

# 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, March 8, 2023**

**Program: Approval Voting  
plus an update from Planned Parenthood**

*President's Message by Jeff Schwartz*

## The Whole World is Watching

Dear Members and Supporters,  
Growing up, I remember it was special when Culver City was in the news. It was even exciting to see our neighborhood in the background of CHIPs or some other program. Before Culver City became "[The New Chelsea](#)," we were the forgotten sibling of Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, and Hollywood. Even [Pasadena](#) and the [Valley](#) had hit musical tributes, but not us.

That was a long time ago. Now we are the home of "[America's most talked-about restaurant](#)" and [the US base of one of the most popular and controversial social media companies](#), among so much more. Still, no matter how much we have gotten used to the spotlight, it has been impossible to ignore the most recent cluster of news coverage.

The so-called "anti-camping" ordinance passed by the City Council on February 13th has been the subject of articles in the [LA Times](#), [Daily Mail](#), [California Globe](#), [USA Today](#), [Knock-LA](#), [LAist](#), [Washington Times](#), and [Los Angeles](#) magazine, and coverage on [NBC](#), [ABC](#), [KTLA](#), [KFI](#), [Spectrum](#), and [Fox-LA](#).

I say "so-called" because the ordinance is clear that it does not ban sleeping outdoors. Doing so would violate the 9th Circuit's ruling in *Martin v. Boise* that a city cannot ban sleeping in public space unless it offers adequate housing. The ordinance attempts to circumvent this by allowing sleeping outdoors but banning temporary shelter. People are allowed to have bedding, but no tents, boxes, or other protection. It does not create any housing or services for those sleeping

outdoors; it only deprives them of privacy and protection from the weather. Council Member Dan O'Brien made clear to several of the sources above, including [LAist](#) and the [LA Times](#), that the purpose of the ordinance is to deter unhoused people from coming here. It does this by making sleeping on the streets as uncomfortable and unsafe as legally allowed. If the Council majority thought the 9th Circuit would have allowed them to ban sleeping bags and blankets they would have done that too.

When he became Mayor last December 12, Albert Vera Jr. described the love and pride he felt for Culver City as his qualifications and agenda. However, these feelings do not encompass Culver City's healthcare workers, since [he immediately presided over the repeal of an increase in their wages](#), or those who live in the city but cannot afford to buy or rent housing. The Culver City he loves consists only of the city's business owners and traditional property-based ruling class. Two and a half months into his term, Culver City has become internationally known as a villain. The first act of his administration was to take back a raise for healthcare workers two weeks before Christmas. The next week, on Homeless Memorial Day, he presided over a special meeting to expedite the process of making life on the street as harsh as possible. He has brought shame on Culver City.

In contrast, this Club makes me proud. As individuals and as a group, we have done our best to oppose these policies and to make clear that they do not represent the Culver City we love. The blame rests on Council Members Vera, O'Brien,

and Eriksson and their supporters.

This Club did not endorse any of those three men. We voted to endorse current Council Member Freddy Puza and Vice Mayor Yasmine-Imani McMorrin, who have been unstinting in their opposition to this barbarity, and endorsed Alex Fisch along with Freddy Puza in last year's election. These endorsement votes were not close. They needed 60% of the votes, not simply a majority, and Puza, Fisch, and McMorrin all exceeded that on the first ballot, no runoffs were required.

These policies would not have been agendized, much less passed, had Fisch won. Electing O'Brien in Fisch's place required [over \\$600,000 in PAC money from landlord/developer Michael Hackman alone](#), plus unprecedented sums from other sources, which was spent on [the most expensive and dishonest campaign in our city's history](#).

As soon as the text of the so-called "anti-camping" ordinance was announced, this Club joined Council Member Puza and Vice Mayor McMorrin in opposition, [voting unanimously at our January meeting to stand with them](#). You have shown the world that Vera, O'Brien, and Eriksson do not speak for us.

Continuing this resistance requires ongoing support. If you haven't renewed your membership, [it's never too late](#), and there's still time to get [tickets for our Brave New Films screening on the 4th](#). You can also [get a t-shirt](#), or [simply donate cash](#).

Thank you for your dedication to this Club, and to a better Culver City.

## Di's Corner:

by *Diane Rosenberg*

On Sunday February 26, Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove was installed by the Honorable Karen Bass, Mayor of Los Angeles. It was held at “The Beehive,” 1000 East 60th Street, Los Angeles. Attending were numerous dignitaries: Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Assemblymember Issac Bryan, California State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas. Other Culver City Democratic Club members Ronnie Jayne Solomon, Tom Camarella, Shannon Theus, Diane Rosenberg, Cynthia Hart, Jeanna Harris. Also in attendance: Adam Galia, Scott Houston (President of District 4 West Basin Municipal Water District). Also attending from Culver City, Vice Mayor Yasmine Imani-McMorris, Councilmember Dan O'Brian, Councilmember Freddy Puza (former 1st V.P. of the Culver City Democratic Club).

Monday evening February 6, at the Carson Community Center in the City of Carson, was the West Basin Municipal Water District “Director Installation Ceremony” where the installing of three Honorable Directors were being held. Our own Club member who is President of the West Basin Municipal District—District IV, Scott Houston, was installed by Supervisor Holly Mitchell. Attending was not only Diane Rosenberg, but Amy and Darryl Cherness, Culver City Mayor Albert Vera, Culver City Councilmember Goran Eriksson, and Former Culver City Mayor Paul Jacobs.

### 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](#)

## Table of Contents

[Page 3—Culver Sicky by Alex Fisch](#)

[Page 4—ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

[Page 5—State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas is sworn in](#)

[Page 6—CCUSD School Board Calls for a historic Black student achievement plan](#)

[Page 6—Pray for Ukraine—and DONATE!](#)

[Page 6—Congratulations Forward 55 ADEMs candidates](#)

[Page 7—First VP Jeanna Harris featured on KPFK healthcare show](#)

[Page 7—Wisconsin Supreme Court election update](#)

[Page 8—Stop Foreign Influence in California Elections](#)

[Page 9—Letter from the School Board to the CCUSD Community](#)



**WALK'n ROLLERS**  
bike • walk • skate • scoot  
to school!

**11th Anniversary Celebration**  
*and fundraiser*  
to support healthy, active kids and communities

**March 18, 2023 • 11am - 3pm**  
**Main Street, Culver City**

**FREE ADMISSION**

Golden Sneaker Honoree: Aaron Paley

Bike Skills Course • Roller Skating • Live Art Space  
Group Ride • Prize Drawings • Bike Swap Meet  
Historical Walking Tour of Downtown Culver City

Culver City Rotary Community Foundation  
POCRASS & DE LOS REYES ATTORNEYS  
WALKER PRESLEY  
HELM'S BAKERY DISTRICT  
footnote  
BOISHELD  
PREVELO  
7-9  
ARMAND'S DISCOUNT  
AAA  
walkmorebikemore.org/anniversary

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

# Culver Sicky

by Alex Fisch

Some have asked for my thoughts about Mark Lipman's piece published in this newsletter in January titled "The Cruelty Is the Point." I've been reluctant to engage because Mr. Lipman is not the person making it illegal to sleep in a tent, or even a cardboard box, within the city limits of Culver City. But Club President Jeff Schwartz's recent piece in this newsletter, "Question Authority," crystallized in my mind a critique that I'd offer to both the current city council majority and Mr. Lipman. On the question of how to end homelessness, the city has turned inward and away from policymaking based on evidence, best-practices, and inclusion of the people most affected. That's a mistake.

The City's approach to homelessness changed five years ago when we began working with other jurisdictions and in alignment with the Homeless Initiative, which is a regional framework to end homelessness. That framework has just been updated. While there has been plenty of criticism of the Homeless Initiative, the new framework is the result of transparent engagement with that criticism. It's a good, sound plan that rehoused more than 21,000 people in 2021. It's very readable and it documents the process of reassessment that produced it in its current form. Take a look! <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/168669.pdf>.

The framework explains why the prior council secured more than \$30 million to create interim and permanent housing through Homekey. It's why we directed staff to implement a Safe Parking program and why Vice Mayor McMorin and I, then comprising the Housing and Homelessness Subcommittee, asked staff to develop a safe camping program to bring to the city council. It's why we budgeted for motel vouchers, developed a coordinated information system to keep track of our unhoused neighbors' housing and health needs, increased outreach hours, and much more. We aimed high and thought about the big picture, like when the city council formally endorsed Sydney Kamlager's bills to create a regional affordable housing funding

authority (that bill became a law!) and increase street medicine funding (that bill fell to the governor's pen).

Mr. Lipman's direct housing plan is certainly one element of that big picture. But it's just one strategy among many, and there was state and county funding for a different direct housing program: Homekey. Thanks to a Homekey grant, a direct appropriation from the state budget championed by Congresswoman Kamlager, and additional County funding championed by Supervisor Holly Mitchell, the City will soon open 73 clean, secure rooms of permanent supportive and interim housing with low barriers to entry. That's also land that the city now owns. Homekey directly addresses the number one finding of the Homeless Initiative's reassessment: "permanent housing strategies are most impactful, but insufficient in scale."

Our Homekey projects also show a huge downside of prioritizing unfunded programs like Mr. Lipman's preferred direct housing program, over funded programs, like Homekey's direct housing program. Because the regional priority is permanent housing, only the permanent supportive housing portion of our Homekey project has significant outside funding. The city is currently on the hook for most of the cost of operating the interim housing.

I supported admittedly expensive interim housing for two reasons: it addresses resident frustration about street homelessness by providing city-controlled shelter and it affirmatively furthers fair housing to site shelter in an affluent community like Culver City. We will operate only the second shelter on the Westside—which I hope is a point of pride for our community.

I had hoped to secure outside funding for shelter operations by emphasizing that second aspect. That task now falls to the current council, which has invested tremendous time and energy only on the first. It's always tough to make the case that Culver City, where the median household income is \$105,000, needs outside help more than elsewhere in LA

County, where the median household income is \$76,000. I believe we've made it much more difficult by operating on the very edges of the regional framework, and even the constitution, with an ordinance making it illegal to erect a tent for survival. Who would want to help a city that pushes its unhoused residents into neighboring jurisdictions? The tent ban is an explicit statement about our community's priorities, and it's a statement that contradicts any case premised on affirmatively furthering fair housing. Time will tell how it affects our efforts to fund programs outside of Homekey (which, thankfully, we are committed to expand under our housing element).

Time will also tell whether banning tents ends homelessness. The evidence strongly suggests that it will not. That body of evidence is also why I support the City's past policy of working regionally and within the framework of the Homeless Initiative. In short, the root cause of homelessness is a regional lack of affordable homes. People like to argue that some personal defect like substance use disorder is the cause of homelessness, perhaps because that understanding removes the need for public investment. They may even point to self-reports about mental illness, job loss, poverty, or divorce as the cause. Those certainly are precipitating events for individuals, but the root cause of homelessness is high rent and low residential vacancy rates.

The book "Homelessness Is A Housing Problem" lays it out well. The authors test the relationship between rates of homelessness in various US cities and different common explanations for homelessness. They find that neither individual vulnerabilities, like substance use disorder or mental illness, nor local political-economic context, like benefit levels or poverty rates, explain regional variation in homelessness. Only absolute rent levels and rental vacancy rates are associated with regional rates of homelessness.

To borrow further from the book's authors, imagine a game of musical chairs with ten players and nine chairs. Sam has a broken foot and loses. When you ask him why he lost, he'll tell you he

**See SICKY on page 3**

**From SICKY on page 2**

has a broken foot. But the fact is that he wouldn't have lost if there were one more chair. The world is more complicated, of course, but the reason for the divergence between self-reported explanations for homelessness and the evidence of the actual systemic cause is actually that simple. The Homeless Initiative does not call for cities simply to build housing and wait. But it also doesn't say to banish unhoused people. Instead, the framework recognizes that there's pressure to decommission encampments and encourages cities to adopt "a street to home approach, offering housing subsidies and services to all encamped individuals."

As shown in a recent RAND study, the overwhelming majority of unhoused and unsheltered people in our region will gladly accept housing or shelter that works for them. Popular programs with unhoused individuals include safe outdoor sleeping areas where residents have a say in governance and private, low-barrier shelter rooms. Banning tents will only expose people to the elements, reduce their privacy and safety, and displace people away from the outreach workers with whom they've developed trust.

The notion that a paternalistic, law enforcement-based approach should guide policy making comes from uninformed pop wisdom and the pages of "San Francisco," an ideologically incoherent screed that serves up right wing culture war politics without trying to connect its grievances to any solutions. The book's explanations are superficially appealing to some but they cannot point the way to lasting solutions because they are incorrect.

Even if the ban is never enforced, by turning inward, and away from what works, we have unquestionably spent staff time and focus on a project that won't house a single person. I hope that redirecting that energy is not the reason why the Inglewood Oil Field settlement is not complete, or why Homekey and safe parking still are not open.

It's parochialism and homespun policy making across 88 separate cities that created this particular big problem. Prioritizing investment of public resources into initiatives that actually end homelessness will require a return to a broader perspective—we succeed when we recognize that big problems require regional collabora-

tion within evidence-based frameworks. Let's turn away from this path of becom-

ing Culver Sicky and back toward proactive, result-oriented regionalism.



**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>

**March is Women's History Month**

**March 4 - 7 PM**

**Club Fundraiser**

**Virtual Screening of Brave New Films Documentary**

*Suppressed and Sabotaged: The Fight to Vote*

[Tickets \\$25 per screen](#)

**March 6 & 7 - 3 PM**

Budget Work Meeting  
Culver City Council Meeting

**March 8**

International Women's Day  
#EmbraceEquity

**March 8 - 7 PM**

CCDC General Meeting via Zoom

**March 9 - 5 PM**

[Healthcare for US](#) show on KPFK 90.7

(Culver City Democratic Club First VP Jeanna Harris will be speaking!)

**March 13 - 7 PM**

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

**March 14**

[CCUSD School Board Meeting](#)

**March 18 - 11 AM-3 PM**

[Walk n Rollers 11th Anniversary Celebration](#)

Main Street, Culver City

**March 27 - 7 PM**

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

**March 27**

Cesar Chavez Day (observed)

*"We are winning because ours is a revolution of mind and heart."*

—Cesar Chavez

**May 26 - 28**

California Democratic Party Convention—**SAVE THE DATE**

# ELEVATE THE 28! —State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas is sworn in



State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas was sworn in by Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly Mitchell

*By Cynthia Hart*

Last month, the community celebrated the swearing in of a new State Senator to represent our diverse and dynamic District 28. Esteemed speakers from the LA Black Worker Center, the UCLA Labor Center, SEIU, and the Los Angeles Worker Center Network described Lola Smallwood-Cuevas as an organizer, as a bringer of light, and as a group-centered leader. Pastor Stephen Cue spoke of her as one who had “...made a way out of no way which is how Black women have always done it.”

She is going to Sacramento to change the way things are to the way things should be.

Our new Congressional Representative Sydney Kamlager-Dove was there to pass the torch of “speaking truth to remind power that it can do better.” Sydney charged us all to stand behind Lola who will still be the only Black woman in the State Senate and only the sixth Black woman in that body since California statehood.

One very specific way that Lola will be carrying that torch is in re-introducing ACA 3—the [California Abolition Act](#) that Sydney had first proposed in the

State Assembly. The California Abolition Act would amend Article 1, Section 6 of the California Constitution to prohibit slavery and involuntary servitude without exception. Inmate labor is often compensated for as little as 8 cents an hour. Inmate fire fighters risk their lives for little pay and no possibility of being hired as professional fire fighters upon release. Lola asks, “How is that not a workers’ rights issue?”

Our County Supervisor Holly Mitchell was on hand to swear her in. Holly exhorted us to stand behind Lola and to either side of her. She said “The microaggressions don’t stop when they put the word ‘Senator’ in front of your name.” Microaggressions like “Are you the lobbyist or the staffer?” And hair patting.

In her inaugural address, Lola clearly signaled that she was taking her commitment to workers’ rights and civil rights with her to the Senate. Her very first bill as a Senator is [SB16-Civil Rights:Discrimination:Enforcement](#), which would allow for local enforcement of state laws prohibiting discrimination in housing and employment.



Culver City Councilmember Freddy Puza, Culver City School Boardmember Triston Ezidore, California State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, and Culver City Vice Mayor Yasmine Imani-McMorrin

She hopes to shore up [Prop 47](#)—the 2014 ballot measure to decrease incarceration for nonviolent crime.

Among her priorities will be investing in community schools, housing the unhoused, and “putting dollars where the real problems are. We are digging out from 40 years of trickle down and underinvestment.”

She acknowledged the hard work ahead saying that “We can never do anything alone but collectively we can do it all.” And so she called on us all to join her in an “Elevate the 28 Coalition.” Let’s support her!



Karim Sahli, Holly Mitchell and Meghan Sahli-Wells



CCDC Recording Secretary Shannon Theus and Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly Mitchell

# CCUSD School Board Calls for a historic Black student achievement plan

In an effort to address historic opportunity gaps that have long hindered Black students, the School Board has directed the development of a Black Student Achievement Plan for the 2023-24 school year. The Board also directed the creation of a DEI (Diversity/Equity/Inclusion) Student Advisory Committee to include Black student voices.

The need for such a plan is highlighted by the startling statistic that over half of CCUSD African American/Black students are not meeting the state's English Language Arts standard and three-quarters of African American/Black students are not meeting the math standard.

School Board Member Triston Ezidore, the Board's only Black member and the first Black male to serve on the body, notes that "For the first time in our district's history, we stand with actionable plans to be unequivocal about our Black

kids. This is an important step towards addressing the institutional racism and systemic bias that have historically and currently placed structural barriers before African American/Black students. The plan's initiatives will ensure that all African American/Black students can attain their fullest potential as learners and succeed academically, socially, and emotionally."

**"Education doesn't just make us smarter. It makes us whole."**

—Dr. Jill Biden, First Lady of the United States and Educator



Pray for Ukraine. Also consider contributing to the Rebuilding Ukraine "GoFundMe" effort. Igor Tregub, an immigrant from Ukraine that many of us know from the California Democratic Party's Environmental Caucus, [shared this link to the fundraising effort.](#)



## Congratulations, Forward 55! It was a clean sweep!

Forward 55, our Club's endorsed slate of 14, will represent our Assembly District #55 at the State Party convention May 26th-28th. Leah Pressman will serve on the CDP Executive Board. Eboard members vote on issues of fundamental importance to Party operations such as bylaws changes and what funding sources the Party accepts. Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate in the ADEMS election!

# 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.



**HEALTH CARE FOR US ON 90.7FM**  
 PACIFICA RADIO LOS ANGELES

**Sunday March 9 @5PM**

**Club First VP Jeanna Harris will be speaking!**



## Wisconsin Supreme Court Election Update:

Good news! Progressive Janet Protasiewicz has advanced to the April 4th General Election in a race that will decide the balance of the Wisconsin Supreme Court! If she wins, conservatives will lose their 4 - 3 majority!

The results will directly impact voting rights, reproductive rights, and partisan gerrymandering in a state critical for Democrats to hold the White House and win back the House in 2024. This can be the first drop in a 2024 blue wave.

Our allies at the Grassroots Democratic HQ are postcarding and phonebanking now in support of flipping the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Click here to join in:

### Write postcards

Wisconsin Supreme Court postcards—

[Request addresses here](#)

### Virtual phone banking

Phone bank into Wisconsin!

Wednesdays, 3:30pm PT/6:30pm ET—[RSVP](#)

Saturdays, 10:00am PT/1:00pm ET—[RSVP](#)



# Stop Foreign Influence in California Elections with **AB83**

by *Cynthia Hart*

Assemblymember Alex Lee has re-introduced last year's bill to [Stop Foreign Influence in Elections. Now numbered AB83](#) (formerly AB1819).



Assemblymember  
Alex Lee

This bill seeks to prohibit foreign influenced corporations from contributing to candidates, parties, or committees or from engaging in their own direct election spending. You may be wondering—how is that even a thing? Doesn't existing federal law and our State's Political Reform Act of 1974 take care of that? Kind of.

There is a loophole. The current statute applies to foreign-incorporated corporations. A foreign investor (like, for example, a foreign government-owned oil wealth fund) may own a significant interest in a corporation that is organized under U.S. laws and has the U.S. as its principal place of business. Such a foreign-influenced corporation can spend millions to influence our elections. In the recent elections, we saw how corporations can write their own self-serving legislation and get it passed through the initiative process. [Remember Proposition 22?](#)

AB83 will close the loophole for California elections. [It is supported by good government groups like Money Out Voters In \(MOVI\)](#).

The bill is currently in the Assembly Elections Committee where our AD55 Assembly Member Isaac Bryan is the chair. At our March 8, 2022 meeting, members will be asked to vote to authorize the Corresponding Secretary to send him a letter along the lines of the sample letter presented on this page.:

## **AB83 is the re-introduction of Assembly Member Alex Lee's bill from last year (AB1819) to get foreign influenced money out of California Elections. The letter below will be voted on by Club members at our March 8 general meeting**

March 8, 2023

The Honorable Isaac Bryan  
Member of the California State Assembly  
California State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for AB 83 (Lee): Get Foreign Money Out of California Elections Act

Dear Assemblymember Bryan:

On behalf of the Culver City Democratic Club I write in strong support of AB 83 (Lee), the Get Foreign Money Out of California Elections Act. This proposal targets political spending of foreign countries and principals who have ownership stock in United States-based corporations in our elections.

The Culver City Democratic Club is Culver City's oldest and largest political organization. Membership is open to all registered Democrats. For more information visit [c-c-d-c.com](http://c-c-d-c.com).

In President George Washington's farewell address of 1796, he said, "the insidious wiles of foreign influence... prove [to be] one of the most baneful foes of [a] republican government." This founding philosophy of our nation laid the groundwork to many restrictions around foreign influence in politics we have today.

Under existing federal law, a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign-incorporated corporation, or individual foreign national who is not lawfully admitted for permanent residence is prohibited from spending money on federal, state, or local elections.

Foreign investment in US companies have increased dramatically in recent years. In 1982, foreign investors owned about 5% of all US corporate equity (public and private). By 2019, foreign ownership jumped to an astonishing 40%. Citizens United has given corporations the ability to spend money in our elections based on the premise that corporations are "associations of citizens." However, for the many companies with shareholders who are foreign owners by federal law, the Supreme Court's intended ruling in Citizens United is not being properly applied.

It is imperative that we bar foreign-influenced corporations from contributing to candidates, parties, or committees. By closing a loophole that allows corporations partly or wholly owned by foreign interests to spend money in political campaigns, this reform aims to protect the integrity of California's democratic self-government.

This bill focuses on political spending by foreign-influenced corporations. It does not have any impact on individual immigrants, nor on the vast majority of small and mid-sized businesses that are not partially owned by foreign investors. For these reasons, we are in strong support of AB 83. Please contact me at [CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com](mailto:CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com) for any questions about our position.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia Hart  
Corresponding Secretary  
Culver City Democratic Club



# Message from CCUSD Board President Paula Amezola

Dear CCUSD Community,

On behalf of the CCUSD Board of Trustees, I am writing today to address concerns from the community around school safety and security, particularly as it relates to student fights at CCMS and CCHS. We apologize to our families who are experiencing this harm and we are being intentional about creating systems that will interrupt it immediately.

Many issues were raised by the community during the February 14th Board meeting. We heard our families insist on better and more transparent communication in response to their students' experiences. We are sharing these comments in an effort to begin to deliver on that request:

While student fights and security concerns that have recently taken place at CCMS and CCHS were not on the February 14th agenda, and therefore the Board was unable to deliberate during the meeting on those specific public comments, we are unequivocally committed to listening with open ears and hearts to concerns voiced by many community members.

The Board wants to emphasize that we heard you, we share and validate your concerns, and we take the safety of our students extremely seriously. The Board agreed to extend our comment period for "items not on the agenda," beyond the bylaw prescribed 20 minutes, to ensure that we would be able to do this.

With respect to the fights taking place at CCMS and CCHS, please note the following measures the district is taking to address them:

Assistant Superintendent of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Dr. Jennifer Smith stated the following during the board meeting:

"On Friday, February 10th, the Identify, Reduce, Prevent and Eliminate Task Force met with high school students who were recently involved in fights. Each of the students were able to articulately share their stories, from their perspectives as victims or active participants. We encouraged the students to speak freely; however, we did have some specific questions around a) the need for counseling or mental health support, b) a more restrictive cell phone policy, and c) what we could do to make them feel safe on campus.

"Some common themes that emerged:

- Lack of qualified, responsive or engaged security personnel
- Small, specific group of students want to instigate fights
- Students are bored
- Posting videos of fights on Social Media"

As we work diligently to improve and monitor campus safety, here are the active steps the site leaders are taking to support our schools.

- Adding staff to supervise students before school, during passing periods, lunches, and after school
- Providing additional support and supervision from district administrators
- Informing students, families, staff and the community about access to WeTip for confidential, anonymous reporting of crimes
- Tagging inappropriate social media posts
- Planning Town Halls with School Site Leaders
- Updating the agreement with security personnel to provide services for our students and staff that reflect the district's values.

The Board is working closely with Superintendent Tran to ensure an expedited response to these safety concerns. The number of fights has significantly diminished since these interventions were implemented.

In closing, please know that our students' safety is our top priority. We thank the community for your input, and for holding us all accountable for finding the best solutions. The Board is committed to district communication that is more responsive and transparent to the community now and in the future. As we traverse this difficult time, the Board will continue to abide by our District Mission and Core Beliefs, the first of which is "Each person deserves to be safe."

Respectfully,

Paula Amezola, President, CCUSD Board of Trustees  
Dr. Kelly Kent, Vice President, CCUSD Board of Trustees  
Triston Ezidore, Clerk, CCUSD Board of Trustees  
Stephanie Loreda, Parliamentarian, CCUSD Board of Trustees  
Brian Guerrero, Member, CCUSD Board of Trustees