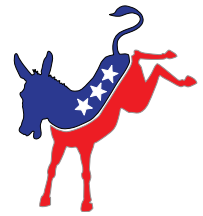


Active Democrat



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, July 13, 2022

Program: City Council endorsement discussion plus other business

President's Message by Jeff Schwartz

March For Our Lives

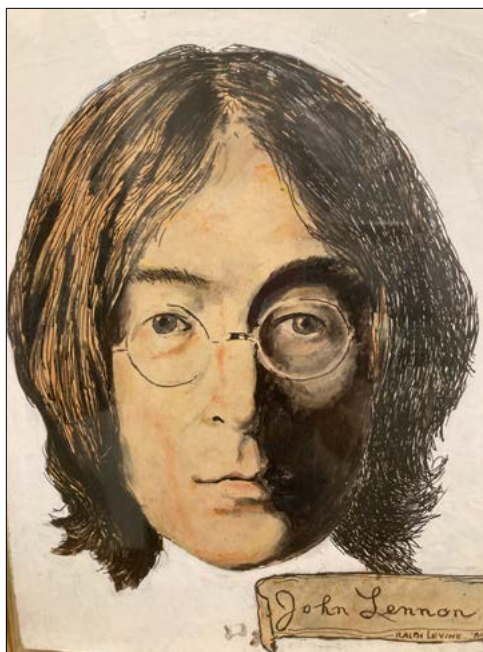
Fellow Democrats,

I am writing this on June 11, having just returned from the large and moving local Gun-Free School Zones/March for Our Lives event.

I feel tremendous gratitude to those who worked on this event, especially Megan Oddsen-Goodwin and Triston Ezidore, who were the principal organizers, and speakers including Mayor Daniel Lee, City Council Member Yasmine-Imani McMorrin, Freddy Puza, and Bubba Fish. I am very proud that these people are all members of our Club.

One of the many powerful speeches was from Sami Shanman. She described attending the first March for Our Lives after the Parkland killings, when she was a Culver High student, and how frustrating it is to march for the same things four years later, while she is home from college. She has learned and grown; the country has not.

Sami inspired me to reflect back further, to my own first awareness of our national gun crisis. I was starting middle school and just beginning to discover the depth of the Beatles' music when John Lennon was killed in December 1980. In March 1981, an assassin's bullets wounded President Ronald Reagan and paralyzed his Press Secretary, James Brady. These attacks, both committed with handguns, inspired a bipartisan movement for gun control which produced the Brady Bill, passed in 1993, which mandated background checks and a five-day waiting period for almost all gun purchases, and the 1994 Federal ban on assault weapons. [Data showed these laws to be so effective](#)



that Republicans voted to ban the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from continuing to study gun violence](#).

So what happened? How did we get from serious limitations on handguns to accepting people carrying semi-automatic rifles in Vons? First, the assault weapons ban included a "sunset provision," so it only lasted ten years. Multiple attempts to reinstate it or make it permanent have been stymied by Republican legislators.

Second, the Supreme Court's 2008 ruling in *District of Columbia v. Heller* established, for the first time in the nation's history, that the Second Amendment includes an individual right to own guns.

The Second Amendment is a very poor bit of writing. Its ambiguity has cost thousands of lives. The complete text is: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary

to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." While there is a lot to say about the historic role of militias (see Carol Anderson's recent book [The Second: Race and Guns in a Fatally Unequal America](#)), the commas after "militia" and "arms" make this sentence undecipherable. Without them, the Amendment would clearly say that a militia is necessary and that people need guns to serve in it. With them, who knows?

The majority ruling in *Heller* resolved this by uniting the last two clauses against the first two, as if the text only said "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." Whatever the legal or grammatical foundation of this argument, it took over 200 years for the Supreme Court to put it in a majority opinion. When the Court did, it was in one authored by Antonin Scalia and signed by Alito, Kennedy, Roberts, and Thomas.

Of these five men, Kennedy and Scalia were appointed by Reagan, Thomas by Bush the Elder, and Alito and Roberts by Bush the Younger. Of the four dissenters, Stevens was appointed by Gerald Ford, Souter by Bush the Elder, and Ginsberg and Breyer by Bill Clinton.

While *Heller* was not a party-line decision, it shows the transformation of the Supreme Court to an instrument of partisan minority rule. The more recent the Republican appointee, the more extreme. A sign at today's rally called for "Safety, Not Politics," but safety is political. We cannot have safety without

See MESSAGE on page 2

MESSAGE from page 1

defeating the politicians who enact and defend policies which make us less safe. The California Democratic Party's platform on Gun Violence Prevention appears on this page of the newsletter, so it can be absolutely clear what we are here to do.

Again, I am very proud of all the members of this Club who organized, spoke at, rode as bike escorts, and just attended today's march and rally. I note also that Culver City City Council candidates Freddy Puza and Alex Fisch, Culver City School Board candidates Triston Ezidore, Stephanie Loreda and Darrel Menthe, and a representative of the Karen Bass for Los Angeles Mayor campaign were present. As we consider our endorsements and cast our votes between now and November, let's keep an eye on who shows up to stand up. Sometimes actions do speak louder than words.

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

Gun violence prevention plank of the platform of the California Democratic Party

California Democrats recognize the increasing impact of gun violence on the lives of all Americans, particularly in communities of color. California leads the nation with some of the most stringent gun laws, reducing our state's firearm mortality by fifty-five percent since 1993. Still, more than 3,184 Californians died as the result of gun violence in a single year. To advance the cause of ending gun violence, California Democrats will:

- Support a federal ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines;
- Support federal expansion of universal criminal background checks to include every gun, ammunition, and "ghost gun" component sale;
- Support legislation that would prohibit those with a history of violence, domestic abuse, or mental health concerns from purchasing or owning a weapon of any kind;
- Require educational programs on safe use and storage of firearms and ammunition before any purchase approval;
- Require all gun owners to pay an annual registration fee and carry liability insurance for each gun owned;
- Promote policies that would restrict access to firearms by children, suicidal persons, and those in emotional crisis;
- Support legislation that would hold gun owners liable for any crimes committed with their firearms for failure to follow safe storage practice;
- Provide necessary resources and funding to implement training and enforcement of California's existing gun laws, including the Armed Prohibited Persons System Program and the Gun Violence Restraining Order (GVRO), and means to trace all guns and to investigate all denied firearm purchasers;
- Support the expansion of petitioners of GVROs to include co-workers, teachers, principals, employers, and mental health workers;
- Support efforts to protect California's gun laws from court challenges;
- Support the repeal of the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, which protects firearms manufacturers and dealers from liability when crimes have been committed with their products;
- Create tracking software that would trace weapons used in crimes back to the dealer who sold them;
- Oppose any school administration with plans to arm teachers;
- Work to ensure that California schools have adequate counseling resources to address bullying, domestic violence, suicide awareness, and trauma;
- Advocate for adequate funding for community-based organizations dedicated to stopping the cycle of violence;
- Support public outreach and law enforcement training for new and existing law enforcement professionals on the implementation of California's Gun Violence Restraining Order (GVRO);
- Support laws and policies that serve to aid in the investigation and prosecution of radicalized domestic terrorists and hate groups;
- Encourage candidates running for office in local, statewide, and federal elections to advocate for common-sense gun laws and to support research, community investment, and public education focused on reducing gun violence;
- Discourage candidates from accepting campaign contributions from the National Rifle Association (NRA) or other gun-rights organizations;
- Urge Congress to take action by passing common-sense gun safety legislation;
- Support the creation, distribution and training of smart gun technology for members of Law Enforcement; and,
- Support stiffer penalties for those dealers who participate in illegal sales including straw purchases.

From the [California Democratic Party Platform](#)

A program from the  Culver City DEMOCRATIC CLUB

CITY COUNCIL FORUM

June 29, 2022 7:00-8:30PM



At 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 29, we will hold an online forum for Culver City Council candidates. It will run 90 minutes and be hosted by journalist and filmmaker Maximina Juson.

[Register to attend](#),

A recording will be available on [our YouTube channel](#) and candidate questionnaires will be published on [our website](#).

All candidates who are registered Democrats are invited to participate in this forum. [Alex](#)

[Fisch](#), [Khin Khin Gyi](#), [Freddy Puza](#), and [Denice Renteria](#) have confirmed.

We look forward to seeing you there, and stay tuned for more exciting programs as we work towards November.

New shirts are coming!

We are now accepting pre-orders for Club t-shirts in a new design, refreshed for our 70th anniversary.

Shirts are 100% cotton, union made in Boyle Heights.

They come in small, medium, large, and extra-large and, for the first time, we have Men's (boxy) and Women's (fitted) cuts.

Place your order by donating \$20 (or more!) via [Act Blue](#) and emailing us at CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com your desired size and cut. We will deliver in Culver City and nearby; other orders will be mailed.

We also have a few shirts remaining with the previous design (now known as "heritage" or "throwback") shown in the



photo above. Let us know if you'd like one of those. Same price. Available in Men's small, large, and extra large, while supplies last.



This resolution will be voted on at the July 13 general meeting

Proposed Resolution to Make Election Day a Holiday

Whereas voting by citizens in the election of public officials is both a legal right and a moral duty;

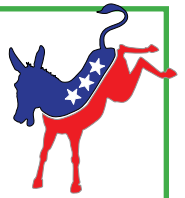
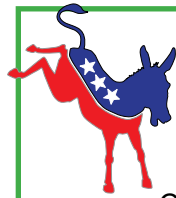
Whereas many citizens fail to vote because of perceived inconvenience or financial hardship or the belief that their vote is not effective; and

Whereas making Election Day a holiday will encourage citizens to vote without mandating that they do so; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Culver City Democratic Club (CCDC)

1. ask our federal legislative officers to enact legislation to make federal election day a **national** holiday; and
2. that the CCDC ask our state legislative officers to enact legislation to make state election day a **California** holiday.

Submitted by Club member Joel Peck



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Club website: www.culvercitydemocraticclub.com
Follow us on Twitter: @CulvCityDemClub
Instagram: CulverCityDemClub
and Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CulverCityDems>

June 28

Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion

June 29 • 7 PM

City Council Candidate Forum on Zoom
[Register here](#)

July 11 • 7 PM

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

July 13 • 7 PM

CCDC General Meeting via Zoom

July 23

CCDC Fundraising Event

Friday, August 26 • 4:30 PM through Sunday, August 28 • 6 PM

Fiesta La Ballona
Volunteers needed to staff our Club Booth

Join the [Grassroots Democrats HQ](#) for **GOTV Opportunities** - Phone banks and Canvasses. You can RSVP for all opportunities by clicking on the [HQ LinkTree](#). Events are updated daily as new events are confirmed.

For Volunteer Opportunities to help keep Congress Blue, go to:
<https://www.mobilize.us/cadems/>





This is from AOC's Instagram, answering the question: "Are we screwed?"

My honest view is that things are likely going to get harder before they get better, and we will need to stick together.

What is important in moments like these is to not think in binaries. Good/bad, screwed/not screwed. There is no doubt that things are bad. Some things, really bad. And they may likely get worse. But that does not preclude the fact that slowly but surely, some good can be growing as others things fall apart. This is not some syrupy sweet silver lining case for optimism. Rather, it is really about a choice all of us will have to make in life, either consciously or unconsciously: will I be a person who is safe and creates good for others? Will I be a person who stands up? Will I be a person who primarily minds my business and serves myself or try to be part of something bigger? Or will I just be a passive, "neutral" observer of it all?

Ultimately, we live in this world and in this time. We have no choice but to engage in it while we're here. Even running away is a form of engagement. So will your engagement hurt or heal? Build or bring down? There is no neutral choice, so we can at least do our best to make good ones and learn and do better the next day.

You are allowed to be scared. To grieve. To be angry. But you are also allowed to create good, to be soft, and enjoy the small reprieves. Struggle lasts as long as we do. —*Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez*

"The Supreme Court is not the court of last resort; the people are!"

—*Eugene V. Debs*

WE WON'T GO BACK.

PlannedParenthood.org



Roe is history— 5 things we can do about it now

by *Cynthia Hart and Triston Ezidore*

"But we have choices, and capitulation is only one of them."

—June Jordan *Some of us did NOT die*

Mad as hell about the SCOTUS ruling? At the Club's last meeting before the June 24 ruling John Erickson of the LACDP Legislative Committee gave us a list of 5 things we can do to use that fury as fuel.

Thing 1: Support legislation recommended by the [California Future of Abortion Council](#).

SCA10—Amends State Constitution to protect reproductive freedom. Status: Must pass Senate and Assembly by 2/3 before June 30 to appear on the November ballot;

AB2223—Prevents prosecution of people who have suffered miscarriage or stillbirth. Status: Active bill in Senate Health Committee;

AB2091—Protects medical privacy from out-of-state subpoenas. Status: Active bill in Senate Health Committee. It's being considered as an "urgency" measure and so will require 2/3 vote;

AB2134—Provides gap coverage for Californians who lack abortion and contraception benefits Status: In Senate Judiciary Committee;

SB1142—Establishes a web page for centralized information on abortion care services and support Status: In Senate Judiciary Committee.

Thing 2: Focus our endorsement questions. For every candidate at every level for every office *nail down* that candidate's commitment to reproductive rights. If candidates come to us seeking endorsement for the office of county dog catcher let's get specific commitments as to what actions they will take to protect reproductive rights—only then ask "So, do

you know anything about dogs?" Seem extreme? That kind of focus is how a determined minority got rid of Roe.

Thing 3: [Donate to Planned Parenthood](#) and other organizations on the front lines of the war on pregnant people. You can contribute to the hard-hitting [POLITICAL action of the Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California \(PPAC\)](#). Follow PPAC on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PPAPLAC.

Thing 4: Check the record. Withhold your vote, your volunteer efforts, and your money from any candidate that does not score 100% on reproductive rights. The PPAC website has a handy [California Legislative Scorecard](#).

Thing 5: Share your story. [Maggie Meinschein shared her moving story](#) in the May newsletter. It has been estimated that one in four American women will have an abortion sometime between menarche and menopause. Abortion is normal. Recently, the very, very Catholic Republic of Ireland repealed its anti-abortion law through a referendum because people told their stories.

I encourage you to support these local organizations that work every day to protect women and girls here in Culver City and across Los Angeles:

Sandy Segal Youth Health Center is located between Culver City Middle and High School at 4401 Elenda Street, Culver City, CA 90230. For medical services: (310) 392-8636. For mental health services: (310) 664-7788.

Planned Parenthood—Basics: Baldwin Hills/Crenshaw Health Center, 3637 S. La Brea Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90016. (800) 576-5544.

We won't go back.

Di's Corner:

by Diane Rosenberg

Update on Club member Charlotte Gunter: She is still hanging in there. The injury that she had done to her right foot is slowly healing. Her attitude is remarkable. She still misses everybody and looks forward to when we all can get together and see one another in person.

Culver City resident and past Culver City Democratic Club President Darryl Cherness was re-appointed to the Advisory Committee on Housing and Homelessness on Monday night, June 13, at the Culver City City Council.

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.]*



The photo above is from the Fiesta La Ballona in August of 2019. Left to right are Club members Pete Rockwell, Karim Sahli, Cynthia Hart, Supervisor Holly Mitchell, and Carlene Brown.

Volunteer to help staff the Club's booth at the Fiesta La Ballona August 26 thru 28

If you would like to help out for a couple of hours at the Culver City Democratic Club's booth this may be your chance. The Fiesta La Ballona will take place August 26, 27 and 28. You can sit down in the shade, see old friends, make new ones, and talk directly to your elected officials and candidates when they drop by.

To get on the list of Club members who staff the booth please call Ronnie Jayne Solomon at (310) 710-7727, or [send her an email at ronniejayn@aol.com](mailto:ronniejayn@aol.com). She will get back to you.

The **2-hour shifts** are during the following hours:

**Friday, August 26
between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.**

**Saturday, August 27
between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m.**

**Sunday, August 28
between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.**

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!



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](#)