

# 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](http://www.facebook.com/culvercitydems)

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

**General Meeting on Zoom — 7p.m. Wednesday, January 11, 2023**

**Program: Adoption of budget and election of Club officers**

*President's Message by Jeff Schwartz*

## Election wrap-up, The Sequel

Fellow Democrats,  
Now that the final results of the November election have been certified, I have repeated the statistics [I did for the March primary](#), comparing how our endorsed candidates did in Culver City compared to in Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, and the County or State as a whole. This can show where these cities

are politically: do Santa Monica and West Hollywood live up to their progressive reputations, etc. I remind you that [Noah Zatz found Culver City voted to the left of Santa Monica](#) in national, state, and county contests in 2020. In the context of this Club, I am also interested in gauging the power of our endorsement. This is largely speculative: I have not surveyed

voters on what influenced their choices. However, in some contests, particularly the judicial ones, our mailer may have been the only piece of mail most local voters received.

Here are the numbers. Note that I only included nonpartisan or Democrat-on-Democrat contests, and only ones where we endorsed.

Overall Turnout	Culver City	Santa Monica	West Hollywood	Beverly Hills	LA County	California
	62.87%	58.67%	59.04%	55.93%	43.65%	50.8%

State Senate	Culver City	LA County
<b>Lola Smallwood-Cuevas</b>	62.85%	59.93%
Cheryl Turner	37.21%	40.07%

LA County Sheriff	Culver City	Santa Monica	West Hollywood	Beverly Hills	LA County
<b>Robert Luna</b>	76.25%	73.42%	74.46%	52.47%	61.26%
Alex Villanueva	23.94%	26.55%	25.46%	47.12%	38.74%

LA County Superior Court Office 60	Culver City	Santa Monica	West Hollywood	Beverly Hills	LA County
Abby Baron	45.33%	53.19%	47.58%	72.54%	55.31%
<b>Anna Reitano</b>	54.68%	46.79%	52.21%	27.20%	44.69%

LA County Superior Court Office 67	Culver City	Santa Monica	West Hollywood	Beverly Hills	LA County
<b>Elizabeth Lashley-Haynes</b>	57.35%	49.82%	58.11%	36.02%	46.91%
Fernanda Baretta	42.78%	50.25%	41.85%	64.23%	53.09%

See MESSAGE on page 2

**from MESSAGE on page 1**

LA County Superior Court Office 70	Culver City	Santa Monica	West Hollywood	Beverly Hills	LA County
<b>Holly Hancock</b>	70.96%	66.2%	75.04%	46.59%	58.62%
Renee Chang	28.95%	33.83%	25.33%	53.92%	41.38%

LA County Superior Court Office 118	Culver City	Santa Monica	West Hollywood	Beverly Hills	LA County
Melissa Hammond	51.68%	64.51%	54.56%	72.99%	61.7%
<b>Carolyn JiYoung Park</b>	48.65%	35.4%	45.68%	26.99%	38.3%

LA County Superior Court Office 151	Culver City	Santa Monica	West Hollywood	Beverly Hills	LA County
<b>Patrick Hare</b>	73.06%	70.93%	76.13%	52.03%	59.65%
Karen Brako	26.61%	29.12%	23.71%	48.02%	40.35%

Lola Smallwood-Cuevas did much better in Culver City and district-wide than in the primary. Her margins suggest, assuming she picked up all of her progressive competitors Kamilah Moore and Jamaal Gullede's voters and [AAGLA President Cheryl Turner](#) received all those of Republican Joe Lisuzzo, some of Turner's primary voters also switched over. In addition to our endorsement, several unions also sent mailers for Smallwood-Cuevas, due to her strong credentials as a labor activist. I am proud that we supported her but am cautious about taking too much credit for her victory.

For Sheriff, every candidate eliminated in the primary endorsed Robert Luna, but Alex Villanueva scored five to seven percent higher in the general than in the primary in each jurisdiction I looked at, while still being resoundingly defeated. Did he pick up some of the other candidates' votes, or did the general election activate more conservative voters than the primary?

In the primary, the judicial elections were the best test of our influence, because voters received few if any other mailings about them, except for [transparently pay-for-play slate mailers](#). We were the only Culver City organization to present judicial candidates to voters. Ten spoke at our monthly meetings and were recorded for [our YouTube channel](#), and six also met voters in-person at our Fiesta La Ballona booth. Patrick Hare had an easy victory in the general, as he

did in the primary. The four women running as the Defenders of Justice: Holly Hancock, Elizabeth Lashley-Haynes, Jiyoung Park, and Anna Reitano, were fighting the odds as public defenders in a system which has traditionally favored District Attorneys. While we can take some credit for all four leading in Culver City in the primary, Reitano and Park came in second in their races countywide, with Lashley-Haynes making it into first by just one percent. Only Hancock prevailed overall in the general, and Park slipped to second in Culver City. What changed? First, every candidate eliminated in the primary was to the Defenders' right and their voters likely coalesced around their opponents. Second, [the LA Times endorsed the opponent of every Defender except Hancock](#). The failure of the press to adequately cover the Culver City election was a major theme of [last month's message](#). On the county level we see the other side of the power of the press: nothing else in the region has the reach or authority of the *LA Times*. Finally, the LA County Bar Association rated Park "not qualified." These ratings carry enormous influence. However, they are structurally biased in favor of prosecutors. Park is a labor lawyer, so she works in hearings, not trials, and LACBA can give a "not qualified" for a lack of trial experience, even though there are many excellent lawyers who only see courtrooms on TV. Even worse, [there are serious reports that LACBA raters treat women and people of color unfairly](#). The *Times* acknowledged these

in their endorsement statement, but only in passing.

The Culver City section of the ballot does not allow us to compare Culver City to other communities, since those contests are uniquely ours, or the general election to the primary, since this section was general-only, but note that our endorsements were successful in five of seven local contests. For the two losses, I will remind you of two numbers: [sixteen](#) and [\\$480,000](#). The former is, ironically, the number of votes that Measure VY lost by. Culver City came within one tenth of a percentage point of leading the nation in empowering young people. Never doubt that your vote matters. In contrast, \$480,000 is the latest count of how much Michael Hackman spent to elect Dan O'Brien to the City Council. The final total will be even higher, but Hackman Partners' most recent campaign finance forms were filed on paper and have not yet been scanned and uploaded by the City. That's \$63.70 for each vote that O'Brien received, or \$34.44 per vote if you count those cast for Denice Renteria, who Hackman's PAC and his astroturf proxies unsuccessfully backed. These stacks will cast their shadow over City Hall for at least the next two years.

Thank you again for participating in this process. Our endorsements were chosen directly by your votes and our campaigning was funded entirely by your contributions. If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2023, [now's the time!](#) ☐

# Club endorses the Forward 55 ADEMs slate

At its December 14 General Meeting, the Culver City Democratic Club voted to endorse the Forward 55 slate of delegates to the California Democratic Party. Every member present voted in favor, except for one who abstained.

Every two years, each State Assembly District elects fourteen delegates: seven “Self-Identified Female” and seven “Other than Self-Identified Female.” These delegates help determine the Party’s platform and endorsements.

The Forward 55 slate includes Self-Identified Female candidates Shetarrah Byfield, Mae Gates, Ilissa Gold, Olga Lexell, Leah Pressman, Pamela Sparrow, and Shannon Theus, and non-females Greg Bartlett, Mike Bonin, Herman Jones II, Dr. Daniel Lee, Patrick MacFarlane, Gus Sustaita, and Andrew Swetland. Each is a progressive Democratic activist with deep roots in the district. Visit them online at [www.adem55.org](http://www.adem55.org)

This is an internal Democratic Party election. Voters do not need to be members of a Democratic Club, but they must be registered Democrats and must sign up on [ademelections.com](http://ademelections.com) before the end of 2022 to vote by mail, or before January 21 to vote in person. Please contact the slate or the Club if you have any difficulty registering.



Forward 55 is endorsed by Alex Fisch, Freddy Puza, Yasmine-Imani McMorrin, Paula Amezola, Kelly Kent, Triston Ezidore and Meghan Sahli-Wells

**Use this list to mark your ballot**

Number	Name
2	Leah Pressman
3	Shetarrah Byfield
4	Greg Bartlett
5	Andrew Swetland
6	Patrick MacFarlane
8	Pamela Sparrow
10	Ilissa Gold
13	Shannon Theus
14	Gus Sustaita
18	Daniel Lee
19	Mae Gates
21	Olga Lexell
25	Herman Jones II
30	Mike Bonin

## How to participate in the election of Assembly District Delegates

If you registered to vote by mail by December 31, your Scantron ballot will be mailed to you on January 6, 2023. (If you didn't register to vote by mail in 2022, you can still vote in person between 10 a.m and 2 p.m. on January 21. Go to the website to register to vote in person at <https://ademelections.com/home>)

Your vote-by-mail ballot will not have candidate names on them. Our Club has endorsed the Forward 55 slate at [www.adem55.org](http://www.adem55.org). You can find a complete list of all the candidates by going to <https://www.adem.cadem.org/candidates-results/ad-55>.

Be sure to include your registration confirmation number on the ballot. (Your ballot won't be counted without it.) Affix postage and mail it in time to be received by CDP on or before January 31, 2023. **Postmarks don't count.**

In-person voting will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on January 21, at the Veterans Memorial Building Rotunda Room.

If you have any questions or problems, you can contact the Club at [Culver-CityDemClub@gmail.com](mailto:Culver-CityDemClub@gmail.com) or CDP staff at [adem@cadem.org](mailto:adem@cadem.org).

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## Di's Corner:

by *Diane Rosenberg*

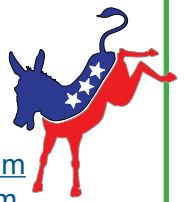
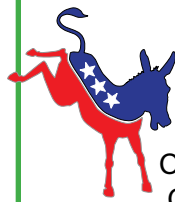
Update on Club member Charlotte Gunter: She is doing well and holding her own. Still has care givers, and always with a positive attitude. Still misses everybody.

On Sunday, December 4, Congresswoman and Los Angeles Mayor-elect Karen Bass held her End of Term Legislative Luncheon. It was held at the Hilton Hotel on Centinela Avenue. Attending were Culver City Mayor Daniel Lee, Former Mayor Jim Clarke, Former Mayor Meghan Sahli-Wells and her husband Karim Sahli, and Culver City Councilmember-elect Freddy Puza. Sitting at our table were Amy and Darryl Cherness, Former Culver City Councilmember Gary Silbiger, Ronnie Jayne Solomon and Tom Camarella, and Diane Rosenberg. Also, Congresswoman-elect Sydney Kamlager and former Congresswoman Diane Watson were there.

## Collins Dictionary Word of the Year 2022

### “Permacrisis”

Noun: an extended period of instability and insecurity, especially one resulting from a series of catastrophic events.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Club email address: [CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com](mailto:CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com)

Follow us on Twitter: @CulvCityDemClub

Instagram: CulverCityDemClub

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

**January 6 • Noon**

[Jan 6 Justice: Our Freedoms, Our Vote](#)

National Day of Action

**January 6**

California Democratic Party mails Assembly District Delegate Meeting (ADEM) vote-by-mail-ballots

**January 9 • 7 PM**

Culver City Council Meeting

**January 10**

Culver City School Board Meeting

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/ccusd/Board.nsf/Public>

**January 11 • 7 PM**

CCDC General Meeting via Zoom

**January 16**

Martin Luther King's Birthday Celebrated

**January 23 • 7 PM**

Culver City Council Meeting

**January 31**

Ballots to vote for Assembly District Delegates (ADEMs) must be received by January 31, 2023

**(Postmarks don't count!)**

## CCDC members oppose proposed anti-camping ordinance

*[A special city council meeting was called to consider a new local ban on camping by homeless people. These public comments were made by CCDC members and addressed to the newly-elected Culver City Council (either in writing or in person) at the December 21 meeting. The pictures, taken by Karim Sabli, are from the march and rally before the meeting. [The Council voted 3 to 1 to put the proposed ordinance on the agenda.](#)]*

### Bubba Fish

Good evening Mayor Vera and Councilmembers, My name is Bubba Fish, I serve as the Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee on Housing & Homelessness.

I am here not on behalf of the committee because the committee has not been consulted on this ordinance.



I consider being on this committee a privilege. I believe that all of us on the committee, even those I may disagree with, are volunteering their time to help the Council make decisions on these matters.

And we never gave a recommendation to explore an anti-camping ordinance.

We did however recommend that Council fund safe camping, safe parking, direct housing, expedite housing production, and other proven solutions to care for our unhoused populations and get them into housing. We have also advised to fund more housing staff to be able to run these programs. To my knowledge we currently have less than five full-time city staff devoted to housing the unhoused. Compare that to the 160+ person police department. Our focus thus far has been on enforcement.

The anti-camping ordinances like the one being discussed and [41.18](#) are proven to fail.

Data from LAHSA shows that since 2019, taxpayers have spent \$150M sweeping over 30,000 unsheltered individuals. Less than 10 percent are moved at that point into a homeless shelter, and less than 1 percent (or less than 300) were moved into permanent housing. All of that time, money, and energy spent and still homelessness increased 15 percent since the pandemic began.

The other 90 percent of interactions between homeless individuals and the sweeps team resulted in a return to the streets or a “loss of contact.”

So what happens to those folks? They’re right back on the street. They’re back at square one.

I called 2-1-1 this Monday because an unhoused person asked me to help them shelter for the night and was told there were no more beds available that night. No more beds available in the entire county.

We have zero safe parking sites.

We have zero safe camping sites.

We have zero permanent supportive housing units for unhoused individuals ready. The ones we’re building will provide 78 units, serving just 21 percent of our unhoused population.

Simply criminalizing being unhoused will not change those facts.

So I simply have to ask, where are these people supposed to go? If your answer is a housing solution that has not been created yet, that is not an answer.

The fact that we are having a conversation about criminalizing something when some folks have no other choice available to them, shows a lack of seriousness.

I encourage you to focus on proven solutions—not ineffective band-aids that may placate some of your constituents but only cause harm and exacerbate this crisis.

### Danny Young

I’m grateful for this opportunity to address the Hackman Capital City Council today.

I’d like to read a short quote:

“...The majestic quality of the law ... prohibits the wealthy as well as the poor from sleeping under the bridges.”

That’s in Chapter 7 of *The Red Lily* by Anatole France —1894.

Proposing to sweep what little shelter the poorest among us are allowed to possess, and sending them out to wander the streets cold and alone, is an absolute disgrace. **See COMMENTS on page 6**

**from COMMENTS on page 5**

This isn't about helping the poor find housing, this is about relocating visible poverty from the fragile eyes of some of the most pampered and privileged people in human history. The hand-wringing suburbanites of Culver City, who, in the face of the most catastrophic crisis of poverty in our life-times, consider THEMSELVES the victims.



When you're home this Christmas with your families, in your warm, million-dollar houses, comfortable and oblivious, make sure you spare a moment to remember the people you are condemning to death on the street, having done NOTHING for them.

I recommend you search your souls and find God. You are lost.

**Disa Lindgren**

Good evening, Mayor Vera, and members of the city council,

This is a holiday season for many; a time for gratitude, and for spreading love and joy. Among those who observe the Winter Solstice, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Festivus, and/or Christmas, something we have in common is a celebration of light and community. It is meant to be a time of empathy and care for others.

Today, December 21st, is National Homeless Persons Memorial Day, when we remember all of our unhoused neighbors who have died during the past year. It is wrong that in 2022 people in such an affluent community are relegated to living and dying on our streets because our society has failed them.

This can change. The solution is to provide adequate resources—for staff, housing plus supportive services, and the funding to make this possible—so that the currently-under-renovation Project Homekey dwellings can open and welcome residents, AND to open safe parking and safe camping areas in Culver City.

This has all been thoroughly explored during the past several years and it is doable. As our elected representatives, it is up to you to make sure our

unhoused residents are accorded the respect they deserve as human beings to live in dignity and with care, as needed.

We cannot focus on temporary shelter to the exclusion of permanent affordable supportive housing to make a lasting difference. So much time, effort, and money have gone into Project Homekey, and it would be awful to undermine the relationships and trust that have been built through outreach to date, not to mention harmful to our unhoused neighbors, disrespectful to staff, and wasteful of resources.

Another anti-camping ordinance will not achieve this. Sweeps hurt unhoused people and we should be ashamed as a community that they are being considered at all, especially during a season that is meaningful only inasmuch as it is about caring for one another.

I implore you to come up with a decent and effective response, and actually make it possible for our homeless neighbors to become housed.

**Karim Sahli**

You said, "Start with shelter and services," but instead of investing in proven solutions, you are asking for an anti-camping ordinance, which requires expensive and harmful police enforcement. This is not compassion; this is cruelty.

Some say "help the elderly," but the one fast-growing segment of unhoused neighbors ARE the elderly. And you will harm them. This is not compassion; this is cruelty.

As our County Supervisor said, this measure is unhelpful and a waste of resources. And you will undermine the work of our own staff by destroying trust. This is not compassion; this is cruelty.

If you want real solutions, rebalance the budget, and don't punish the poor. This is not compassion; this is cruelty.

**Meghan Sahli-Wells**

It takes a special kind of cruelty to interrupt the holidays to target the poorest among us. And it takes truly twisted logic to conclude that pouring money into a police-response model to criminalize homelessness is the actual answer to this statewide humanitarian crisis.

The model ordinances you have proposed in this agenda do nothing less. Without enforcement there is no anti-camping ordinance. So if you don't want to criminalize homelessness—then don't pass one.

By pursuing the anti-camping approach you are diverting staff time and precious public resources in order to take away tents in the dead of winter instead of

**See COMMENTS on page 7**

**from COMMENTS on page 6**

investing in real solutions—raising wages, protecting renters, building housing, and providing the services that actually work. Sweeps are not solutions.

Under the false premise that LA will send its houseless residents to Culver City over the holidays—this emergency meeting and proposed ordinance are fear-based and regressive. Pursue people-focused solutions—not cruelty.

**Olga Lexell**

According to a Boston University study, each sweep on an encampment increases the chances of dying for the people who live there by up to forty percent each time for the next nine months following the sweep, and overall health care expenses are ten to twenty percent more than if they had never been displaced from the encampment. There is a lot of research coming out about the failure of these types of ordinances. Preliminary research on section [41.18](#) of the Los Angeles Municipal Code sweeps program shows only one percent of people have come off the streets as a result.

**Stephen Jones**

Good morning. I was surprised that the staff report on a potential anti-camping ordinance doesn't cover how camping is already made illegal under the Culver City Municipal Code.

Regarding camping:

- No person shall store personal property, including camp facilities and camp paraphernalia, within any public park or upon any public property.
- **CAMP FACILITIES** include, but are not limited to, tents, huts or temporary shelters
- **CAMP PARAPHERNALIA** includes, but is not limited to, tarpaulins, cots, beds, sleeping bags, hammocks, cooking facilities and similar equipment.

And regarding public nuisance:

- The City Council finds and declares that it is a public nuisance and unlawful for any person to allow, cause, create, maintain, or suffer, or permit others to maintain . . . any personal property or structure that obstructs

or encroaches on, across, or over any public property, including, but not limited to, any public alley, highway, land, sidewalk, street or other right-of-way.

- Any person who causes, permits, suffers, or maintains a public nuisance, or any person who violates any provision of this Chapter, or who fails to comply with any obligation or requirement of this Chapter, is guilty of a misdemeanor offense.

There's no study needed. We already have laws on the books that make encampments illegal, so there's no need for a hastily scheduled meeting to figure out how to make them illegal. That's not an emergency.

The emergency is that hundreds of Culver City residents have no choice other than to live on the street, during the coldest time of year, and more people die of hypothermia in LA than in SF and NY combined. We know for a fact that "cleanups" and anti-camping enforcement make this problem worse, not better.

Looking to our neighboring cities is not the answer when we're seeing that LA's ordinance, by far the most draconian of those reviewed (even "sitting" is outlawed), totally fails at getting people off the streets and into housing.



This evidence belies the statement in the staff report that "cost of enforcement may also be offset by a reduced future need for periodic encampment cleanups and emergency service response." (In contrast, one study found that providing permanent supportive housing, without preconditions, kept people housed for ninety percent of the days in the four-year study period and resulted in significant decrease in emergency service use.)

This emergency could be met, in part, with targeted short-term solutions like providing emergency cold weather shelter, safe camping sites, or even distribution of safe burn bins. But the only thing that has ever worked to get people off the streets and keep them off the streets is to provide permanent supportive housing. And there's nowhere near enough of it.

It's not fast. It's not flashy. But it's the one thing that we know works. ☐

# My New Year's resolution for 2023—Organize!

By *Cynthia Hart*

The December 12 swearing-in of our new Culver City Council was a disheartening evening with the City's conservatives hooting and jeering while people were saying nice things about departing Council Member Alex Fisch, who had worked tirelessly to improve the City's financial condition and to protect it from the public safety hazards of the Inglewood Oil Field. Before they adjourned, the new conservative Council majority repealed the twenty-five dollar an hour minimum wage for health care workers and planned a [little Christmas surprise for our unhoused neighbors](#).

I turned to a wise friend and asked "Whatever shall we do now?" My wise friend said "Organize!" He reminded me that we have been here before. Now we have two progressive voices on the Council. A few years ago, we had only one progressive voice on the Council, and yet we did make some progress. It took people in the seats in the Council

Chamber, and it took organizing. We just have to do the work.

As our new Council Member Freddy Puza observed, now is the time to organize for election year 2024. That's a big one! Locally, we will have three Culver City Council seats on the ballot (with one member of the Council's "Grinch Caucus" terming out) and two CCUSD School Board Members. Vote16CC will never give up until our young citizens are enfranchised. Our Club has endorsed their efforts at every opportunity.

On the LA County level, the 2024 ballot will see our Supervisor Holly Mitchell and District Attorney George Gascon up for re-election. We can expect a wave of misinformation around the D.A. race. (Because everyone knows there was no crime in LA County before Gascon came to town. LOL)

Statewide ballot propositions for 2024 (I kid you not) are already being qualified. Among them is a [referendum to repeal](#)

[SB1137](#)—the 3,200-foot oil drilling setback enacted by the State Legislature.

California will have a U.S. Senate seat on the 2024 ballot. If Senator Dianne Feinstein decides not to run again, this will be an open seat. Who might run for that seat is the hottest guessing game in town.

The usual every-two-year cycle will put our two Club members—Congressional Representative Sydney Kamlager-Dove and AD54 State Assemblymember Isaac Bryan—up for re-election.

And, yeah, by the way, there is that thing with the U.S. Presidency.

So, for 2023, I resolve to organize for 2024. Let's get ready as individuals and as a Club. We will be competing against organized money that can drop a cool half million to buy one seat. It will take organized people to win.

Yes, we can.

Happy New Year.

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# The cruelty is the point

*[This is an email from my friend Mark Lipman, who was homeless in LA County for a while and served on Culver City's Advisory Committee on Housing and Homelessness. Mark is now a writer living in another country—Pete Rockwell]*

They certainly aren't wasting any time with their cruelty. Take a look at [the Jones Settlement](#). That came out when [Los Angeles' anti-camping ordinance was struck down as unconstitutional](#)—and I believe it applies to the whole region. In brief, they can't enforce the ordinance if they don't give people a place to go (shelter). Culver City doesn't have any shelters so the big question is where do they expect people who are unhoused to go?

For cost: it costs the city approximately \$1,000 for every arrest just to be forced to release people back onto the street after three days. Arresting people for not having a place to live does not solve the problem, it only makes the problem worse. We've been through this before

and them trying to go backwards really is a sign of willful ignorance.

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## OPINION

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The only real solution is the [Direct Housing program](#), which is based on 30 years of proven success from properly implemented housing first models.

There is too much money going into "servicing" homelessness instead of solving it; there is too much money going into policing homelessness, instead of housing people. They hem and haw and continue to refuse to provide the funding for housing people and then blame everyone but themselves. They're the ones with the check book and the only ones they give any money to are their cronies.

Ask why they haven't established a vacancy tax to go after these \$6,000+/month units that just sit empty? They have done nothing but green light new

construction and left us with a bunch of empty units that the average person can't afford. They have kowtowed to these trillion dollar companies and investment speculators for years, under the guise of 'progressive' and can't comprehend how that led to the housing crisis. I spent years warning them about all this to a bunch of deaf ears and now it looks like we're back to square one.

Here's my prediction: They're going to establish this ban, it's going to hurt a lot of people and fail miserably without solving the problem, then eventually more self-serving faux-gressives will get on the council promising to just be nice to the unhoused and then do nothing but bow down to big tech and corporate developers and nothing is going to change.

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



# 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.



**Join or Renew Your Culver City Democratic Club Membership!**  
You have to be a current Club member to vote on Club officers in January. [To Join the Culver City Democratic Club CLICK HERE for the Club's ActBlue page.](#)  
**Join the Culver City Democratic Club for a \$30 Donation!**  
**For more information on becoming a member of the Culver City Democratic Club, call Diane Rosenberg at (310) 398-5328.**

**Dates of the Culver City Democratic Club General Meetings in 2023**  
**Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month**  
**January 11**  
**February 8**  
**March 8**  
**April 12**  
**May 10**  
**June 14**  
**July 12th**  
**August 9**  
**September 13**  
**October 11**  
**November 8**  
**December 13**

**The CCDC Officer Nominating Committee will place the following candidates' names in nomination at the general meeting on January 11, 2023:**  
**President: Jeff Schwartz**  
**First Vice President: Jeanna Harris**  
**Second Vice President: Will Herrera**  
**Treasurer: Eric Fine**  
**Membership Secretary: Diane Rosenberg**  
**Recording Secretary: Shannon Theus**  
**Corresponding Secretary: Cynthia Hart**  
Nominations may also be made by any voting member at the General Meeting on January 11, 2023. Nominations from the floor will need a second. The member who is nominated must meet the criteria stated in the Club bylaws and be willing to serve if elected.



# R.I.P. P-22

Last month, we lost the much-loved puma known as P-22. In his impossible journey across two freeways, he stood as a symbol of resilience and won the hearts of Angelenos. In his long 13-year life, he inspired wonder and responsibility for urban wildlife. His legacy includes the 101 Freeway wildlife crossing that will help to preserve his species. There will be [a memorial at the Greek Theatre Feb. 4](#).

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County houses a permanent exhibit called *The Story of P-22, L.A.'s Most Famous Feline* about P-22's remarkable life. <https://nhmlac.org/stories/beloved-mountain-lions-legacy>.

There has been much discussion about an appropriate memorial for P-22. Maybe a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame or a statue in Griffith Park? I suggest we adjourn our Club's January 11th meeting in memory of P-22.  
—*Cynthia Hart*



Left to right: Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, Michele Reed, Cynthia Hart, State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, Patt Sanders, Leah Pressman, Heather Hutt, and Derek Steele, at the Christmas in Leimert Park event.

## A statement from Vote 16 Culver City after losing Measure VY by only 16 votes

As the final ballots trickled in almost a month after election night, we would be lying if we said we weren't disheartened by the sixteen-vote margin that ultimately denied Culver City's youth the right to vote. But now, almost a month after the results have been certified, we're trying to look at the outcome as less of a setback, and more of a stagnation.

Though frustrating, those sixteen votes don't devalue the conversations sparked among neighbors, classmates, and politicians because of our measure. They don't devalue the young people who canvassed every day after school for the promise of representation, and the grassroots activism that proved that minds can change — one neighbor at a time.

Progress is hard, but the growing pains and stagnations that come along with it are not a reason to shy away from change altogether. Rather than defining Measure VY by its ultimate defeat, we're trying to view our campaign as an exciting step in the broader movement towards teen enfranchisement.

We will push for a similar measure in 2024, but regardless of votes cast then and now, Measure VY stands for a future where young people have a say in politics. This is a future that 8,293 Culver City voters already envision. That is a victory in itself.

Written by Julia Rottenberg and Ada Meighan-Thiel

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<https://www.vote16culvercity.org/>

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