banks and Canvasses. You can [RSVP for all opportunities](#)

A Resolution to support Social Security — a Sacred Trust

At our June 8, 2022 meeting, Club members will be asked to consider a resolution in support of HR5723 and its Senate version, S3071, along with a supporting resolution in the California Legislature, SJR-11.

Under new CDP rules, the State Party's Legislation Committee will no longer consider bills for endorsement if they are presented by individuals or Democratic Clubs. However, the CDP Senior Caucus can and will present HR5723 and SJR11 to the CDP Legislation Committee. The resolution below seeks to support the Senior Caucus in its efforts and to ask the County Committee to take action as well.

PROPOSED Resolution of the Culver City Democratic Club In Support of HR5723 and SJR-11

WHEREAS SJR-11 (Skinner), introduced on February 18, 2022, calls upon California's Congressional delegation to call for a vote, and vote in favor of HR5723 The Social Security 2100 Act: A Sacred Trust (Larson), introduced on October 26, 2021, to protect, improve, and expand the social security system for current and future generations by strengthening benefits, the trust fund, and service delivery;

WHEREAS over six million Californians receive social security benefits, the growing California senior population will reach record levels at more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the state population by 2035, and the social security trust fund will be depleted by 2034 requiring approximately twenty percent (20%) reductions in benefits in 2035 and further reductions in years that follow; and

WHEREAS HR5723 would protect our Social Security system and improve benefits for current and future generations. It would increase benefits across the board and improve the COLA, minimum benefits, and benefits for widows and widowers. This bill would restore the student benefit up to age 26 and increase access to benefits for children living with grandparents. The bill would also ensure millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share into Social Security,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Culver City Democratic Club calls on our state and federal legislators to support HR5723, S3071 (the Senate version of HR5723) and SJR-11.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Culver City Democratic Club supports the CDP Senior Caucus in its recommendation that the California Democratic Party support SJR-11 and HR5723 and requests that the Los Angeles County Democratic Party recommend that the California Democratic Party support HR5723 and S3071 and SJR-11.

Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust

Social Security was signed into law by a Democratic President in 1935 and for decades on end SSA has paid out every benefit owed so that families will be able to live in dignity at retirement or disability or upon a wage earner's premature death. Now it is clear that we need to extend the system's solvency, strengthen benefits, and improve SSA's customer service. [HR5723](#) and its Senate twin S3071 aim to do all of that.

Rep John Larson (D-CT), who introduced HR5723, says "Social Security isn't an entitlement, it's the insurance you've paid for. We need to enhance the program's benefits so that no one who has worked their whole life retires into poverty."

Highlights of the bill include:

Strengthened benefits

- Boosts benefits to all current and new beneficiaries
- Protects against inflation by using a more realistic "Senior COLA" to better reflect the basket of goods and services consumed by Seniors
- Protects low-income workers with a new minimum benefit
- Improves benefits to widows and widowers in two-income households so they are not penalized for having two incomes
- Repeals Ronald Reagan's Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset that greatly reduces social security benefits for teachers and other public servants
- Ends 5-month waiting period to receive disability benefits
- Provides caregiver credits toward social security wages
- Extends dependent benefits to students up to age 26
- Increases access to dependent benefits for children living with grandparents and other relatives

See SACRED TRUST on page 5

SACRED TRUST from page 4**Extended solvency**

- Adjusts the cap so that income over \$400,000 is subject to payroll tax

Improved customer service

- Prevents closure of SSA field offices
- Improves access to legal representation for those seeking disability benefits

- Requires mailing of annual SSA statements so that those with limited internet skills can get the information they need

The Senior Caucus of the California Democratic Party urges all who are currently receiving benefits from Social Security and all those who hope to receive them some day to call Speaker Pelosi's office at (202) 225-4965 and ask her to bring HR5723 for a vote. Our California legisla-

ture is considering a [joint resolution \(SJR-11\)](#) calling on the California Congressional delegation to give Speaker Pelosi a nudge in that direction. The phone number of State Senator Sydney Kamlager is 916 651 4030 and that of Assembly Member Isaac Bryan is 916 319 2054.

For more information, go to [the Youtube page of the CDP Senior Caucus](#) and fast forward to 14:35.

Culver City [Pride Ride & Rally](#)

Ride: Syd Kronenthal Park — 9 a.m.

Rally: Main Street — 11 a.m.

Culver City — Sunday, June 26



The Culver City Democratic Club is sponsoring the second ever official Pride celebration in Culver City's history. The Culver City Pride Ride and Rally will take place Sunday, June 26, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Last year, hundreds of cyclists and scooter users took to the streets for a 6-mile Pride Ride ending in a rally celebrating diversity and inclusion in downtown Culver City. [Check out photos of the event here.](#)

We're expecting an even bigger turnout this year.

[R.S.V.P. for the Pride Ride](#)

Tell CPUC “Don’t tax the Sun!”

Here they go again! The California Public Utilities Commission is STILL considering a plan to Tax the Sun and make rooftop solar unaffordable. The California Solar Alliance asks us to take action on June 2nd to Save California Solar:

- Call Governor Newsom at 916-445-2841
- [RSVP for the Don't Tax the Sun Rally June 2, 2022 at 10:30 AM in Grand Park, Downtown LA](#)
- Provide [public comment to the CPUC](#) June 2nd

For more information to go <https://solarrights.org/solartaxisback/>

What Flag Day means to me

by Cynthia Hart

June 14 is Flag Day. I re-negotiated my relationship with the American Flag on June 8, 1977. It was a particularly dark night for the brothers and sisters of the LGBTQ community. (The “lavender menace”, as we styled ourselves back in the day.) It was just about three weeks before the Christopher Street West parade that year and about one week before Flag Day.

Before that date, it had seemed that our community was just beginning to make a bit of progress in our struggle to be out and free. Wonder of wonders! Dade County Florida had passed an anti-discrimination ordinance. But this ordinance triggered the very mother of all backlashes starring Anita FREAKIN’ Bryant the “Florida Orange Juice Girl” herself on an anti-gay crusade called “Save our Children” with Christian Americans waving the Stars and Stripes and sporting “Kill a Queer for Christ” bumper stickers. And soon this movement bore “fruit” (pardon the expression) on June 7th, when the anti-discrimination ordinance was repealed by a margin of 69 to 31 percent.

The flag wavers and bumper sticker bearers promised that their movement

would go national. This could not go unanswered. The next night, the gays and lesbians marched on Hollywood.

I don’t know if I was more frightened or more angry. Everyone knew back then that the LAPD and the County Sheriffs had it in for us. Especially women knew the vital importance of parking a considerable distance from any gay/lesbian events because it was well known that the LAPD would take down license plates numbers and use the information to hassle us. I was terrified of getting arrested, but the volunteer march monitors said that we would be fine as long as we kept moving, stayed on the sidewalk, obeyed traffic lights, and didn’t block traffic.

I went by myself. But kind women marching under the “Women of Color” banner noticed me alone and invited me to join them. “White is a color too,” they said.

And so the solemn procession wound its way through the streets of Hollywood. As far as I know, the LAPD made no arrests that night. Why should there be arrests? As Holly Near said of us. “We are a gentle, angry people.”

The march ended at a park for a rally where a local VIP, who was an ally of our

community, would speak to us. When she appeared, she was wearing (of all things!) a dress with an American flag design. She looked for all the world like Anita herself! A gasp went up through the crowd and murmurs of “What is she trying to prove?” But the lady in the flag said, “No. This flag does NOT belong to Anita Bryant. This is YOUR flag.”

And in that moment, I felt that the most revolutionary act available to me would be to RECLAIM MY FLAG. Yes! My flag. The haters cannot take it from me unless I cede it to them.

That moment is seared in my heart. And today when I go to the Hollywood Bowl, and the LA Phil plays the anthem, I stand up and sing as loud as I can. My flag is still there.

I know this country is imperfect. But I believe it is perfectible. And I see progress. LGBTQ Americans no longer have to spend our lives in a closet on our hands and knees begging to be allowed to live. For now, same sex marriage is the law of the land.

More progress in all areas of social justice work is both possible and necessary. Let us all raise the flag, and make it so.

Our flag.

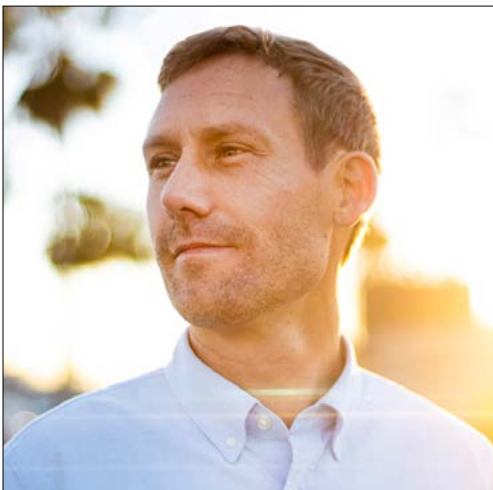
Candidates endorsed by the Culver City Democratic Club after the April 13 meeting

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.

[Fatima Iqbal-Zubair](#)
State Assembly 65th District



[Erin Darling](#)
LA City Council District 11



[Karen Bass](#)
Mayor of Los Angeles



[Tina Simone McKinnor](#)
State Assembly 61st District



[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



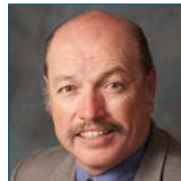
State Senate SD28
Lola Smallwood-Cuevas



State Assembly AD55
Isaac Bryan



State Board of Equalization Dist. 13
Tony Vazquez



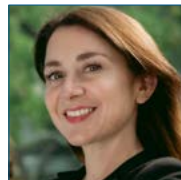
LA County Sheriff
Eric Strong



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

