

Culver City Democratic Club

Active Democrat



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General Meeting on Zoom — 7p.m. Wednesday, September 14, 2022
Program: Endorse ballot propositions—as well as candidates for Sheriff, Congress and other offices

President's Message by Jeff Schwartz

The new Know-Nothings

Fellow Democrats,

Earlier this year I hung a portrait of Millard Fillmore on the wall behind me during several of our meetings. Initially my motives were light: to knock-off Seth Myers' [recurring absurdist gag](#) based on a painting of a Sea Captain, and to see who would recognize our thirteenth President. Club Treasurer Eric Fine won that prize. However, Fillmore soon took on greater significance.

Why do I even have a portrait of Millard Fillmore? One of Leah's friends made it for her before we met, because her father celebrates Fillmore's birthday (January 7) as a holiday honoring mediocrity. This is one of the (fortunately few) things on which I disagree with my father-in-law. I do not consider Fillmore a mediocre President, but a truly bad one. *US News and World Report*, for example, puts him at number seven on [their ten worst list](#). I question any Worst Presidents list which does not include Ronald Reagan, but we can continue this party game at an actual party rather than in a Party publication. Wikipedia has [a useful table](#) compiling various Best and Worst President rankings. However, as I contemplate Fillmore's legacy for this essay, I am becoming more sympathetic to my father-in-law's position; the ranks of the worst are so crowded that they may push Fillmore into the middle of the pack.

Fillmore was elected Vice President in 1848 and became President in 1850 when President Zachary Taylor died of digestive problems, likely caused by a snack of milk and cherries at a July 4 event. [Theories that Taylor was poisoned led to his exhumation in 1990, but they were not confirmed.](#)



While not a slave-owner like Taylor, Fillmore thoroughly bungled the issues of abolition and secession which would lead to the Civil War. He supported the heinous Fugitive Slave Act, among other compromises, attempting to preserve the Union at the cost of perpetuating slavery. The Whig Party did not nominate Fillmore in 1852, even though he was the incumbent. The Whig coalition was principally based around strong Federal control of the economy, including a national bank and high tariffs, and included both slave-owners and abolitionists, neither of whom were satisfied by Fillmore's half-measures.

General Winfield Scott defeated Fillmore for the 1852 Whig nomination on the 53rd convention ballot, but with he and Democrat Franklin Pierce running on similar centrist platforms and the abolitionist Free Soil Party pulling almost five percent of the popular vote, the relatively more charismatic Pierce prevailed. Fillmore ran in 1856 as the candidate of the newly formed American Party, but finished far behind Republican John C. Fremont and victorious Democrat James Buchanan, carrying only Maryland. The Whig Party had disintegrated, largely

because of Fillmore.

This has contemporary resonance for me. Both current major parties are based on unstable alliances, whether the Republican alignment of the financial elite, extractive industries, fundamentalist Christians, etc, or the Democratic coalition of union workers, ethnic and sexual minority groups, the [professional-managerial class](#), et al. [Rick Perlstein's books](#), which I cannot recommend highly enough, chronicle the post-WWII transformation of the Republican Party from a Northern patrician base to whatever labels you find appropriate for the Trump cult. There is nothing quite as definitive for our party, although Richard Ben Cramer's classic [What it Takes](#), on the 1988 primaries, is a fascinating journalistic account of the ascendancy of neoliberalism on the presidential level. Thomas Frank has a more splenetic version in [Listen Liberal](#), and I am looking forward to digging into Lily Geismer's [Don't Blame Us: Suburban Liberals and the Transformation of the Democratic Party](#) and [Left Behind: The Democrats' Failed Attempt to Solve Inequality](#), which tell broader versions of the story using a more formal historical approach.

The Republican coalition is disturbingly robust. Whether Liz Cheney or Ron DeSantis is its next spokesperson, any current crises will be forgotten as swiftly as Ted Cruz forgave Trump for insulting [his wife](#) and [father](#) and Mike Pence laughed off [Trump supporting his lynching](#), so that the destruction of democracy, upward redistribution of wealth, and looting of the planet can advance. I am

See MESSAGE on page 2

from MESSAGE on page 1

no longer waiting for conflicts between Libertarians and theocrats to destroy the Republican Party, because I now understand that it is held together by deeper beliefs, such as patriarchy, white supremacy, and [the desire to “own the libs.”](#) It is our Party that faces a crisis like the one which destroyed the Whigs, between a Party establishment that, like Fillmore, believes the most urgent issues of our time can be resolved through compromise, and an activist base that does not. Like the Whigs, our “big tent” includes incompatible forces, and hard choices are at hand.

Finally, when Fillmore made his failed third-party bid in 1856, he ran on the ticket of the American Party, but history remembers them better as the “Know-Nothings.” This is not because they were stupid, although they did make

some poor choices. One of these was allying themselves with the anti-immigrant and anti-Catholic sentiment of the time. Members of the American Party, when asked about this aspect of their group, consistently denied it. Like Sgt. Schultz on *Hogan’s Heroes* (filmed in Culver City on the 40 Acres backlot, which is now the Hayden Tract), they “knew nothing,” hence the name.

This also is relevant today: we’ve seen candidates at all levels play dumb when challenged about their associations with fascist movements. The word “fascist” has been overused, so I want to be clear that I am not being metaphorical, as in “my dad is a fascist because he won’t let me get a nose ring.” The [head of the Pro-TECT Culver City PAC](#), a failed Republican candidate for Congress, proudly took selfies with Marion Le Pen, of the French National Front and *Reconquête* parties, and Michael Flynn, who went from the

Trump administration to QAnon. These are literal fascist movements. However, after the attempted coup on January 6, 2021, it should be uncontroversial to describe any Republican as a fascist. If you find yourself riding with these people, you can say you didn’t know, that you’re “listening to everyone,” that there are “some good ideas on all sides,” or that “even a broken clock is right twice a day,” but this is an extremely dangerous game.

On *Hogan’s Heroes*, Hogan and the other POWs run espionage and sabotage operations out of the Nazi camp where they are held. Sgt. Schultz pretends to know nothing about this because, unlike prisoners in other camps, Hogan’s men never attempt to escape, which impresses Schultz’ superiors, and because the French POW bribes him with gourmet food. Unfortunately, the new Know-Nothings are not lying to their bosses but to us and to themselves.

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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez on Biden forgiving student debt

I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again: Not every program has to be for everybody. People with apartments pay for first-time homeowner benefits. Young people pay for Medicare for our seniors. People who take public transit pay for car infrastructure.

Maybe student loan forgiveness doesn’t impact you. That doesn’t make it bad. I am sure there are certainly other things that student loan borrowers’ taxes pay for. We can do good things and reject the scarcity mindset that says doing something good for someone else comes at the cost

of something for ourselves.

An example: If a person is blessed enough to be in a position to have paid off their loans, maybe they have a home now and benefitted from first-time homeowners programs that people crushed by student loans help subsidize when they aren’t able to buy a home because of student debt. It all comes around. It’s okay. We can support things we won’t directly benefit from. —A.O.C

Also, [here’s New York Times opinion writer Jamelle Bouie’s take on the same issue.](#)

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

CCDC endorses 3 school board candidates

In a vote following its August 10 meeting, the Culver City Democratic Club endorsed Stephanie Loreda, Triston Ezidore, and Brian Guerrero for Culver City School Board. Three seats are open this November.



[Stephanie Loreda](#) is a Filipina-American progressive who organizes for local Culver City organizations and regional Los Angeles initiatives. She is a member of the 2021-2022 Culver City Unified School District (CCUSD) Local Control Accountability Plan Partner Advisory Committee, and is part of the CCUSD Inclusive Practices Administrative Regulations Committee and the CCUSD Equity Advisory Committee. An advocate for education, sustainability, diversity, equity and inclusion, Stephanie's vision is to build a culture of care that empowers students, faculty, staff, and families to thrive in public schools.

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[Triston Ezidore](#) is a graduate of Culver City High School, where he was a student leader focused on creating an inclusive campus environment for all students. In addition to being Senior Class Council President and Speaker of the Student Union, he participated in the Positive Behavior Intervention and Support Council, the Sexual Harassment Action Group, Restorative Practices Council, Black Student Union, CCUSD Equity Advisory Council, CCUSD Superintendent's Advisory Council, and Vote 16. As a youth employment case manager for the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, he's a proven leader on the issues that matter.

The right to vote and to have that vote counted is democracy's threshold liberty. Without it, nothing is possible, but with it, anything is possible.

—Joe Biden

[Click here to register to vote or check to see if you are registered](#)



[Brian Guerrero](#) is a parent, veteran educator, union leader, organizer, trainer and education policy analyst with the California Teachers Association. He has a unique set of skills and perspectives that he can use to drive policies resulting in positive outcomes for all students.

All Democrats running participated in a forum on August 8, which can be viewed on [the Club's YouTube page](#), and completed detailed questionnaires, which are [posted on the Club website](#).

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](#)

These candidates can solve LA's regional housing/homelessness crisis

[This is an excerpt from [an article by Randy Shaw](#), Director of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic in San Francisco and Editor of *BeyondChron*]

Culver City joins Cambridge and Berkeley in having the nation's most progressive and effective pro-housing, pro-tenant City Councils. Incumbent Alex Fisch is a visionary leader. He ranks with the nation's best local officials. Freddy Puza will maintain this pro-housing, pro-tenant council majority.

Not familiar with Culver City? Here's how it was [described](#) in 2019: "A leafy suburb steeped in moviemaking history and home to Sony Pictures. It's where Judy Garland famously walked the yellow brick road and Vivien Leigh watched Atlanta go up in flames. And more recently, this once dilapidated industrial area has become Los Angeles's pricey, competitive, and unlikely center of gravity for tech startups, gaming developers, and entertainment giants."

My father worked his entire career in Culver City. My high school held ice skating events there. But tech's arrival has imperiled Culver City's future as a home for working and middle-class residents. That's why it's vital that the city council advance this goal.

Culver City's current council majority (Yasmine-Imani McMorris is the third progressive) has aggressively pushed to maintain the city's economic and racial diversity. Groups like Culver City for More Homes and Onward Culver City are mobilizing residents to support an inclusionary agenda. But many longtime homeowners want Culver City to become a rich enclave. Fisch and Puza face well-funded opposition from homeowners who want to keep apartments, bike lanes and non-rich people out of their neighborhoods.

Here's how School Board member Dr. Kelly Kent sees it: "Alex Fisch has been a regional leader in building more housing of every kind. Legalizing ADUs, four-plexes, affordable housing, supportive housing, market rate housing and workforce housing has been his pri-

mary commitment for the entirety of his first term on Council. Freddy Puza has organized for tenant protections, renters' rights and increasing housing supply areas for years. He would formally join Alex in the fight to address the concurrent and mutually accelerating crises of homelessness and climate change."

Kelly is a big backer of building housing on school sites, something Fisch and Puza also support.

The Culver City Democratic Club has endorsed Fisch and Puza. (Disclosure: I have endorsed and donated to both candidates).
— *By Randy Shaw*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Club website: www.culvercitydemocraticclub.com

Follow us on Twitter: @CulvCityDemClub

Instagram: CulverCityDemClub

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

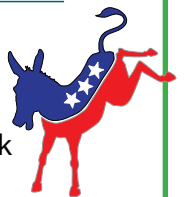


September 10 • 3 to 5 PM

Ballona Creek Renaissance

[Heidi Duckler Dance event](#)

Ebb & Flow Festival at Baldwin Hills scenic overlook
6300 Hetzler Road



September 12 • 7 PM

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

September 14 • 7 PM

CCDC General Meeting via Zoom

[To register for the meeting, CLICK HERE](#)

September 15 • 6 PM to 8 PM

[Culver City State of the City Community Conversation](#)

September 17 • 9 AM to 12 NOON

[Coastal Cleanup Day—Ballona Creek Cleanup](#)

September 19 • 7 PM

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

September 30

California State Legislature: [Last day for Governor to sign or veto](#) bills passed by the Legislature before Sept. 1

October 6 - 10

Mailing of vote-by-mail ballots

October 12 • 7 PM

CCDC General Meeting via Zoom

October 24

Last day to register to vote in November Election

[To register or verify registration click here](#)

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/>

Prop 1—Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment

What it does: A “yes” vote amends the California State Constitution to establish a right to “reproductive freedom” which includes the right to abortion and the right to choose or refuse contraceptives. It would do this by adding these words to our Constitution:

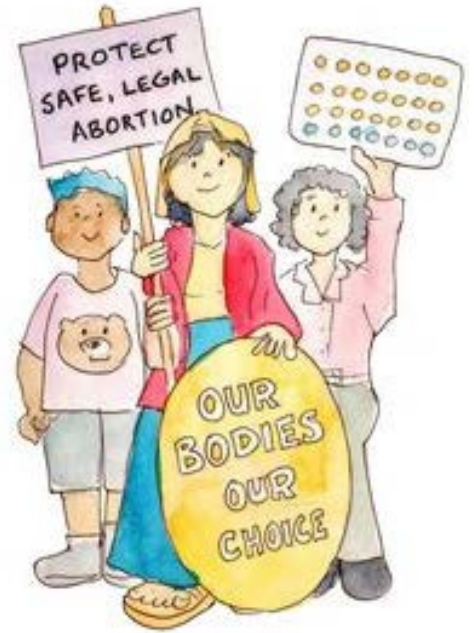
“SEC. 1.1. The state shall not deny or interfere with an individual’s reproductive freedom in their most intimate decisions, which includes their fundamental right to choose to have an abortion and their fundamental right to choose or refuse contraceptives. This section is intended to further the constitutional right to privacy guaranteed by Section 1, and the constitutional right to not be denied equal protection guaranteed by Section 7. Nothing herein narrows or limits the right to privacy or equal protection.”

What supporters say: A right to privacy has been included in the California State Constitution since it was put there by a popular vote in 1972. With the overturn of Roe, that language may not be sufficient to protect Californians if the Republicans make good their threat to impose a nationwide ban.

What opponents say: Abortion is against God’s law.

What the California Democratic Party says: Support.

What the State Legislative Analyst says: No direct fiscal effect because reproductive rights are already protected by state law.



Thanks to our friend Alfred Twu for letting us use his great drawings depicting the seven statewide propositions that will be on the ballot November 8.

The Supreme Court’s decision overturning Roe v. Wade might be a big political problem for Republicans

by Pete Rockwell

The political implications of the Supreme Court’s decision taking away a woman’s right to an abortion won’t be known until we see how the November midterm elections turn out, but there is some evidence the decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* (which struck down *Roe v. Wade*) could cause Republican candidates to lose elections they were expected to win.

OPINION

On August 2, [a referendum to remove from the Kansas state constitution a provision to guarantee women the right to abortion](#) was defeated by 59 percent to 41 percent. The Republican legislature put the issue on the ballot before the *Dobbs* decision was known.

The next bombshell came August 23 in upstate New York, when [Democrat Pat Ryan won a special election](#) to fill a va-

cant Congressional seat after making the right to an abortion the main focus of his campaign.

A recent story in the Washington Post tells of a South Carolina state representative [who is literally losing sleep](#) because of his vote in favor of [a law that outlaws abortion](#) after a fetal heartbeat is detected.

[The Brookings Institution did an analysis](#) of several special elections that seem to indicate the abortion issue is helping Democrats and hurting Republicans.

Jamelle Bouie has a column in the *New York Times* with the headline “[Democrats Might Get Exceptionally Lucky This Fall, and They Should Be Ready for That.](#)”

Bouie states, “In this future in which Democrats still control Congress, they will almost certainly owe their majority to the backlash against the Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* and the subse-

quent drive to criminalize abortion in Republican-led states.

“In a sense, Democrats would have no choice but to codify abortion rights into law, most likely using the framework developed in *Roe v. Wade*. There’s actually a bill that would do just that — [the Women’s Health Protection Act](#), which passed the House last year. A less expansive bill, [the Reproductive Freedom for All Act](#), is pending in the Senate.”

For nearly fifty years Republicans have been using abortion as an organizing issue and to fire up their base voters on election day. They sold Donald Trump to evangelical voters by telling them Trump would appoint anti-abortion judges. When Trump was elected he gave Republicans tax cuts for the rich and anti-abortion judges.

The Republican Party is looking more and more like the dog that caught the car. Now that the dog has caught the car, it’s starting to look like he may get run over.

Prop 26—Legalize Sports Betting on American Indian Lands Initiative

What it does: A “yes” vote supports this ballot initiative to (i) legalize sports betting at American Indian gaming casinos and licensed racetracks in California; (ii) tax profits derived from sports betting at racetracks at 10 percent; and (iii) legalize roulette and dice games, such as craps, at tribal casinos.

What it legalizes: Sports betting by those over 21 with the exception of bets on high school and California college teams. Also, roulette and dice games at tribal casinos.

Where it would be legal: In-person at American Indian gaming casinos and licensed racetracks.

Tax revenue: 10 percent of profits from sports betting at racetracks only (the tribal casinos would not pay this tax).

Allocation of revenue raised: 15 percent to address problem gambling and mental health; 15 percent to the Bureau of Gambling Control; 70 percent to the General Fund, which will trigger increased funding for the schools.

Major donors in support: [Five tribal groups](#).

Surprisingly: Prop 26 is supported by San Diego area police organizations and the Baptist Ministers Conference of Los Angeles and Southern California, among others. Prop 26 is opposed by the California Contract Cities (out of concern for the tax base of Cities with card clubs) and the California Animal Welfare Association (out of concern for the racehorses at the tracks).

Major donors in opposition: Gambling interests other than tribal gaming casinos and licensed racetracks.

The Legislative Analyst Estimates: Increased state revenues, possibly reaching tens of millions of dollars annually. Some of these revenues would support increased state regulatory and enforcement costs that could reach the low tens of millions of dollars annually. Of course, absent Prop 26 there are still illegal sports bets being made and the State receives no tax revenue at all from illegal bets.



Prop 26 and Prop 27

“I am shocked, shocked that there is gambling going on in here!”

—[Captain Renault in “Casablanca”](#)

Stupendous amounts of money have been raised by both sides of these two ballot items. At last report, Prop 26 “yes” raised \$73 million and Prop 26 “no” \$42 million. Prop 27 “yes” raised \$100 million, and Prop 27 “no” raised \$114 million. Here are links to an expert fact check of the ads that were paid for by all those millions.

[Prop 26 fact check.](#)

[Prop 27 fact check.](#)

Passage of either Prop 26 or 27 would make California one of the more than 30 states that have legalized sports betting, but they offer two different approaches to legalization. They are not companion bills. Voters may vote yes or no on one or both. The two votes are independent of each other. The California Democratic Party recommends “no” on 27 but took no position on 26. The Republican Party recommends a “no” on both.

So what happens if they both pass? Our California Constitution says that if two competing propositions pass, the one that receives the higher percentage of the vote goes into effect. But do 26 and 27 compete? Ballot language written into Prop 27 says they don’t. A court would have to sort it out.



Prop 27—Legalize sports betting and revenue for homelessness prevention fund initiative

What it does: A "yes" vote supports legalizing online and mobile sports betting for persons 21 years of age or older, establishing regulations for the mobile sports betting industry, imposing a 10 percent tax on sports betting revenues and licensing fees, and allocating tax revenue to an account for homelessness programs and an account for tribes not operating sports betting.

What it legalizes: Sports betting by those over 21 with the exception of bets on youth sports.

Also legalizes: Online and mobile sports betting.

Where it would be legal: In California outside tribal lands.

Tax revenue: 10 percent tax on sports betting revenue.

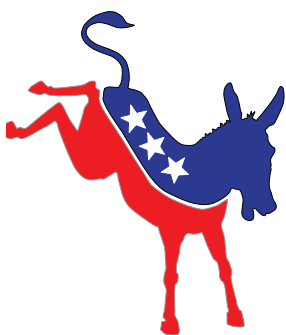
Allocation of revenue raised: 85 percent to address homelessness, mental health, and interim housing; 15 percent to a Tribal Economic Development Fund to benefit nonparticipating tribes. None of the new revenue raised will increase the Prop 98 funding to California schools.

Major donors in support: [Out of state online gambling interests.](#)

Surprisingly: Prop 27 is supported by Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, three tribal groups, and Major League Baseball. It is opposed by the California Teachers Association. Teachers note that none of the new tax revenue from Prop 27 benefits the schools, and they are concerned that it could expose kids to online gambling.

Major donors in opposition: [Five tribal groups](#)

The Legislative Analyst Estimates: Increased state revenues, possibly in the hundreds of millions of dollars, but not likely to exceed \$500 million annually. The 85 percent of this sum that is earmarked to address homelessness would still be a drop in the bucket when measured against the full size of the homelessness problem in our State. Some revenues would support state regulatory costs, possibly reaching the mid-tens of millions of dollars annually. Of course, absent Prop 27 there are still illegal sports bets being made and the State receives no tax revenue at all from illegal bets.



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Prop 28—Art and Music K-12 Education Funding Initiative

What it does: A yes vote supports this ballot initiative to require an annual source of funding for K-12 public schools for arts and music education equal to, at minimum, 1 percent of the total state and local revenues that local education agencies receive under [Proposition 98](#); distribute a portion of the additional funding based on a local education agency's share of economically disadvantaged students; and require schools with 500 or more students to use 80 percent of the funding for employing teachers and 20 percent to training and materials. This would be additional funding over and above the amount that the schools receive under Proposition 98. It includes no new taxes. The Prop 28 funds would be taken from the State's General Fund.

Major funding in support: LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner \$3.75 million; Former Microsoft CEO Steven Ballmer \$1.5 million; Fender Musical Instruments \$1 million; Monica Rosenthal \$1 million.

What supporters say: Nicholas Goldberg: [Why arts and music education matter — and why you should support Prop. 28 in November](#) . Los Angeles Times (latimes.com) Prop 28 is endorsed by the California Teacher's Association. It is hard to overstate the crossover benefits of art and music education to California students. [Studies have linked it to improvements in cognitive development, critical thinking, and creativity.](#)

Still only about one in five California public schools have a dedicated teacher in an arts program.

Major funding in opposition: None reported as of August 1, 2022.

What opponents say: You will find no official opposition in the official Voter's Guide, however [the Los Angeles Times has editorialized against it.](#)

The Times editorial board points out that there is no guarantee that there would be an increase in spending for arts and music education in any given school. The school would be required to spend the new Prop 28 funding on the arts, but would be quite free to take some of the money they spend on arts now and use it for something else.

The Times finds ballot box budgeting to be problematic especially when the proposition raises no new revenue, but simply earmarks existing revenue. This practice ties the hands of our electeds if the future needs of the State should change.

What the California Democratic Party says: Support.

What the State Legislative Analyst says: Prop 28 would increase state costs by about \$1 billion dollars annually.



New CCDC t-shirts are here!



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

Shirts are 100 percent 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").

Prop 29—Dialysis Clinic Requirements

What it does: A “yes” vote supports this ballot initiative to require dialysis clinics to have at least one physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant while patients are being treated; report data on dialysis-related infections; and not discriminate against patients based on the source of payment for care.

If you think you have seen this one before, you have. Twice. [Prop 8 in 2018](#), and [Prop 23 in 2020](#). Both Prop 8 and Prop 23 received the support of the Culver City Democratic Club.

In the new version, Prop 29 on the November ballot, the requirement for an experienced nephrology doctor on premises has been relaxed to allow instead a nurse practitioner or physician assistant experienced in nephrology or even, on a temporary basis, a telehealth substitute.

Major funding in support: SEIU-UHW \$7,966,011.

What supporters say: Having a doctor, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant on site—or by telehealth—would improve patient safety. Prop 29’s requirement for reporting of infections and of physicians’ ownership interests in clinics will allow patients to make more informed decisions. Prop 29 will protect patients from discrimination based on the type of insurance they have.

Major funding in opposition: Dialysis Service Providers – Davita Inc. \$24,788,211 and Fresenius Medical Care \$11,958,956.

What opponents say: Nephrology is a super-specialty. It is doubtful that there are enough doctors, nurse practitioners, or physician assistants with at least 6 months of nephrology experience to staff at Prop 29 levels all 600 clinics in California. Prop 29 is well-intentioned but not practical. It is likely that many clinics would shut down.

Issues of patient safety are too complex to be reduced to a yes or no ballot initiative.

A better route to patient well-being would be a single payer healthcare system.

What the California Democratic Party says: Support.

What the State Legislative Analyst says: Prop 29 could result in increased healthcare costs and increased administrative costs to the California Department of Public Health. Some dialysis clinics could close so that patients would have to go to more costly hospital settings for treatment. Increased costs to state and local governments would likely come to tens of millions of dollars annually.



Vote on ballot propositions and various candidatess

Ballot propositions will be discussed at the September 14 general meeting of the Club, as well as runoff candidates for Congress, Sheriff, and other offices. After the meeting, members will vote online on endorsements of the ballot propositions and candidates.

Register here for September 14 meeting



Prop 30—Tax on Income Above \$2 Million for Zero-Emission Vehicles and Wildfire Prevention Initiative

What it does: A “yes” vote supports increasing the tax on personal income above \$2 million by 1.75 percent and dedicating the revenue to zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) subsidies (45 percent), ZEV infrastructure such as electric vehicle charging stations (35 percent); and wildfire suppression and prevention programs (20 percent). It could raise 3.5 to 5 billion dollars annually.

Major funding in support: Lyft. 15 million dollars.

What supporters say: Supporters call this the “Robin Hood” initiative. Californians deserve clean air, and the need is urgent for action in the face of extreme heat, drought, wildfires, and the health consequences of air pollution. The current budget does not reflect the urgency of the situation. California had a nearly \$100 billion surplus this year, but it may not last. So now is the time to ensure ongoing funding for ZEVs. Prop 30 aims to promote ZEVs because transportation emissions account for 40 percent of climate emissions.

What opponents say: Prop 30 creates a special fund apart from the general fund. On one hand, that seems great and guarantees that the money will go where it should. But by avoiding the general fund it also avoids the Prop 98 guarantee that a certain amount of the state budget go toward education. That new Prop 30 money would be outside of Prop 98 and therefore not benefit schools and students, not even by a small proportion. The California Teacher’s Association opposes anything that tries to shortcut outside of the Prop 98 guarantees, because once that starts to be the norm, more and more special exceptions will begin draining education funds.

Governor Gavin Newsom calls it “a special-interest carve out” and reminds us that this year the State committed \$10 billion dollars for electric vehicles and electric vehicle infrastructure.

The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association also opposes Prop 30.

What the California Democratic Party says: Support.

What the State Legislative Analyst says: It’s complicated. If California goes forward with a contemplated Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) mandate, Prop 30 may not significantly increase the number of ZEV’s on the roads. If high-income California taxpayers respond to Prop 30 by finding creative ways to reduce their taxable income, the result could be less overall revenue to the State. Significantly, the California State Constitution limits how much the state can spend in total. If the new spending required by Prop 30 brings the State spending over the limit, then the State would be required to reduce an equal amount of spending from other programs to “make room” for the new required spending on Prop 30 programs.



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.]*

Prop 31—Flavored Tobacco Products Ban Referendum

What it does: A “yes” vote on Prop 31 will uphold California’s [SB793-Ban on Flavored Tobacco](#) which was passed two years ago. Three days after SB793’s passage, a referendum to overturn it was submitted to the Attorney General—and here we are. If Prop 31 passes, “a tobacco retailer, or any of the tobacco retailer’s agents or employees, shall not sell, offer for sale, or possess with the intent to sell or offer for sale, a flavored tobacco product.” This includes menthol, and allows only certain limited exceptions.

What supporters say: 96 percent of high school e-cigarette users use flavored products and 4 out of 5 kids who have used tobacco products started with a flavored product. They link the “public health crisis of racism” to what they see as the tobacco industry’s targeting of black smokers, 85 percent of whom smoke menthols.

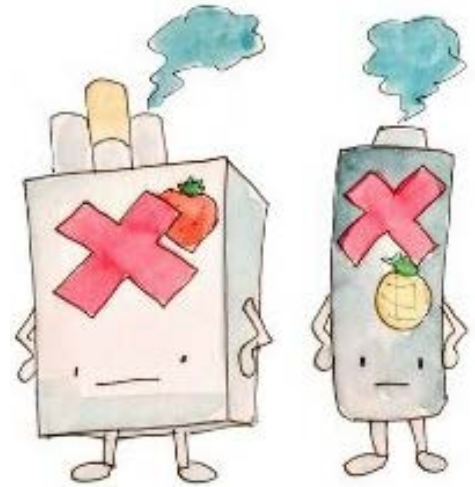
On the federal level, the FDA has announced proposed rules to prohibit menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars. [According to the FDA](#) 88 percent of adult smokers started before the age of 18. The FDA cites data that suggest that menthol products are associated with greater addiction. HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra said of FDA’s proposal, “The proposed rules would help prevent children from becoming the next generation of smokers and help adult smokers quit. Additionally, the proposed rules represent an important step to advance health equity by significantly reducing tobacco-related health disparities.”

What opponents say: It is already illegal for those under the age of 21 to purchase any tobacco products, so Prop 31 cannot be justified as an effort to keep kids safe. A California ban will cause the market to shift to tobacco products smuggled in from other states, and this will hurt California small businesses. Illegal sellers don’t enforce age limits or pay our State’s tobacco tax, which could cost the State millions of dollars that are a source of healthcare funding. Joe Lang, of No on Prop 31—Californians Against Prohibition, [indicated to the State Legislature’s Health Committees](#) that his group preferred that the FDA make the decision.

What the California Democratic Party says: Support.

What the State Legislative Analyst says: The legislative analyst agrees with the opponents that Prop 31’s passage could result in a significant decrease in tobacco tax revenue to the state totaling from tens of millions up to \$100 million per year. This revenue goes largely to fund healthcare (56 percent) and childcare (21 percent). However, the analyst also notes that decreased smoking can lower healthcare costs by an unknown amount.

“There’s nothing remarkable about it. All one has to do is hit the right keys at the right time and the instrument plays itself.” —Johann Sebastian Bach



Di's Corner:

by Diane Rosenberg

Update on Club member Charlotte Gunter: She is now using her walker and goes with her caregiver for a short walk around her complex. Her attitude is always positive and she misses everyone.

On Thursday, July 28, the Cherness family held an informal ceremony at the Judge Harold I. Cherness Memorial Parkway on Overland Avenue south of Culver Blvd., in front of the old Municipal Courthouse. The occasion was: it would have been his 100th birthday. Attending were friends of the family. From our Club were Vice Mayor Albert Vera, Rick Tuttle, Barbara and Mel Widawski, Nancy Goldberg, Khin Khin Gyi, Shannon Theus and Diane Rosenberg.

Our August 10 General Meeting was Candidates Night for Culver City School Board on Zoom. Also, that night we elected a First Vice President of the Club to replace Freddy Puza, who dropped out as 1st V.P. because he is running for Culver City Council. Former Second Vice President Jeanna Harris was elected by acclamation. We congratulate her.

The school board candidates who appeared and spoke were Summer McBride (incumbent) Triston Ezidore, Howard Adelman, Brian Guerrero, Stephanie Loreda and Darrel Menthe. The membership endorsed Stephanie Loreda, Triston Ezidore, and Brian Guerrero. The Club congratulates them.

Measure VY (Votes for Youth) would allow 16-year-olds in Culver City to vote in local elections

We are a youth-led campaign to lower Culver City's voting age to 16 in municipal and school board elections. Vote16 CC is a derivative of the larger Vote16 movement, which has chapters in cities across the country. Our leadership team is the fourth to come through this chapter. Measure VY will be voted on in the upcoming Culver City General Municipal Elections on November 8.

Initial reactions to our movement are often immediate and negative. This is understandable; allowing 16-year-olds to vote in local elections appears as an unfamiliar and seemingly dramatic change. However, youth empowerment is the way forward. Eighteen became the national voting age only relatively recently during the 1970s. It can change to fit the priorities and attitudes of our community, and will ultimately lead to fairer elections that represent public interest.

So, why should you support our right to vote?

By the age of 16, people have developed what is called “cold cognition.” While “hot cognition” (impulsive, emotional, short-term decision making) is usually associated with teenagers, most of us have also developed “cold cognition” (logical, reasonable, long-term decision making) by this age. Sixteen-year-olds are asked to make decisions about their futures—are they not capable enough of making decisions about their political environment?

Sixteen-year-olds are immeasurably impacted by local legislation. The school board has a direct hand in our day-to-day lives. We can work and live in Culver City, so elements like transportation, policing, and city planning impact us daily, too. And as future residents, we will be uniquely affected by climate change. Our perspective should be represented. This is not to say that youth voices are not being listened to. If anything, the status of teens as an important group has improved over the past few years. However, this should not be confused or conflated with the protections and powers provided with actual voting rights for 16- and 17-year-olds. We should have a say when



Leaders of Vote 16 Culver City—left to right: Miles Griffin, Michelle Zhou, Ada Meighan-Thiel, Julia Rottenberg, Caitlin Polesetsky, Lilly Salkin, and Ava Frans

these matters directly affect us.

As for education: in some ways, teenagers are better equipped than adults to be competent voters. Where most people over the age of 18 have been out of school for years at the time of the election, teens as students regularly receive an up-to-date education in civics and community responsibility in the classroom. In fact, students must take a class on American government in order to graduate.

Moreover, voting at a young age creates life-long voters. However, most people do not vote in their first election. Giving teenagers the right to vote in local elections at a time when they have structure and familiarity in their lives will encourage voting and increase turnout. It would present a more accurate sample of public opinion. Lowering the voting age to 16 will help create a generation of habitual voters. There is a lot of concern over the viability of our political ideology. The truth is that we form our beliefs the same way everybody else does. This has never been more true than it has been over the past few years. We look at the world and see the ways in which we want it to reflect our needs. Since we cannot vote, we organize protests, action groups, and campaigns to represent our interests. Students are one of the primary groups of individuals who have shown an invested and passionate interest in local politics. From school shootings and gun protec-

tions; police violence and racial discrimination; to education and historical bias, we have legitimate perspectives based on the ways in which these issues impact us daily. Belittling the importance of the youth voice is a form of suppression. It's a way to ignore the actual wants of the people. Minimizing our role as a portion of Culver City's population that deserves equal respect is a way to ensure that our local political scene does not represent all stakeholders and only upholds the status quo.

Extending the municipal vote to 16- and 17-year-olds is one step towards fair representation. It is one step towards progress. It is one step towards a vision of tomorrow that matches our priorities as a community.

Culver City voters will be able to vote on Measure VY in November. We have garnered endorsements from prominent Culver City figures such as Mayor Daniel Lee, City Council Member Alex Fisch, School Board President Dr. Steven Levin, and others. But we need your support to vote for our measure, help us raise funds, and change the Culver City community for the better.

Our email is: vote16cc@gmail.com

Written by: Vanessa Andrick, Ava Frans, Shayna Graff, Ada Meighan-Thiel, Celeste Nunez, and edited by Caitlin Polesetsky

The new Inflation Reduction Act does a lot more than reduce inflation

by *Pete Rockwell*

On August 16, President Biden signed into law the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)—a sweeping tax, health, and climate bill that will make a historic down payment on deficit reduction to fight inflation; invest in domestic energy production and manufacturing; and reduce carbon emissions by roughly forty percent by 2030. The law will also allow Medicare to negotiate for prescription drug prices and extend the *expanded* Affordable Care Act program for three years, through 2025.

Here is a short summary of what this wide-ranging new law contains:

What will the IRA do for the climate?

- Create up to nine million jobs in clean energy, clean manufacturing, and green transportation.

- Reduce greenhouse gasses by forty percent by 2030.

- Dedicate sixty billion dollars for environmental justice in communities hardest hit by climate change and fossil fuels.

How will this bill impact healthcare costs?

- Restrict insulin costs to \$35 per month for Medicare recipients.

- Cap out-of-pocket costs for medications to a maximum of \$2,000 per year for seniors (down from the current \$10,000+ a year for the costliest drugs).

- Allow Medicare to negotiate lower prices on some prescription drugs for seniors on Medicare starting in 2026

What are the tax implications?

- No new taxes on any family making \$400,000 or less, and no new taxes on small businesses (despite the lies Republicans are spewing)

- A fifteen percent minimum tax rate on the wealthiest corporations

- A one percent tax on stock buybacks used to enrich wealthy shareholders

Links

[One-page summary of the IRA](#)

[The IRA by the numbers](#)

Measure BL, the updated and improved business tax

by *City Council Member Alex Fisch*

Measure BL would reform Culver City's business license fee so that smaller businesses pay less and larger businesses pay more, while generating about ten million dollars per year of new public revenue to pay for expanded city services and a large backlog of deferred maintenance.

Measure BL creates a new business license fee exemption so that businesses pay nothing for the first \$200,000 of gross receipts. As a result of this exemption, the City estimates that about 6,000 of the total 8,000 licensed Culver City businesses would pay no business license fee at all. At the same time, businesses with gross receipts over \$100 million will pay a new .01 percent surcharge on their revenue. That may not sound like much, but the impact on public revenue would be significant, and it would be borne by the City's largest and most impactful businesses.

Tax rates are also being shifted from the range of .1 percent to 3 percent, to the range of .13 percent to .35 percent, depending on the business. For oil operations, the tax would go from 1.8 percent to 4 percent. Flat taxes paid by certain businesses will be increased as well.

If Culver City voters approve Measure BL, the City's business license fee schedule will, overall, impose a slightly lower tax than most businesses pay in Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, and Santa Monica, but more than neighbors like Hawthorne and Inglewood. No one—not Culver City residents, business owners, nor shoppers—filed a ballot argument to oppose Measure BL.

Culver City hasn't updated its business license fee in almost 60 years. With this new revenue measure, Culver City will have the resources to provide much more of what our residents demand.



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](#)



On the LA County ballot—should the County Supervisors be able to remove a sheriff for cause?

By Cynthia Hart

On the November 8 ballot, Los Angeles County voters will be asked to vote “yes” or “no” on a proposed county charter amendment providing authority to remove an elected sheriff for cause by a 4/5 vote. “Cause” would include violation of law, flagrant or repeated neglect of duties, misappropriation of funds, willful falsification of documents, or obstructing an investigation.

OPINION

This item was [placed on the ballot by a vote of four to one by the County Supervisors](#). The lone “no” vote was cast by Supervisor Kathryn Barger, who questioned why the removal clause should only apply to Sheriffs, why not the County Assessor or the Supervisors themselves. To which Supervisor Sheila Kuehl replied, [“I don’t see the Assessor getting people killed.”](#)

It is well documented that the incumbent Sheriff has exhibited what Supervisor Hilda Solis in a letter to Attorney General Bonta called “...a pattern of unconscionable and dangerous actions.” But should we amend the County Charter, our County’s “constitution,” because of the conduct, however flagrant, of one man? What if it is a movement and not just a man?

LA Times reporters Erika D. Smith and Anita Chabria [make a convincing case for the former](#). They describe a growing [“constitutional sheriff” movement](#) that the Southern Poverty Law Center links to right wing extremism.

Constitutional sheriffs contend that the federal and state authority is subordinate to the authority of the county sheriff, and that sheriffs have no obligation to enforce laws that they judge are unconstitutional. Such a sheriff would be, I suppose, a cross between the Sheriff of Nottingham in Robin Hood’s home town and the US Supreme Court. This contention conveniently overlooks the US Constitution—which does not mention county sheriffs at all.

If you go to the website of the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (CSPOA), you will be greeted by a friendly “Howdy” and list of questions to ask your sheriff to see if he (they are mostly male) is a constitutional sheriff. Although the organization does not publish a membership list, I have a hunch

that our incumbent sheriff is at least a fellow traveler.

After reading Malcolm Nance’s new book *They Want to Kill Americans*, about the extremes of violence the far right is capable of, I am convinced to vote “yes” to give our County Supervisors the authority they have asked for.

