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November 2022

# Culver City Democratic Club

## Active Democrat


[www.CulverCityDemocraticClub.com](http://www.CulverCityDemocraticClub.com)

 Email: [CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com](mailto:CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com) • Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/culvercitydems](https://www.facebook.com/culvercitydems)

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

### General Meeting on Zoom — 7p.m. Wednesday, November 9, 2022

## Program: To Be Announced

*President's Message by Jeff Schwartz*

## How to buy a Democratic club

Fellow Democrats,  
This newsletter will arrive a week before general election voting closes. I expect that anyone who would open this message and read this spiel is highly politically engaged and voted weeks ago, but if not, don't forget! Details are at [lavote.net](http://lavote.net). You can complete your ballot at home and mail it, drop it in one of the special boxes around town (I used the one at the Culver City Library) or at a vote center, or vote live at the vote center.

I hope you found our endorsements useful, and I encourage you to share them and [other progressive voter guides](#) with your friends and neighbors. As I mentioned last month, our Club is the only westside organization I know of which chooses its endorsements by a direct vote of the membership, without recommendations from an endorsement committee. All Democrats running appear equally on our endorsement ballot, and all members in good standing have an equal vote, whether they have been members for a month or a decade and whether they are \$20 Student members or \$500 Lifetime members. That's democracy: one person, one vote.

The recent [LA City Council scandal](#) has made me especially proud that this direct endorsement process is written into our bylaws. While the initial leaked recording continues to rightly dominate coverage because of the open bigotry on display and the discussion of gerrymandering to reduce the influence of political rivals, renters, progressives, and various ethnic groups, [a second tape](#) included a discussion by LA Federation of Labor staff about "buying" the endorsements of

various Democratic Clubs. I want to be clear that our process of endorsement by the entire membership, choosing from all Democrats running without the intervention of leadership or an endorsement committee, makes us unbuyable.

I look forward to a fuller investigation of the implications of this tape, but for now I will attempt to explain what this is about, as best as I understand it.

Does someone show up with a bag of cash, as in a mob movie, or at least *Bag Man*? That sort of thing is [not unknown at LA City Hall](#), but I do not believe that is what they mean by "buying" Democratic clubs.

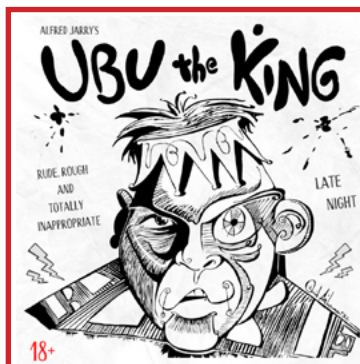
It is common for gifts to have strings attached: not a quid pro quo, but simply an expectation that an act of generosity will be remembered, nudge nudge, wink wink. This is why anonymity of both givers and receivers plays a major role in [Maimonides' Ladder of Giving](#). This is definitely a way people and organizations are influenced, but it is not what the people on that tape were discussing.

Here is how I think this works: staff and

supporters of a particular candidate, official, organization, etc join a Club. This is completely legal and sound. For example, any registered Democrat is welcome to join our Club. There may be an issue if people are not paying for their own memberships: like any political contribution, dues need to be paid with your own money so that go-betweens aren't used to circumvent all sorts of campaign finance laws, from donation limits to bans on foreign contributions, but there is no maximum donation to our Club (or other PACs) and it isn't Putin who's buying local Democratic endorsements.

Once a few controlled members are in a Club, they volunteer for the endorsements committee. This is easy, because it is difficult to get people to serve on committees. It is not even necessary to have a majority to take over a committee, it's enough to be willing to do the work. Grassroots activists are stretched so thin, especially during election season, that a member who volunteers to make the questionnaires, schedule the candidate interviews, and draft the slate is met with

**See MESSAGE on page 3**



**Limited number of tickets available for Fundraiser at The Actors' Gang**

Saturday, November 19

Doors open at 8pm

The show will begin at 9pm

[Tickets are \\$50. Click here to order](#)

Alfred Jarry's masterpiece  
directed by Tim Robbins

**from MESSAGE on page 2**

gratitude rather than suspicion. The slate this controlled member has made goes to the membership for approval with considerable procedural advantages, and all sorts of legal and/or deniable shenanigans are possible. For example, members of the endorsement committee could tell the slate candidates to rally their supporters for the relevant meeting and not let the non-slate candidates know their status in advance.

These maneuvers are not possible in our Club, because we do not have an endorsement committee and all endorsements are by a direct vote of the membership. It's the candidates and the members, no filter. We do have a nominating committee for Club officers, but

a majority of its members are chosen by the general membership, and all it takes to enter an opposing candidate for any office is a nomination and a second.

I do not know who wrote our bylaws. They are likely a collective work, not amended like the US Constitution, whose text is unchanged from what the Framers wrote, but periodically revised, most recently to add Article XVI on our grievance procedure, as mandated by the LA County Democratic Party. So, I can only offer my thanks to the past Club members and officers who wrote direct democracy into our endorsement process, the most important work of this organization. Few other groups can match our level of transparency and participation.

Most voters don't know all of this be-

hind-the-scenes business: before I was elected a delegate to the state party I did not know the difference between the [DNC](#), [DLC](#), [DSCC](#), and [DCCC](#), for example, but I believe the integrity of our process is reflected in our high reputation in the community.

This is also a great credit to all of you. We are entirely member-funded and volunteer-staffed. That's you. Memberships expire at the end of December, so [renew now for 2023](#). Buy tickets for [our Nov. 19 night at The Actors' Gang](#). Get [our new t-shirts](#)—they make great gifts. Consider [volunteering for a committee](#). I am proud to have been entrusted with the leadership of this people-powered organization. Your participation makes it work.



Photo by Pete Rockwell

## In American Sign Language this spells "UNITY"

The winner of the Club t-shirt (first member to email the answer) is:

**Judy Hopfield**

The story on the next three pages was written by Stephen Jones and published just a few days ago by KnockLA. Since yesterday, when I laid out the article for our newsletter, more reporting forms #497 have become available and they show that the new total amount of developer money backing Denice Renteria and Dan O'Brien is a grand total of:

**\$480,783**



[Click here to watch an interview](#) with Alex Fisch and Freddy Puza, the two City Council candidates that are the target of the smear campaign this money is paying for.

—Pete Rockwell, Newsletter Editor



# As Locals Win Progressive Policies in Culver City, the Right-Wing Backlash Is Funded by Big Developers

**The developer behind The Culver Studios is funding Culver City's right-wing groups to the tune of \$225,000.**

by Stephen Jones

October 26, 2022

*[Editor's note: this article [was first published in KnockLA](#) and is being re-printed here with the permission of the author and KnockLA]*



A new PAC and the developer who runs it are responsible for nearly half the money in the 2022 Culver City Council race. The PAC's official name is a mouthful: "Alliance for Culver City to Support the Election of Denice Renteria and Dan O'Brien for city council 2022, Sponsored by The Culver Studios."

(Graphic: STEPHEN JONES  
Knock LA )

The last few years have seen a burgeoning progressive movement in Culver City translate electoral wins into enactment of progressive policies. The list includes [permanent rent control](#), [permanent tenant protections](#), a [higher minimum wage](#), new [protected bus and bike lanes](#), the [closing of the Inglewood Oil Field](#), and even an [initial study into local reparations](#).

As we head into the November elections, progressive policies are on the ballot: a higher tax on big businesses and local voting rights for 16- and 17-year-olds. But with two of the three seats held by the progressive majority up for election, it's possible that all this could be rolled back, and a resurgent right-wing back-

lash is looking to do just that, bankrolled by real estate developers.

Several new local political action committees (PACs) have sprung up to oppose newly passed progressive policies: Culver City Neighbors United, Common Sense Culver City, and Culver City Coalition. But one dominates the conversation: Protect Culver City.



Knock LA profiled Protect Culver City during the 2020 election.

Protect Culver City was founded by landlord and failed Republican congressional candidate Ron Bassilian, who used the organization as a vehicle to oppose the city's new rent control measures. Knock LA [investigated](#) Protect Culver City's origins and deemed it a "dangerous right-wing element in Culver City."

Protect Culver City was successful in getting an anti-rent-control measure on the 2020 ballot, and the [California Apartment Association](#), the biggest landlord lobby in the state, put more than \$250,000 into the 2020 election in Culver City. The measure failed to pass and Culver City's permanent rent control ordinance is still in effect. In retrospect, this was a harbinger of real estate's outsized role in Culver City elections to come, as opposition to progressive change has spread through different groups using a diverse set of tactics: astroturfed "community" groups, clogging city hall with bogus records requests, failed recall campaigns, and sleazebag agitprop.

In 2021 a group of million-dollar homeowners formed Culver City Neighbors United in response to the city's proposal to allow multiple units on single family lots (rendered moot when the state [passed legislation](#) to similar effect). They rally homeowners to council meetings and arm them with talking points, generally in opposition to progressive policies.

A conspiracy-minded blog/PAC called [Common Sense Culver City](#), which popped up in late 2021, makes public records requests and posts them alongside conservative dog whistles like appeals to "common sense." Following the backlash against Los Angeles Councilmember Mike Bonin and Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascón, conservative activists in Culver City also mounted a recall attempt. Early "Call to Recall" art initially targeted [all three progressive councilmembers](#). But, perhaps anticipating the bad optics of trying to recall both of the city's first two Black councilmembers, Yasmine-Imani McMorris and Mayor Daniel Lee, organizers behind the failed recall attempt [narrowed](#) their targets to Mayor Lee and Councilmember Alex Fisch.

After the failure of the recall attempt (without even turning in any signatures), the same interests reformed as Culver City Coalition. Culver City Coalition's first major expenditure came in 2022 in the form of a [flyer](#) titled "Save the Culver City Police Department," which asked residents to support the police at a city meeting where CCPD was [seeking authorization](#) from the city council to use military equipment including tear gas, MP5 submachine guns, and projectile launchers.

In a progressive place like Culver City, groups like these may be dismissed as fringe and irrelevant. But looking at the list of donors tells a different story.

On September 29, 2022, quarterly campaign finance filings revealed that the single biggest donor to all three PACs

**See DEVELOPERS on page 5**

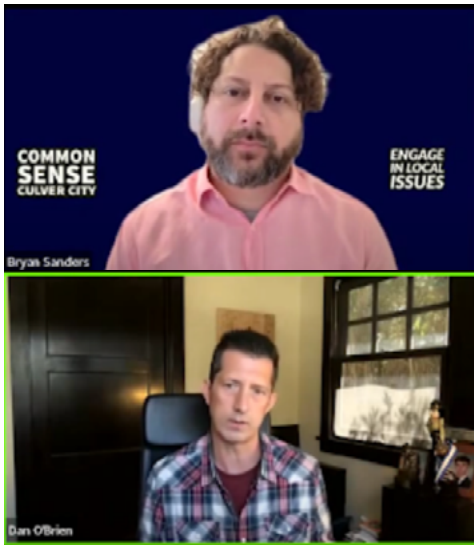


## from DEVELOPERS on page 4

(Culver City Neighbors United, Common Sense Culver City, and Culver City Coalition) is The Culver Studios, part of Hackman Capital Partners.

In other words, nearly all the different groups spending money to tell you to vote for Denice Renteria and Dan O'Brien are actually getting their money from the same place: one of the biggest developers in town.

But before we get to the extent of the real estate money funding the right-wing backlash, let's meet the candidates representing this movement. In addition to endorsing the [lawless Sheriff Alex Villanueva](#), Protect Culver City endorsed Dan O'Brien and Denice Renteria for city council. O'Brien appeared for a [meet-and-greet](#) at a Protect Culver City meeting, and the group later praised his commitment to a "hands-on approach to transient camps." And in his interview with Common Sense Culver City, he [touts his experience](#) on the city's homelessness committee, where he instituted a policy of only offering food and services to unhoused people at the city's cold-weather shelter if they boarded a bus and left the city during the daytime.



Bryan Sanders of the Culver Studios-funded Common Sense Culver City interviews Culver City Council candidate Dan O'Brien, himself supported by more than \$225,000 from the Culver Studios PAC.

Denice Renteria appeared alongside a [Republican US Senate](#) candidate at a Protect Culver City [fundraising dinner](#) in June 2022. At a [recent candidate forum](#) in September, Renteria advocated for a

return to "proactive policing," a practice that has incorporated [racial profiling](#) and has been shown to actually correlate with an [increase in the incidence of major crimes](#). Protect Culver City also [calls](#) for the city council to end its "hands off" policy for the city's unhoused residents.



Among other properties throughout Culver City, Hackman developed and operates The Culver Steps, a shopping center in the heart of downtown Culver City. (Graphic: STEPHEN JONES Knock LA)

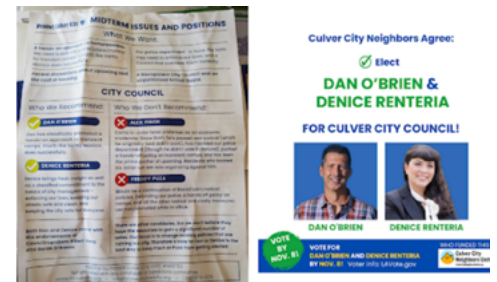
Two of Protect Culver City's school board candidates are even more overtly right wing. Marci Baun's [first appearances at the school board](#) were as part of the throngs of anti-vaxxers protesting the school district's vaccine mandate — she called for "health freedom" and claimed that "natural immunity is ... much better than the vaccine." Appearing at the Culver City Democratic Club school board candidate forum in August, Howard Adelman railed against ["race-baiting, virtue-signaling, bile-spewing ideologues"](#) and claimed that LGBT+ education in elementary school is ["indoctrinating" kids](#). He is also the subject of a [restraining order](#) for both assaulting a minor and harassing him with racial slurs. Darrel Menche, the third school board candidate endorsed by Protect Culver City, is the president of the Culver City Downtown Business Association, and he keeps a relatively low profile compared to the other two. Real estate developers aren't just funding right-wing Culver City PACs — they're also giving to the candidates directly and forming their own PACs to get their candidates elected. Hackman Capital Partners (through its affiliate The Culver Studios Owner, LLC) dropped more than \$225,000 into a PAC explicitly to support two candidates: Denice Renteria and Dan O'Brien. This is almost half of the funding floating around this city council race, across all candidates and PACs. Even outside his PAC, Michael

Hackman, the CEO of Hackman Capital Partners, has nearly maxed out personal donations to Renteria and O'Brien.

And the other Hackman/Culver Studios-funded PACs are in the mix, too: Culver City Coalition promotes campaign events for O'Brien, Renteria, Baun, and Adelman; Common Sense Culver City regularly attacks Councilmember Fisch and candidate Freddy Puza; and Culver City Neighbors United currently has an [ad endorsing O'Brien and Renteria](#).

This isn't the first time Hackman has drawn political controversy over its donations. In 2019, Hackman founded and funded Culver City Forward, a nonprofit that employed a sitting Culver City councilmember [as its CEO](#).

Hackman is one of the [biggest developers](#) of studio and soundstage properties in the world — and they've got a substantial footprint in Culver City. Its significant political spending sends a clear message that Hackman wants to stop Culver City's government from being as progressive as its residents.



Protect Culver City and Culver City Neighbors United run ads for city council candidates. Under "WHO FUNDED THIS AD," Culver City Neighbors United is not required to disclose that the Culver Studios PAC is their single biggest donor. (Photos: STEPHEN JONES Knock LA)

Looking at the campaign finance data and matching up donors to industries paints a stark picture: real estate money is a huge factor in this election. Even setting aside PAC money, real estate makes up 18.25% of the total dollars being contributed directly to the city council candidates. This category includes developers, realtors, mortgage brokers, landlords, architects, construction companies, and contractors.

**See DEVELOPERS on page 6**

## from DEVELOPERS on page 5

As part of the questionnaire for the Culver City Democratic Club (CCDC) candidate forum, most of the City Council candidates took a pledge not to take developer money. That includes Renteria, who later took \$500 from Kent Company (which is part of the Continental Development Group), \$2,100 from executives at Redcar Properties, and \$1,050 from Michael Hackman, CEO of Hackman Capital Partners.



Graphic: STEPHEN JONES  
Knock LA

Overall, real estate makes up 15.71% of dollars contributed to Renteria. In contrast, real estate is 2.31% of dollars contributed to Alex Fisch and 1.89% of dollars contributed to Freddy Puza.

Dan O'Brien, who is not a registered Democrat and so did not participate in the CCDC forum, took no such pledge. Overall, real estate makes up 28.92% of his donations.

But there's more. It is illegal for an individual or a company to give more than \$1,070 to a candidate. But when you look at the data, you start to see that multiple people associated with the same real estate project are maxing out their contributions.



Entities and individuals associated with the 9925 Jefferson Boulevard development (pictured) gave a total of \$8,280 to Culver City Council candidate Dan O'Brien. (Graphic: STEPHEN JONES | Knock LA)

For example, the developer, architect, contractor, and law firm for the 9925 Jefferson Boulevard development together donated a total of \$8,280 to Dan O'Brien. The eight different contributions came in on just three days in late August.



Entities and individuals associated with the 10950 Washington Boulevard development (pictured) gave a total of \$2,970 to Culver City Council candidate Dan O'Brien. (Graphic: STEPHEN JONES | Knock LA)

In another case, \$2,970 came to Dan O'Brien from the developer Hudson Pacific Properties, together with members of its lobbyist firm M Strategic Communications. Hudson Pacific Properties owns the former NFL Network building at 10950 Washington Blvd, which is [now vacant](#) and may be redeveloped soon. Hudson Pacific Properties itself is [owned in part](#) by the private equity firm [Blackstone](#).

Dan O'Brien, however, did sign a different pledge. He [promised](#) not to take more than \$200 from the corporate healthcare industry, including its lobbyists. Nevertheless, he took \$1,900 from lobbyists at M Strategic Communications, who [lobbied for the healthcare giant Centene](#).

"CEOs and lobbyists for Big Pharma, corporate insurers, and private hospitals have formed a front group called Partnership for America's Healthcare Future that wants to exploit our healthcare system to make money off of keeping us sick.

I pledge to put patients over profits and not take contributions over \$200 from the executives, lobbyists, and PACs affiliated with the corporate health care industry, including private insurers, pharma corporations, and private hospitals who are organizing to take over our health care system."

Dan O'Brien  
Candidate, Culver City Council

Despite pledging not to take more than \$200 from healthcare lobbyists, O'Brien took \$1,900 from lobbyists who represent a corporate healthcare company.

And even smaller right-wing causes are giving money to O'Brien and Renteria. Robert Retting of Culver City's [notorious Martin B. Retting gun shop](#) contributed to both campaigns. Unlike in past elections, where more conservative candidates like Albert Vera tried to strike a moderate stance by returning Retting's donation, O'Brien and Renteria have yet

to report returning any contributions.

So why is there such an interest in this five-square-mile town of little more than 40,000 people? It might be that when progressive policies are implemented, they tend to spread.

Take the Inglewood Oil Field. After Culver City made its landmark vote to start closing the oil field, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors [took up the issue](#) and approved [an ordinance to phase out oil wells](#), and the city of Los Angeles is on the same path. And now Gavin Newsom has signed a bill to [ban new drilling](#) near homes, schools, and hospitals, effectively banning the activity from most developed areas in the state.

Other issues are catching on as well. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is also looking to adopt [permanent tenant protections](#) two years after Culver City adopted the same. And the city of Los Angeles has [United to House LA](#) on the ballot — a real estate transfer tax that's slightly less ambitious than [the one Culver City](#) passed two years ago.

But looking back to Culver City's final vote on the oil fields issue in October 2021, only the three progressives voted to close the oil fields. The other two councilmembers — who have endorsed O'Brien and Renteria — abstained or voted against the ordinance. And so the

big money coming into our little city has the potential to stop the progressive tide in its tracks.

Whenever the votes are done being counted, we'll find out if our election is the way these developers see it: no different than a piece of real estate, for sale to the highest bidder.





## The logo features a blue circle with a white "D" inside. To the right of the circle, the text "Culver City" is in red, "DEMOCRATIC CLUB" is in blue, and "2022" is in red. Below this, the word "ENDORSEMENTS" is written in large, bold, blue, sans-serif capital letters.

US Senate	<b>Alex Padilla</b>
US Congress District 37	<b>Sydney Kamlager</b>
CA Governor	<b>Gavin Newsom</b>
CA Lt. Governor	<b>Eleni Kounalakis</b>
CA Attorney General	<b>Rob Bonta</b>
CA Secretary of State	<b>Dr. Shirley Weber</b>
State Treasurer	<b>Fiona Ma</b>
State Insurance Commissioner	<b>Ricardo Lara</b>
State Controller	<b>Malia Cohen</b>
State School Superintendent	<b>Tony Thurmond</b>
State Senate SD28	<b>Lola Smallwood-Cuevas</b>
State Assembly AD55	<b>Isaac Bryan</b>
State Board of Equalization District 3	<b>Tony Vazquez</b>
LA County Sheriff	<b>Robert Luna</b>
LA County Assessor	<b>Jeffrey Prang</b>
LA Superior Court Judge Seat 60	<b>Anna Reitano</b>
LA Superior Court Judge Seat 67	<b>Elizabeth Lashley-Haynes</b>
LA Superior Court Judge Seat 70	<b>Holly Hancock</b>
LA Superior Court Judge Seat 118	<b>Carolyn JiYoung Park</b>
LA Superior Court Judge Seat 151	<b>Patrick Hare</b>
West Basin Water District Board	<b>Scott Houston</b>
Culver City City Council	<b>Alex Fisch and Freddy Puza</b>
Culver City School Board	<b>Triston Ezidore, Brian Guerrero, and Stephanie Loreda</b>
California Proposition 1	<b>Yes</b>
California Proposition 26	<b>No</b>
California Proposition 27	<b>No</b>
California Proposition 28	<b>Yes</b>
California Proposition 29	<b>Yes</b>
California Proposition 30	<b>Yes</b>
California Proposition 31	<b>Yes</b>
Los Angeles County Measure A	<b>Yes</b>
Culver City Measure BL	<b>Yes</b>
Culver City Measure VY	<b>Yes</b>



**Here are some of the candidates the Culver City Democratic Club has endorsed for the November 8 election. Click on the candidate's name for more information.**

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

**[Ricardo Lara](#)**



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

**[Robert Luna](#)**



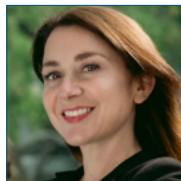
LA County Assessor

**[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 118

**[Carolyn JiYoung Park](#)**



LA Superior Court Judge Seat 151

**[Patrick Hare](#)**



# 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% 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](mailto: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 below).



**Village Well**  
BOOKS & COFFEE

**Author Conversation**

**Common Ground:  
Multifamily Housing in Los Angeles**

 **Frances Anderton**  
Author

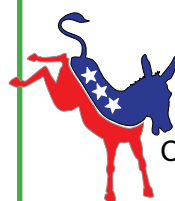
  **Alex Fisch**  
Culver City Council Member

Tuesday, November 1  
7:00 pm • Free  
More info at [VillageWell.com](http://VillageWell.com)



**Common Ground: A Conversation about Multifamily Housing with Frances Anderton and Alex Fisch**

Tuesday, November 1  
7:00 pm • Free  
More info at [VillageWell.com](http://VillageWell.com)



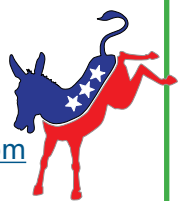
## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Follow us on Twitter: @CulvCityDemClub

Instagram: CulverCityDemClub

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



### KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

CADEM Voter Protection Hotline **1-877-321-VOTE**  
For voting questions, assistance or [to report an issue](#)

**November 7 • 7 PM**

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

**November 8**

[Culver City School Board Meeting](#)

**November 8 • 7 AM-8 PM**

Last Day to Vote to Save Democracy!

[Find a ballot drop box](#)

[Find a Vote Center](#)

**November 9 • 7 PM**

[CCDC General Meeting](#) via Zoom

**November 18-20**

CADEM [Fall Virtual Executive Board Meeting](#)

**November 19**

[CCDC Theater Night with the Actor's Gang](#)

**December 14 • 7 PM**

CCDC General Meeting via Zoom

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/>

# Club endorses Alex Fisch and Freddy Puza for City Council

The Culver City Democratic Club has endorsed Councilmember Alex Fisch for re-election to the City Council of Culver City. The Club also endorsed local activist Freddy Puza to replace Councilmember Dr. Daniel Lee, who



**Alex Fisch** is running for his second term on the Culver City Council.

Alex's vision for Culver City prioritizes 1) optimizing public safety, public space, and public health for all, 2) expanding affordable housing and reducing homelessness, and 3) investing in mobility options and improving our local environment while leading the region in increasing sustainability and climate resilience.

The City Council took major steps towards this vision during Alex's first term: phasing out oil production within city limits, expanding tenants' rights, providing emergency rental assistance, substantially reducing the city's structural deficit, expanding outreach to the unhoused, winning a Project Homekey grant to convert two motels into housing for those most in need, and approving the creation of a mobile crisis response service. During the pandemic, the council moved quickly to assist residents with necessities like meal delivery and regular phone calls to seniors while assisting businesses with expanded outdoor dining, fee waivers, and tax deferrals.

Alex represents the City on the Westside Cities Council of Governments (the COG), and represents the COG on the Regional Council of the Southern California

announced that he will not run for a second term. There are two openings on the Council this year. Both Alex Fisch and Freddy Puza are long-time members of the Culver City Democratic Club.

Association of Governments. His regional work has helped Culver City win grants from the Biden Infrastructure Bill, various state environmental, housing, and mobility programs, Olympic funding, and regional opportunities.

Alex is also an attorney for the California Department of Justice, in the Natural Resource Law Section of the Attorney General's Office, and a proud CCUSD dad.

**Freddy Puza** is running for a city council seat, because he appreciates the strengths and potential of Culver City, and because he wants to contribute constructively to addressing the challenges our community faces. Freddy was drawn to Culver City in 2011 because of its central location, vibrant growth, creative economy, and, most of all, its people. Freddy has been both a homeowner and a renter where he lives in Fox Hills.

Freddy sees himself as standing on the shoulders of the progressive leaders that have preceded him, and is committed to building on their work. In speaking with voters, Freddy knows that his platform, based on the values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and a sustainable future, resonates even more in 2022 than it did when he first ran for city council in 2020.



Freddy is committed to advancing the important changes that have been launched in our community: protecting our health and safety by shutting down the Inglewood Oil Field and reimagining public safety; building connectivity throughout the city, so that more people can readily walk, bike, or choose alternative mobility options; developing significantly more affordable housing, including making sure our unhoused neighbors receive the housing and meaningful supports they need; improving community participation in the city budgeting process; and addressing climate change locally, as robustly as possible..

While we may not always agree, Freddy believes in the importance of being respectful and patient with one another. Many changes are called for, and change is often challenging for people to embrace. This is one reason why leaders need to have the convictions to make decisions that help all people, not just a select few. Freddy is under no illusion that Culver City alone will solve all of the problems we face, but he promises that together we will do our fair share of the work. With your support, Freddy looks forward to serving our community as a council member. Please visit <http://www.freddypuza.com/> to learn more about his campaign and how to get involved.



# Why I'm voting to re-elect Alex Fisch to the Culver City Council

I can say many things about why I am voting for Alex Fisch, but I'm going to focus here on the environment. If you have the pleasure of knowing Alex personally or as a council member, you know that Alex loves planet earth. It's not that he loves the earth more than he loves people. It's that he loves people enough to fight for their mother, and he loves their mother earth so much that it lives in all he does.

Alex is giving all he has for this damn planet.

This amazing public servant sees how dire our circumstances are and devotes so much of his intellect and optimism to us, to our future, to our children's future. We are incredibly lucky to have him and we are lucky that he is willing to run for a second term.

I am in a good position to know what has to be withstood by the partners and families in this town when we run for office and work to change the status quo. I see that Alex and his family have made tremendous sacrifices. I also know he wouldn't run again and family wouldn't support him running for re-election, if he and they didn't think it would make such an important difference.

Nations are under water right now. Climate refugees are being bussed and flown to "sanctuary states" right now because of what our generation and the ones just before did and did not do. States are losing coastlines and forests. Zombie ice is a scientific term right now (look it up).

Alex's bold leadership on climate means that Culver City has led the county and the state on stopping urban oil drilling. Our planning commission apparently just led the state on eliminating parking minimums. We can do this hard thing of leading on housing and mobility for the sake of both people and the planet. We will do it by helping Mr. Fisch house people and give them choices about how to be mobile. But Alex cannot do it without us.

We must put our energies into supporting the candidate who has the expertise and the experience, but also the passion and the boldness to address the realities of what we've been complicit in. Your neighbors need to know why Alex is your candidate.

Electing Alex Fisch to City Council will keep Culver City at the front of the fight to interrupt humankind's destruction of the climate. We will continue to watch the region and state follow and, with any luck, the nation

—Kelly Kent, Ph.D.

Member of the Culver City School Board

# Why I'm voting for Alex and Freddy

During the last heat wave the thermostat in our living room read 90 degrees. The old and aging building that we rent is already barely adequate to sustain the hot summers, and the summers are only getting worse from here. Alternative housing options are completely out of reach for us and still, amidst the shocking increase in homelessness, we have to consider ourselves lucky to have a home at all! The reason I support Alex and Freddy for City Council is because they understand that these problems are all connected. Not just that, but they support the academically based policies which will fix them. Clear stated policies that will increase housing production, protect renters, expand public transportation services and more. These policies upset some people. Frankly, we don't have time to coddle them. Whether we like it or not, change is coming to Culver City. Change can be scary but I'm not scared. I'm excited to see what's new! Now is our chance to create a leading equitable city that welcomes everyone proudly. With Alex and Freddy on our City Council, we'll have the leadership capable of meeting this challenge. Unfortunately, the alternative is an exclusionary business-lead city that protects the wealthy while charging head-first into more climate disaster. If, like me, you feel like helping to save our neighbors and save the world, then please join me in voting for Alex Fisch and Freddy Puza for Culver City City Council.

—Danny Young

# Why I'm voting for Alex Fisch and Freddy Puza

by *Art Nomura*

Alex Fisch, Daniel Lee, and Yasmine Imani-McMorrin have approached their responsibilities with intelligence, forbearance, compassion, and vision. We have not seen comparable responses from their fellow council members. Instead, knee-jerk reactions, continually clouding rational choice with inflammatory comments, asking for studies when they have already been done, and delaying/waylaying meaningful discourse when all else has failed, are the typical modus operandi of Eriksson and Vera. Expect much, much more of the same if the any of the totally inexperienced trio of O'Brien, Renteria, or Gyi and their grandiose and unsupportable promises are elected.

Fisch has led the city out of looming bankruptcy created by generations of his "business friendly" predecessors by creating dependable funding for city employee pensions. He has had the vision and legal experience to help steer Culver City through a devastating and unprecedented pandemic. He

"walks the talk" in the battle against climate warming by biking, using public transport, and minimizing car use.

Unlike his opponents he has not accepted huge amounts of corporate and big business money to support his campaign. Why? Because such funds always arrive with strings attached which can be used whenever needed.

It is infinitely easier to criticize and stonewall efforts for positive and necessary change, than to create and implement legitimate ways to solve real and systemic problems. Instead of passing the buck as many have done in the past, Alex Fisch has accepted and followed through on the difficult, painstaking work necessary to solve them.

Alex Fisch and Freddy Puza are their own men. Beholding only to the community good, integrity, and a positive vision for the future. Vote for Alex Fisch and Freddy Puza for City Council.



## Virtual Phonebank and Textbank Supporting Lola Smallwood-Cuevas



Lola Smallwood-Cuevas is a civil rights leader, educator and community organizer running for Senate District 28. Lola co-founded the Los Angeles Black Worker Center where she worked to create opportunities for working families

Join us for our weekly virtual phone bank supporting Lola's candidacy!

## The Culver City Democratic Club endorses Lola Smallwood-Cuevas for State Senate

Please use the link below to RSVP:  
<https://www.mobilize.us/lscforsenate/event/505219/>  
 For any questions please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Sherri at [sherribell28@gmail.com](mailto:sherribell28@gmail.com)

## Why I support Stephanie Loreda

I am supporting Stephanie Loreda for Culver City School Board because she brings an informed, level-headed and compassionate approach to school policy and practice. She's the kind of leader we need at this time. —Claudia Vizcarra

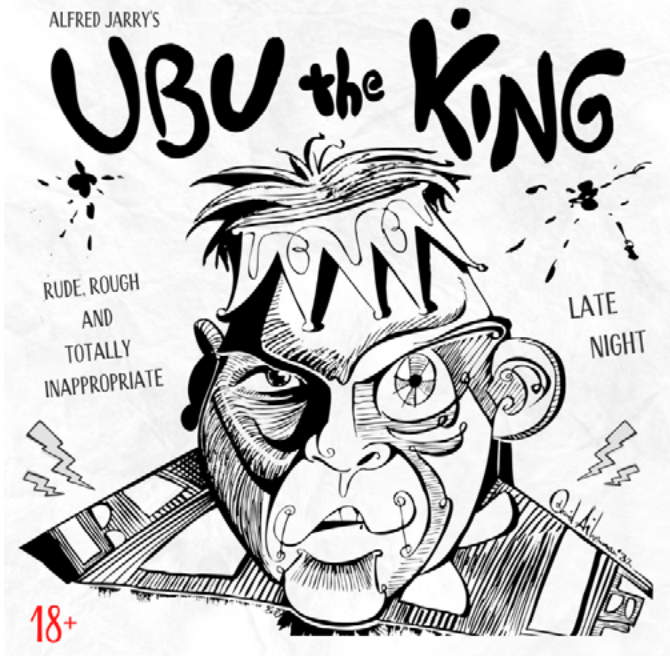
## Why I'm voting for Freddy Puza

Voting for Freddy Puza is easy. He brings to our community the experience, the knowledge and the skill that we need to make sure that Culver City can become the forward looking city we all want to live in. —Claudia Vizcarra

## Brian Guerrero for CCUSD

Brian brings skills developed in the trenches to add to the difficult task of making sure our children get what they need from our schools. He's easy to talk to, listens acutely and can take on the complicated issues brought on by different world views. He will do that in a way that will allow various stakeholders to feel heard and honored. I'm truly excited to support this unique candidate.

—Donna Kent



## Calling All Culver City Democratic Club Members and Supporters!

Let's celebrate our 70th Anniversary in a meaningful way! We are initiating a series of diverse pop-up fundraisers to ensure that we have robust capacity for future elections, crises, and opportunities.

The first pop-up is a theater performance on Saturday, November 19 of Alfred Jarry's *Ubu the King* directed by Tim Robbins for The Actors' Gang.

The Actors' Gang celebrates its 40th anniversary this year by presenting a revival of this obscenely funny, deeply offensive, and utterly deranged play which debuted in 1896. *Ubu the King* is the perfect story for these insane times.

The CCDC has a very limited number of tickets available for this sold-out closing night performance on Saturday, November 19 for a donation of \$50 per guest.

8:00 PM Doors Open - Pre-show drinks available for purchase

9:00 PM Performance—Excellent seats!

10:30 PM Post-Show Party—Meet the cast, enjoy a glass of bubbly, and receive a 20% discount for the special party menu. You must be 18 or older to attend this event. You must be 21 or older for the glass of bubbly.

The Actors' Gang Theater is located at the Ivy Substation in Media Park—9070 Venice Boulevard in Culver City

Buy Tickets Now—<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/ubu>

Learn More—<https://www.c-c-d-c.com/nov-19-fundraiser-with-the-actors-gang/>

Ask Questions—[CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com](mailto:CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com)

NOTE: Strobe lighting effects will be used during this performance. Patrons who may suffer from epilepsy & other visual light stimulation effects are advised to contact the Front of House staff prior to entering the theater.

## Why the race for Controller really matters!

The Culver City Democratic Club has endorsed Malia Cohen for California State Controller. She has said that she considers the State Controller's Office to be the second most powerful office in the State because as Controller "...you have the ability to have an influence and impact people's lives. And you have the ability to check the governor's spending and check the legislature's spending..."



**Malia Cohen**

That's a lot of power. Let's keep the California State Controller's Office in the Blue column.

Writing in the Washington Post (September 30, 2022), [Jason Willick calls Malia Cohen's opponent](#) "the Republican who could upset California's Democratic monopoly."

Please join us in supporting Malia Cohen for State Controller.





**RE-ELECT**  
**ALEX FISCH**  
**CULVER CITY COUNCIL**

**Alex Fisch is a visionary leader.  
He ranks with the nation's best local officials.  
- Randy Shaw, LA Progressive**

# VOTE FOR FREDDY PUZA FOR CULVER CITY COUNCIL

[WWW.FREDDYPUZA.COM](http://WWW.FREDDYPUZA.COM) #READY4FREDDY



## Freddy is committed to:

- Reducing Culver City's carbon footprint to protect our community and our planet
- Connecting our mobility network to support our housing and sustainability goals
- Achieving zero emissions by making our transit system all-electric
- Providing unhoused people individualized services and support
- Championing affordable and workforce housing production

## ENDORSED BY



Westside  
Young  
Democrats



**Assemblymember (D-54)**  
Isaac Bryan

**L.A. County Supervisor, 2nd District**  
Holly J. Mitchell

**Culver City Council**  
Mayor Dr. Daniel Lee  
Councilmember Alex Fisch  
Councilmember Yasmine-Imani McMorris

**Culver City School Board Members**  
Paula Amezola  
Dr. Kelly Kent  
Summer McBride





# BRIAN GUERRERO

for CCUSD School Board

parent • educator • organizer



**Good Ideas** aren't enough. **Good Ideas** + **Skills and Experience** = Policies and programs that are fully and successfully implemented and real change for students.

## Education & Credentials

- bilingual (Spanish)
- B.A.s in Psychology & Sociology, UC Irvine
  - Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
- M.Ed. in Education, UCLA, Center X
  - Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, Bilingual Ed.
  - Single Subject Teaching Credential, Social Studies

## Career

- classroom teacher – 17 years
  - elementary, middle, and high school
  - bilingual ed./dual language
  - Inclusion, special ed./general ed. co-teaching
- curriculum specialist & instructional coach – 6 years
- [US Peace Corps](#) – volunteer, teacher trainer – 2 years
- [California Teachers Association](#) – trainer, organizer, education policy analyst – 2 years, *current position*

## Union Work & Activism

- [Lennox Teachers Association](#) – Site Rep, VP, President
  - organizer, community outreach, lead negotiator
- Have worked with and supported:
  - [Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund](#)
  - [Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy](#)
  - [California Labor-Management Initiative](#)
  - [Parent Teacher Home Visits Project](#)
  - [Californians for Justice](#)
  - [Vote16 Culver City](#)

## Priorities

As a parent, teacher, union organizer, and education policy analyst, I have a unique set of skills and experiences that is missing from the current CCUSD School Board. I can leverage my practical skills and experiences to drive policies and programs that result in positive outcomes for all students.

My priorities will be to work with my fellow board members, district leadership, teachers, classified staff, students and families to:

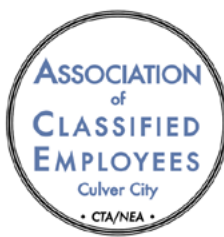
1. **Provide high-quality, well-supported academic, social-emotional, artistic and athletic experiences for on safe, well-maintained campuses.**
2. **Promote access and inclusion for all students**, particularly students with disabilities and English learners, in the same high-quality experiences provided to other students.
3. **Reflect critically on policies and practices for barriers to student success**, asking difficult questions and using data and listening to the experiences of students and families for answers.
4. **Value diversity in all forms**, celebrating the richness and joy of our community and assuring that diverse voices have a role in decision-making.
5. **Engage with stakeholder groups regularly**, reaching out, listening, and collaborating with diverse communities on matters *they* feel are important and impact students, families, employees, and the district.



For more information y la versión en español, visit:

[www.guerrero4ccusb2022.com](http://www.guerrero4ccusb2022.com)

**Proudly endorsed by:**





# Why I'm voting for Alex Fisch for City Council

by *George Montgomery*

I'm voting for Alex because he does the hard work. He is tireless and committed. He's holistic and smart with his approach and thoughtful with his words. He listens to the community, is studied on the agenda, and prepared for discussion while always relentlessly pushing to manifest realistic and productive solutions. He's not afraid to lead into new territory and wants to make the city the best it can be for the most people.

This is a complicated moment and my preference is for someone who has mastered the issues by putting in the time. Voting for progress and action is far superior to endless study, postponement and starting over.

We're in a time when a lot of anger is projected into every discussion. Alex does not do this. His positions

are reflective and driven by reason and empathy. He is persistent with his focus on measurable progress. He cares, wants to do good, and is not deterred by pessimism. He is an optimist who is always looking forward. He gets the work done.

I'm also voting for Alex because he is a Democrat. The City Council is a nonpartisan office, but a true indicator of where a candidate stands is still their party affiliation. An independent or "decline to state" are those things. If a candidate doesn't choose to represent themselves as a Democrat it's because they are not one.

This is not a problem with Alex, it's very clear. When others claim they're independent because they want to bring people together, well they can do that and still be registered as a Democrat.

Alex has been on council and served as Mayor in one of the most difficult times in our city's history. He not only brings his experience as a deputy attorney general for the State of California, He brings four years of knowledge as a working City Council person. Culver City needs this continuity of experience to adapt and evolve our city with the times.

Alex Fisch is a truly authentic and passionate public servant. He's a great husband, father and friend. He has served us with integrity, innovation and honesty. His list of accomplishments during his first term is exemplary.

This is not the time to let negative campaigns of fear and anger mislead us into moving backwards. When we see that kind of opposition it's crucial to recognize where we've seen it before and how that went.

Vote for a Democrat by voting for Harden "Alex" Fisch until November 8th, 2022.

**Assembly Member**  
**Issac Bryan**

*I Endorse Alex*

Find out why at  
**ALEXFISCH.COM**

## Alex Fisch

I am voting for Alex Fisch for Culver City Council because he brings to our community a level of experience that is essential on a council that is dealing with the dramatic changes our community is facing. Alex brings the level of expertise and preparation to policy deliberations that is needed for the difficult challenges we face. And yet, he is also able to communicate clearly with community members about these issues, which is an essential part of effective governance.

—Claudia Vizcarra

# Vote YES on County Measure A

On July 12, LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchell issued the following press release and began the process of putting a charter amendment on the November ballot. It would give the supervisors the power to remove the LA Sheriff for cause by a vote of at least four of the five supervisors. The Culver City Democratic Club endorsed this charter amendment, County Measure A, by more than 87 percent.

I attended the Club meeting in 2018 when we endorsed the current sheriff. He spoke and took questions for what seemed like the better part of an hour, and the members voted overwhelmingly to back him in the election. That turns out to have been a big mistake. He presented himself as a reformer. He is not. He reminds me a bit of Donald Trump. I listened to him last night at a meeting of the Santa Monica Democratic Club as he railed against those whom he considers his enemies, repeatedly accusing them of corruption. To put it mildly—he doesn't have a good working relationship with the county supervisors. For more information go to [CheckTheSheriff.com](https://www.checkthesheriff.com).

—Pete Rockwell

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors today approved the initiation of the process of amending the County Charter to meet the structural need for increased accountability of the Los Angeles County Sheriff. The motion authored by Chair Holly J. Mitchell and co-authored by Supervisor Hilda L. Solis directs County Counsel to draft an ordinance for a special election that will allow voters to decide on an amendment to the County Charter that would grant the Board of Supervisors the authority to remove a Sheriff who violates the law or abuses power by a four-fifths vote.

“The State Legislature, the Board and voters have gone to great lengths to create a system of accountability and transparency. However, for decades, the current system has allowed abuses of power to thrive largely unchecked with serious consequences for public safety. It has become painfully clear that the Board must put this question to the voters. The proposed Charter amendment would allow the Board to expeditiously remove a Sheriff who violates the law,” said Los



**Supervisor Holly Mitchell**

Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Holly J. Mitchell, representing the Second District. “Under the current system, voters must wait for a grand jury to convene or a recall election to be held. The voters deserve an opportunity to decide whether this is the right way to enhance accountability of the Sheriff and protect the lives and liberties of County residents.”

“Accountability over law enforcement is public safety,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, First District. “Ensuring our residents have the ability to vote on being free from law enforcement intimidation, harassment, and misconduct and holding them accountable for any ensuing harm and trauma is the Board of Supervisors’ responsibility, specifically over the Sheriff of Los Angeles County. This charter amendment would provide residents with the oversight they expect and the peace from law enforcement abuse they deserve.”

The California Constitution authorizes county charters to provide steps for the removal of county officers, including an elected sheriff. As a charter county, LA County requires a Charter amendment to be approved by voters. With voter approval, the County would create a process by which the Board of Supervisors could vote to remove a Sheriff for cause only, with grounds for removal including: a violation of any law related to the performance of Sheriff duties; flagrant

or repeated neglect of duties; a misappropriation of public funds or property; willful falsification of a relevant official statement or document; or obstruction of any investigation into the conduct of the Sheriff by the Inspector General, Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission, or any government agency with jurisdiction to conduct such an investigation.

“The county has a history of sheriffs who break the law and ignore — or worse, facilitate — deputy misconduct. The public demanded that the Board act on its duty to supervise the Sheriff and protect people in the most vulnerable circumstances. The Board heard us, and it did,” said Melanie Ochoa, Director of Police Practices at the ACLU of Southern California. “No matter who wins in November, structural change is needed to make sure that we don’t have another sheriff with a \$3 billion budget, unlimited weapons, and no real process to achieve accountability while lives are at stake.”

The motion preserves the public’s right to vote and elect a Sheriff and will not impact the independent investigative and prosecutorial function of the Sheriff. The first directive of the motion instructs County Counsel to present a draft ordinance to call a special election on Tuesday November 8, 2022. The draft ordinance will come before the Board for at least two readings before receiving final approval to be placed on the ballot. The first review and vote for approval of the ordinance by the Board of Supervisors will take place at the Tuesday July 26, 2022 public board meeting.

[Click here to read the full text of Measure A](#)

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



## Di's Corner:

by Diane Rosenberg

Update on Club member Charlotte Gunter: She is doing well, still has care givers, and is going to physical therapy for her right shoulder. She misses everybody.

We are saddened hearing of the passing of Club member Gerry Sallus. For those members who still remember him and his wife Betty. They were long-time members. Gerry was also past President 2004-2005. Our condolences go out to Betty and the family

## JOIN THE CLUB OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

For information and questions on becoming a member of the Culver City Democratic Club call Membership Chair Diane Rosenberg at (310) 398-5328 or [Click here to join the Club or renew your membership online](#)

## Brian Guerrero

I am voting for Brian Guerrero because he brings the experience, the knowledge, the expertise, and the heart, to help us navigate school policy discussions that require careful consideration. Brian understands that our diverse school population and community needs to be listened to, and brought into the folds to truly ensure that our our students achieve their full potential.

—Claudia Vizcarra

## Mike Davis 1946-2022

As the deadline for this newsletter arrived, it was announced that author and activist Mike Davis had died. He had been on hospice for several months, so this was no surprise, but it is a major loss to progressive politics, cultural studies, and Southern California. [Carolina Miranda has written a tribute in the LA Times](#) and I expect there will be many more.

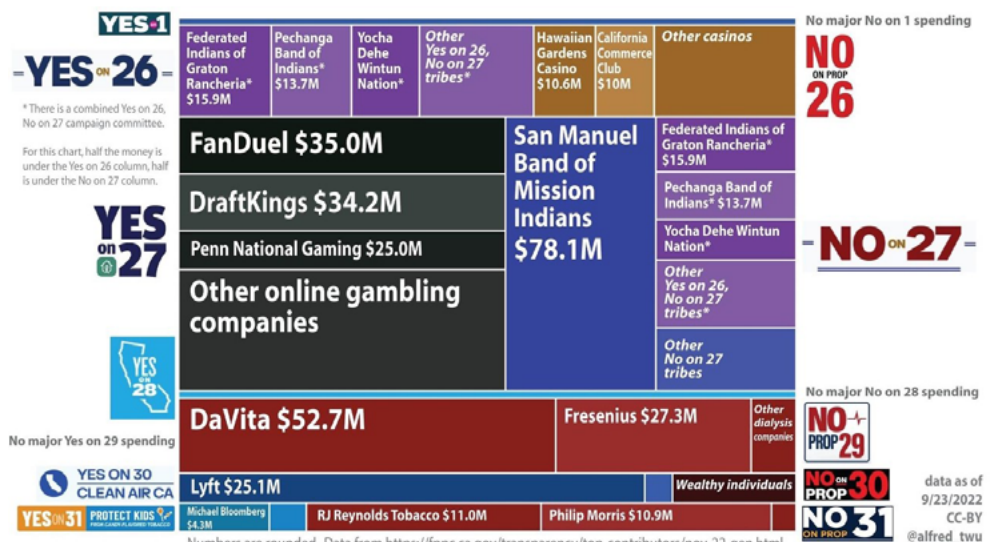
Davis transformed my understanding of Los Angeles with *City of Quartz* (1990), *The Ecology of Fear* (1998), and his final magnum opus, written in collaboration with Jon Weiner, *Set the Night on Fire* (2020).

His work also helped inspire the contemporary left by drawing historical and theoretical links between the Old Left of Dorothy Healey and Harry Hay, the New Left of SDS and the Black Panthers, and the postmodernism of Frederic Jameson and Andrew Ross.

He leaves behind a shelf of books and a powerful example.

—Jeff Schwartz

### 2022 California Propositions - Campaign Contributions as of 9/23/2022



Numbers are rounded. Data from <https://fpcc.ca.gov/transparency/top-contributors/nov-22-gen.html>



# The Culver City Democratic Club endorses Sydney Kamlager for Congress

RUNSKD@GMAIL.COM TO:

- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2022 – VOLUNTEER KICKOFF
- RECEIVE DATES FOR TEXT & PHONE BANKING
- SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN WITH A LAWN SIGN

Endorsed by



## Why I voted to Endorse Sydney Kamlager for Congress

by Cynthia Hart

Sydney has earned my support. In the time that she has represented members of our Club in Sacramento, she has proven to be a bold and able legislator who is relentless in pursuit of social justice. ([Check out her "top 10" list here.](#))

Some of my favorites of her "greatest hits" include:

**SB1245**—To fund LA County Abortion Access Safe Haven Pilot Program...**AB118**—CRISES Act to scale up community-based

alternatives to police...**ACA3**—To abolish Involuntary Servitude in California without exception...

**SB2**—To give POST commission new powers to decertify peace officers for serious misconduct...

**SB65**—To improve maternal Care and Services...**SB1304**—To increase "gate money" provided upon release to the formerly incarcerated to improve chances of successful transition thus reducing recidivism and improving public safety...**SB98**—To decriminalize journalism She provided a significant nudge to help

my personal passion project **SB98** on its way to enactment.

One look at her very impressive [list of endorsements](#) tells me that as soon as she gets to Washington she will have important allies ready to support her work. The list includes the Congressional Progressive Caucus, Rep. Ted Lieu, Rep. Ro Khanna, Rep. Pramila Jayapal, Rep. Adam Schiff, Rep. Jamie Raskin, and so many more! It's a dream team!

Sydney Kamlager will serve our district well in the U.S. Congress.

# CHIEF ROBERT LUNA



**FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF**



**IT'S TIME TO RESTORE PUBLIC TRUST  
IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**Endorsed by:**

**All 7**

**Sheriff Candidates  
from the Primary**

**All 5**

**LA County  
Supervisors**

**30+**

**Democratic Clubs  
in LA County**

**While Chief of Long Beach PD:**

**6.5%**

**Reduction in  
violent crime**

**10%**

**Reduction in  
property crime**

**34%**

**Reduction in use of  
force incidents**

**Endorsed by the Culver City Democratic Club**



# State propositions: CCDC recommendations



## [California Proposition 1, Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment \(2022\)](#)

A "yes" vote supports amending the state constitution to prohibit the state from interfering with or denying an individual's right to reproductive freedom, which includes a right to an abortion and a right to contraceptives.

The Culver City Democratic Club urges a **YES** vote.

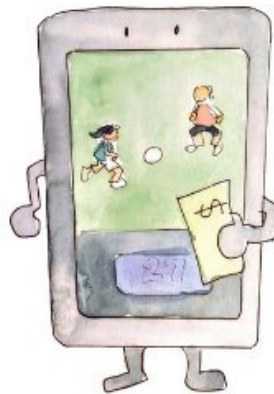
Thanks to our friend Alfred Twu for letting us use his great drawings depicting the seven statewide propositions that will be on the ballot November 8.

Click on the links to read more.



## [California Proposition 26, Legalize Sports Betting on American Indian Lands Initiative \(2022\)](#)

The Culver City Democratic Club urges a **NO** vote.



## [California Proposition 27, Legalize Sports Betting and Revenue for Homelessness Prevention Fund Initiative \(2022\)](#)

The Culver City Democratic Club urges a **NO** vote.



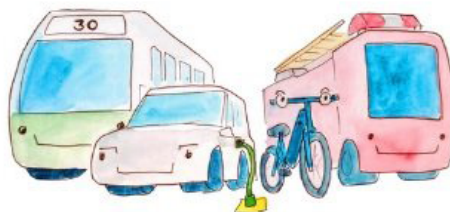
## [California Proposition 28, Art and Music K-12 Education Funding Initiative \(2022\)](#)

The Culver City Democratic Club urges a **YES** vote.



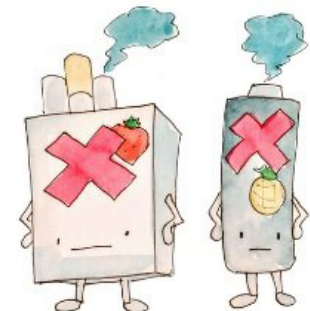
## [California Proposition 29, Dialysis Clinic Requirements Initiative \(2022\)](#)

The Culver City Democratic Club urges a **YES** vote.



## [California Proposition 30, Tax on Income Above \\$2 Million for Zero-Emissions Vehicles and Wildfire Prevention Initiative \(2022\)](#)

The Culver City Democratic Club urges a **YES** vote.



## [California Proposition 31, Flavored Tobacco Products Ban Referendum \(2022\)](#)

The Culver City Democratic Club urges a **YES** vote.



# 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.

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



[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](#)

# **The Culver City Democratic Club has endorsed FOUR PUBLIC DEFENDERS who are running for Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge**

## **They are running as a slate called THE DEFENDERS OF JUSTICE**

**THE DEFENDERS OF JUSTICE ARE FOUR WOMEN RUNNING FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE**



**HOLLY HANCOCK**  
(OFFICE 70)



**ELIZABETH LASHLEY-HAYNES**  
(OFFICE 67)



**CAROLYN "JIYOUNG" PARK**  
(OFFICE 118)



**ANNA REITANO**  
(OFFICE 60)

**"In Los Angeles County, no public defender has been elected to the bench."**

Click on any of the photos above to watch their great, two-and-a-half-minute video.

[Click here for their website](#)



# What you need to know about Measure BL

## Updating Culver City Business License Tax Rates



## The Culver City Democratic Club recommends a YES vote on Measure BL

### What is a business license tax and who pays it?

Every business operating in the City is required to file a Business License Tax application before opening up shop and to pay the annual tax each year thereafter.

The following businesses and organizations are required to obtain a business tax certificate and any necessary permits; however, they are not required to pay a business tax: charitable organizations; parks, recreation & community services contractors; employees (whether on salary, commission, or other compensation basis); and homeowners' associations.

### How does Measure BL affect local business owners?

If voters approve Measure BL, approximately 6,000 businesses will no longer pay the annual business license tax, due to the \$200,000 gross receipts exemption. Businesses whose annual gross receipts exceed \$200,000 could pay a higher or lower business license tax, depending on their business type and gross receipts.

### How does Measure BL affect the Culver City community?

Business license tax revenue is a part of the General Fund and can be used for any general City expense. If voters approve Measure BL, revenue from the measure could generate approximately \$10 million annually (until ended by voters) that stays within the City and would require annual independent audits. The City could use this revenue for services such as emergency response, maintaining parks, and addressing homelessness.

### What will Measure BL say on your ballot?

"Shall the measure updating Culver City's business license tax to either a flat tax up to \$1,000, or 0.13%-0.35% of gross receipts (depending on business type), 4% for oil well operations, and an additional 0.01% for gross receipts over \$100,000,000, exempting the first \$200,000 in gross receipts, updating business classifications, generating approximately \$10,000,000 annually, until ended by voters, for such general fund services as emergency response, parks, homelessness services, and requiring annual independent audits, be adopted?"

### For More Information:

City of Culver City  
(310) 253-6000 | [MeasureBL@CulverCity.org](mailto:MeasureBL@CulverCity.org)  
*Llame a la Ciudad al (310) 253-6000 si necesita información en español.*



# MEASURE BL

## Updating Culver City Business License Tax Rates

*Culver*  
CITY

The business license tax rate structure is based on either gross receipts or a flat rate tax depending on the type of business activity.

### **CURRENT - ranging from 0.1% - 0.3%**

Depending on business classification – 0.1% - 0.3%

Oil well operations tax rate – 1.8% or \$18/\$1,000

Flat tax up to \$720

No tax exemption on gross receipts

### **PROPOSED - ranging from 0.13% - 0.35%**

Depending on business classification – 0.13% - 0.35%

Oil well operations tax rate – 4.0% or \$40/\$1,000

Flat tax up to \$1,000

Tax exemption on the first \$200,000 in annual gross receipts for businesses whose tax rate is based on gross receipts

Additional tax of 0.01% or \$0.10/\$1,000 on gross receipts more than \$100 million

### **Are there exemptions to the proposed business license tax?**

Yes, if voters approve Measure BL, approximately 6,000 businesses will no longer pay the annual business license tax, due to the tax exemption on the first \$200,000 in annual gross receipts for businesses whose tax rate is based on gross receipts.

### **When would Measure BL go into effect?**

If approved, Measure BL would go into effect on April 1, 2023 for all new businesses. Businesses currently active in Culver City would not be impacted until the 2024 business license tax renewal period, which is due no later than February 2024.



### **Did You Know?**

Culver City has not updated business license tax rates since 1965.

### **For More Information:**

City of Culver City

(310) 253-6000 | [MeasureBL@CulverCity.org](mailto:MeasureBL@CulverCity.org)

Llame a la Ciudad al (310) 253-6000 si necesita información en español.

# 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](mailto:vote16cc@gmail.com)

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



# YES ON VY

## YES on Measure VY! On November 8th.

To expand the voting age to 16 in Culver City's school board and municipal elections.

- 1. Creating a generation of habitual voters:** The primary factor affecting voter turnout is the **social environment** of first-time voters (University of Copenhagen). Those who first cast a ballot in their familiar community, versus those who have moved for college or work, are more likely to become habitual voters.
- 2. Increasing civic engagement:** Voting in one election can increase the probability that a person will vote in the next election **by over 50 percent** (American Journal of Political Science, 2003).
- 3. Promoting responsibility from a young age:** 16- and 17-year-olds will **directly apply** their knowledge from mandatory civics classes and their experience being affected by local issues (like emergency services, rent control, parks, school board decisions, and the Inglewood Oil Fields) when casting their vote.

### Endorsed by:

- Dr. Daniel Lee, Mayor of Culver City
- Dr. Steven M. Levin, President of the Culver City School Board
- Paula Amezola, Vice President of the Culver City School Board
- Dr. Kelly Kent, Parliamentarian of the Culver City School Board
- The Culver City Democratic Club
- The Los Angeles County Democratic Party

For more information, visit [vote16culvercity.org](http://vote16culvercity.org)



**Vote16CC**

# ISAAC BRYAN

FOR CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY



**VOTE BY NOVEMBER 8**

[www.isaacbryan.com](http://www.isaacbryan.com)   @ib2\_real

**Paid for by Bryan for Assembly 2022, FPPC#1435259**





FOR CULVER CITY SCHOOL BOARD



TOGETHER LET'S MAKE CULVER CITY SCHOOLS THRIVE THROUGH:  
**ACHIEVEMENT BELONGING COMMUNITY**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ENDORSEMENT!



Westside  
Young  
Democrats



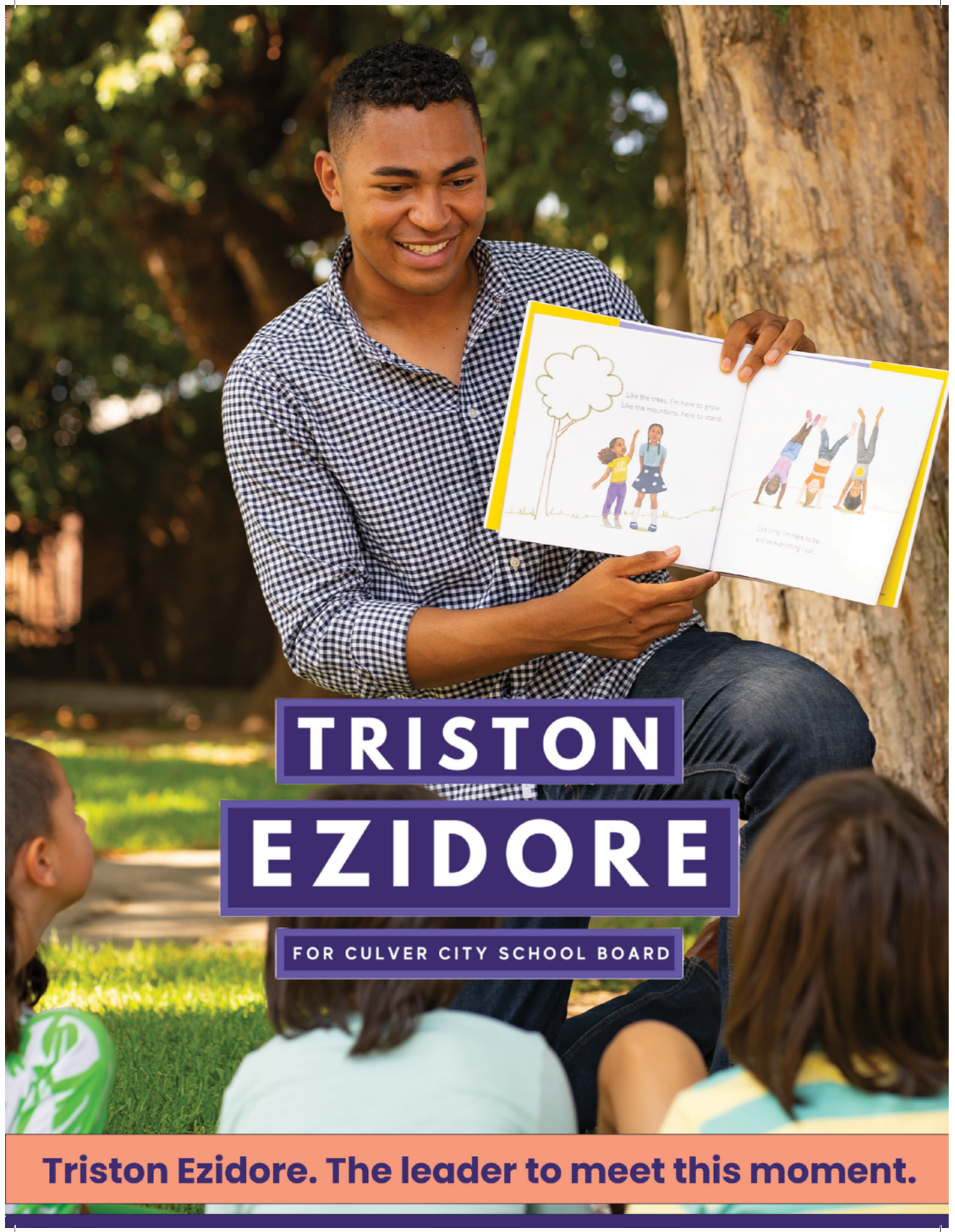
# The Culver City Democratic Club endorses [Malia Cohen for State Controller](#)



[Click Here](#)  
[To See Other](#)  
[Endorsements](#)





A photograph of Triston Ezidore, a young man with short dark hair, wearing a blue and white checkered button-down shirt and blue jeans. He is sitting on the grass, leaning against a large tree trunk, and smiling while reading a children's book to a group of children. The book is open, showing two pages with illustrations of children playing and text. The background is a lush green park with trees and sunlight filtering through the leaves. The children are seen from behind, sitting on the grass and looking towards Triston.

**TRISTON**

**EZIDORE**

FOR CULVER CITY SCHOOL BOARD

**Triston Ezidore. The leader to meet this moment.**





# Meet Triston Ezidore

Triston Ezidore is the son of Vietnamese and Jamaican immigrants, a social service worker, and a staunch believer in a Culver City Unified School District built for **everyone**.

As an **equity advocate**, Triston has done extensive work with the districts Equity Advisory Committee, Restorative Practices Committee, as well as the Sexual Harassment Action Group.

Professionally, Triston is a Youth Employment Case Manager for the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles.

As **our school board member**, Triston will fight for:

- ✓ Rigorous course opportunities for every student
- ✓ Trauma informed therapy and care district-wide
- ✓ Increased stakeholder engagement
- ✓ Safe Routes to School and Free Public Transit



 @tristonezidoreccusd
  @tristonezidore
  @tristonezidoreccusd
  www.tristonezidore.com



## Endorsed by...



Dolores Huerta



Asm. Isaac Bryan



Asm. Tina McKinnor



LA County Assessor  
Jeffrey Prang



Mayor  
Dr. Daniel Lee



Mayor (fmr.)  
Meghan Sahli-Wells



Councilmember  
Alex Fisch



Councilmember  
Yasmine McMorris



School Board VP  
Paula Amezola



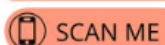
School Board Member  
Dr. Kelly Kent



School Board Member  
Summer McBride



School Board Member  
Dr. Tashon McKeithan



# TRISTON EZIDORE

FOR CULVER CITY SCHOOL BOARD





## Clean. Safe. Affordable. Water.

**Scott Houston has safeguarded the interests of our Ratepayers and brought Transparency and Accountability to the Water Board.**

As your representative, **Scott Houston**:

- Voted against raising your Water Rates during the pandemic
- Implemented video recordings of the Water Board's public meetings
- Stood up for employees alleging workplace harassment, bullying & abuse at MWD
- Provided ways to permanently save water and protect our environment with Grass Replacement Rebates, Free Rain Barrels, Public Water Bottle Filling Stations

If re-elected, **Scott Houston** will:

- Ensure safe, reliable and affordable water
- Increase recycled water use that protects our ocean and waterways
- Decrease our dependence on imported water from hundreds of miles away

### **Re-Elect Scott Houston**

for Director, West Basin Municipal Water District, Division 4  
Tuesday, November 8, 2022

**[www.ScottHouston.org](http://www.ScottHouston.org)**

**Endorsed by:**

