

# 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, April 12, 2023**

**Program: Culver City School Board President  
Paula Amezola on her first 100 days**

*President's Message by Jeff Schwartz*

## Heroes and Villians

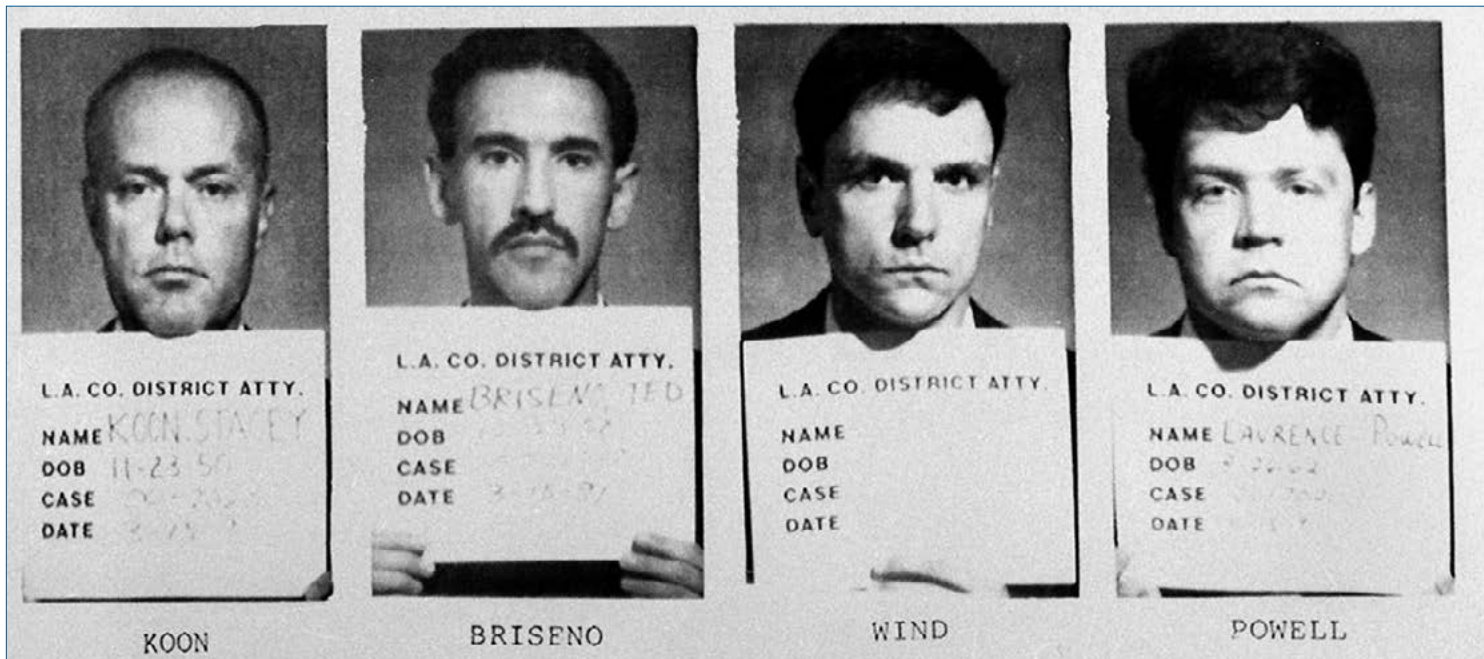
Dear Members and Supporters,  
Thirty-one years ago this month, a Simi Valley jury acquitted four LAPD officers of using excessive force against Rodney King. King appeared to be driving under the influence, then attempted to outrun the police rather than pulling over. Once he stopped, the police clubbed him doz-

had seen since the 1965 Watts Uprising, which was also sparked by LAPD violence against African-Americans.

In May 2016, a San Antonio police officer named Matthew Luckhurst attempted to give an unhoused man a literal shit sandwich. He was thwarted only because

asked that the restroom be kept clean." Luckhurst left the San Antonio department and was hired as a police officer in Floresville, an outer suburb of San Antonio, then [was fired in December 2022 after a popular outcry](#).

Leadership in Floresville claimed they



ens of times, breaking his skull and causing permanent brain damage, as well as shocking him over and over with a Taser. This was recorded on videotape by a bystander and the footage was repeatedly shown on television. Somehow, the jury was persuaded King had done something between video frames which justified this assault. When the verdict was announced, people took to the streets in protest, particularly in Downtown and South Central LA, and those protests escalated into [the largest rebellion LA](#)

he bragged to a colleague, who then insisted he retrieve the offensive offering. Luckhurst was suspended after an Internal Affairs investigation, but this disciplinary action was overturned because the punishment was given more than 180 days after the incident. By then he had been suspended indefinitely for what [the local paper](#) generously called "a separate poop-related prank," specifically "taking an unflushed dump in the women's locker room and smearing a brown substance over the toilet seat after a female officer

were unaware of Luckhurst's soiled record. I am skeptical. His hiring fits a pattern where police close ranks to support each other against the outside world. Consider the Los Angeles Police Protective League. Rank and file LAPD officers have elected Jamie McBride to lead their professional association. [McBride was a remarkably trigger-happy cop](#) who shot at people six times in his first eleven years in uniform, and is an [outspoken](#)

**See HEROES on page 2**

**from HEROES on page 1**

[Trump supporter. Both of his daughters are current LAPD officers who have killed on the job](#), and one, Toni, [is also a “gun influencer.”](#) This is who LAPD chose to represent them. It is difficult to see this as anything other than a gesture of defiance to liberal City leaders and the residents who elected them.

We saw this same thing recently in Culver City when CCPD officers chose Luis Martinez, [who cost the city \\$8.8 million dollars in a settlement after he gunned down an unarmed man in front of his family](#), to lead their professional association, [then presented him to be the first City staff representative on the Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee](#). Elected officials attempted to make a modest gesture towards social justice by forming the EHRAC and police responded by selecting a representative who took a Black man's life, was found liable, then kept his job and was promoted.

However, the biggest blue middle finger raised here was in 1994, when the Culver City Police Department hired Timothy Wind, one of the officers who beat Rodney King. In April 1993, Wind was found not guilty in a Federal prosecution of the four officers for violating King's civil rights, but was subsequently fired by LAPD. The next summer he was hired as a Community Relations Officer in Culver City. This became public through [a Los Angeles Times story August 26](#), in which CCPD Lieutenant Joe D'Anjou explained that: “He needed a job and we had a position available and he tested and came out No. 1 on the list.” D'Anjou's appeal to the neutrality of civil service procedure was immediately undermined by his comment that the job was “better than nothing, which is what he's been making since L.A,” which showed his sympathy for Wind, as did his comment that Wind had “had enough negative publicity in his life.” City Council Member Ed Wolkowitz and Mayor Albert Vera Sr. were also quoted, arguing that Wind deserved to earn a living, with Wolkowitz emphasizing that Wind had been acquitted twice in court. D'Anjou also mentioned that the department had hoped to avoid attention.

A handful of residents spoke at [the August 29, 1994 Culver City Council meeting](#). Theodore Smith III said he support-

ed Wind's hiring, but worried that his presence might expose the City to liability. Smith suggested the City form a Police and Fire Commission. Sandi Levin asked that more information on the hiring be made public, and Bob Repaich also expressed concerns about liability. Council Member Wolkowitz reiterated that Wind had not been convicted in either of his trials, added that the LAPD Board had recommended they rehire him but was overruled by their Chief, Willie Williams, and claimed the Times' coverage was incomplete. My thanks to the City Clerk's office for scanning and emailing the minutes of this and [the following meetings](#).

Comments on this matter continued at the next Council meeting, September 12. James Anderson, Carol Gross, David Hauptman, Diane Hauptman, Karol Heppe, Michael Hersh, H. L. Marks, Joe Nagengast, Ruth Sarnoff, Adele Siegel, Gary Silbiger, Lorraine Suzuki, and Dallas Westerfield opposed Wind's hiring, while Richard Alexander supported it. Silbiger presented the video of King's beating. Smith and Repaich from the previous meeting returned to say that they now supported Wind. The Council scheduled a closed session on this matter with Chief Ted Cooke. [The Times' coverage of this meeting](#) mentioned that the organized public comments against Wind represented the formation of a community group who would call for a civilian police review board.

The Council met again the next week, on the 19th. Paul Wuebren gave public comment against Wind's hiring, Arlene Valdez in favor. At their meeting on the 26th, Morris Dodd spoke in favor. The Council also met on the 28th, a Wednesday, when Chief Administrative Officer Jody Hall-Esser (the CAO was the predecessor to the City Manager), presented a draft press release on the Wind situation. Unfortunately, it was not included with the minutes.

The group the *Times* described was the Culver City Community Network, the ancestor of the Culver City Community Coalition and the Culver City Action Network, the progressive groups who successfully organized and advocated for the City's sanctuary policy and rent control. They organized quickly, [gathering over 700 signatures on an anti-Wind petition presented at the Council's October 10 meeting and bringing speakers to](#)

[that meeting who outnumbered the pro-Wind faction six-to-one](#). This is impressive for two weeks' work by grassroots activists in the pre-Internet era, but it did not sway the Council, who voted unanimously to support Wind's hiring. [The LA Weekly quoted one Wind supporter:](#) “If he was protecting my life, I'd feel very comfortable.”

When we learn our own history, we focus on the heroes: Martin Luther King, not Bull Connor, Harriet Tubman, not John Calhoun, Harvey Milk, not Jesse Helms, and so on. We don't want to think too much about the Americans who devoted their lives to depriving other Americans of their rights. Similarly, local history is closely allied to civic boosterism; we want to draw people to see [Louis Armstrong's house](#), not remind them of how the LAPD drove him out of town after [a pot bust](#), and to celebrate Thomas Ince's [filmmaking](#), not dwell on [his mysterious demise](#). So why dig through thirty-year-old City Council minutes?

The two living Council Members who voted to support Wind's hiring are still active in Culver City politics. Steven Gourley and Ed Wolkowitz have consistently stood by their 1994 votes and are embraced as authoritative veteran leaders by some segments of the community. Mike Balkman, Jim Boulgarides, and Albert Vera Sr. are deceased, but current Mayor Albert Vera Jr. ran for Council under the slogan “a legacy of leadership.” During his campaign he never spoke to what parts of his father's legacy he claimed, but Vera Senior's vote to support Wind's hiring is part of the City's racist legacy, which challenges us all.

Some heroes of 1994 are also still among us. I am proud that Gary Silbiger and Michael Hersh are members of this Club, and want to be sure they and the others who stood up then receive the honor and credit they deserve.

However, we must also note that they lost. After the Council voted unanimously to support Wind's hiring, he stayed with CCPD until 2000, when he left by his own choice to go to law school in Indianapolis. Shunned by the other students, he dropped out and [the LA Times last reported on him in 2004](#), portraying him as unemployed and severely depressed in Indiana.

**See HEROES on page 3**



## from HEROES on page 2

Culver City still does not have a Police Commission or Civilian Review Board. A Citizen Public Safety Committee was passed as [part of the April 2021 Public Safety Review](#), but no action has been taken towards defining or establishing it and it is unlikely progress will be made in the next two years.

Police responded to the outrage over the beating of Rodney King by taking control of the visual narrative. Darryl Gates' LAPD was caught off guard by the new camcorder technology which enabled bystanders to televise their violence. Activists called for body-worn cameras to increase police accountability, but this was swiftly turned to the police's advantage.

The body-worn cameras used by most

police departments, including Culver City, are made by Axon, creators of the Taser. The footage captured does not belong to the local police but is kept on evidence.com, Axon's server. This server name reveals the system's purpose: extending rather than limiting police power. When police violence does reach public consciousness, departments engage ["critical incident" video consultants](#) who produce their own films with voiceovers, diagrams, and other features to shape public perception ahead of any investigations, trials, etc. Police have countered the use of camcorders and smartphones by bystanders and [activists](#) by creating their own media production system, at taxpayer expense rather than DIY.

Rodney King was repeatedly tased. Police, particularly the LAPD, embraced

the Taser as an alternative to the chokehold. LAPD was killing people with chokeholds and Chief Gates had exacerbated the situation by attempting to explain that [African-Americans' circulatory systems worked differently from those of "normal people."](#) Police did not stop choking people but renamed the chokehold a "carotid restraint hold," and [it was not banned in many places, including Culver City, until after the police murder of George Floyd in 2020.](#) Meanwhile, [the Taser did not displace other forms of police violence but became an addition instead of an alternative and is itself often deadly.](#)

Timothy Wind testified in court that, when he and the other officers confronted Rodney King, [one of them had shouted "he's dusted," and they all believed that PCP \(aka angel dust\) could give users superhuman strength, like the Hulk.](#) This justified their extreme measures to subdue King. This myth about PCP persists, and has been joined by other dangerous medical fallacies such as ["excited delirium,"](#) and ["fentanyl exposure."](#)

Today, it is more likely that, if someone led police on a 100MPH+ chase in the middle of the night, then failed to lie perfectly still face down after pulling over, they would not leave with a permanent disability but be dead. [Police killings have risen consistently since the 1980s, with Black men in their later 20s at the highest risk.](#) Rodney King was 26 when he was beaten.

It has been thirty years, and we cannot say things have gotten better. The City and police cannot congratulate themselves for changes they have not made, and we cannot accept apologies which have not been offered.

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

**Join Ballona Creek Renaissance  
with Del Rey Neighborhood Council  
& Del Rey Residents' Association  
FOR OUR ANNUAL  
EARTH DAY  
CREEK CLEANUP**

**4995 S. CENTINELA AVE, LA 90066**

**Sat. April 22, 2023**

**9 AM - 12 NOON**

**DEL REY**

**NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**contact us:**  
[www.ballonacreek.org](http://www.ballonacreek.org)  
[info@ballonacreek.org](mailto:info@ballonacreek.org)

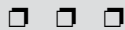
**SCAN QR CODE FOR  
MINOR WAIVERS ON OUR SITE!**

**WEAR CLOSED TOE SHOES  
BRING A HAT & REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE  
STREET PARKING NEARBY. BIKE OR CARPOOL IF YOU CAN!**

## Di's Corner:

by *Diane Rosenberg*

On Wednesday, March 8, at our General Meeting, the 2023 Executive Board was sworn in. They are President: Jeff Schwartz, 1st Vice President: Jeanna Harris, 2nd Vice President: William Herrera, Recording Secretary: Shannon Theus, Corresponding Secretary: Cynthia Hart, Treasurer: Eric Fine, Membership Secretary: Diane Rosenberg. The Installing Officer was California State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas. The club members congratulate the new Board, and we thank the senator for taking time out of her busy schedule to install the new Executive Board.



A message from your Membership Secretary, Diane Rosenberg: When paying your dues thru ActBlue? (which, I thank you) and the amount you pay is more than your dues? I would very much appreciate if you could either email or call me (my number is 310-398-5328). Right now my crystal ball is out being repaired. I hope you will let me know what the extra money is for (whether you are paying for someone else's dues or donating). Thank you.

## Join or Renew Your Culver City Democratic Club Membership!

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.**

## Table of Contents

[Page 5—ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

[Pages 6, 7, & 8—Report of Legislative Committee](#)

[Page 8—Status of AB83](#)

[Page 8—Culver City Pride Ride](#)

[Page 9—Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove's swearing-in](#)

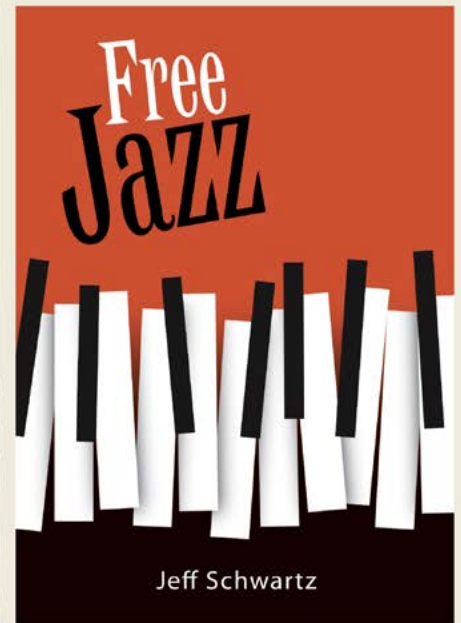
[Page 10—Ballona Wetlands](#)

[Page 11—Denim Day is April 26](#)

## Village Well

BOOKS & COFFEE

## BOOK RELEASE PARTY



**with JEFF SCHWARTZ and CHARLES SHARP**

**Special guest: Cheryl Banks-Smith**

**April 7 at 7:00 PM • Free  
More info at [villagewell.com](http://villagewell.com)**

**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.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

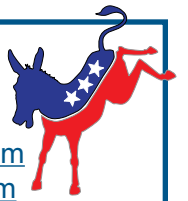
Our Club website: [www.culvercitydemocraticclub.com](http://www.culvercitydemocraticclub.com)

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

Follow us on Twitter: @CulvCityDemClub

Instagram: CulverCityDemClub

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



### April 4

Wisconsin's supreme court election could decide the next President.  
Grassroots HQ will be phone banking until election day.

[To volunteer click here](#)

### April 7 • 7 PM

Book Release Party. *Free Jazz* by Jeff Schwartz. In person at the Village Well.  
[VillageWell.com](http://VillageWell.com)

### April 10 • 7 PM

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

### April 12 • 7 PM

[CCDC General Meeting via Zoom](#)

### April 14 • 8 PM

[Book Talk—I Swear: Politics is Messier than my Minivan by Katie Porter](#)

Robert Frost Auditorium, Culver City.

\$46 + Handling Fee – General Admission with signed book.

\$20 + Handling Fee – general admission only.

Disclaimer: The Culver City Democratic Club has not yet taken a position in the 2024 US Senate primary election.

### April 18

[Holocaust Remembrance Day](#)

### April 22

Earth Day

### April 22 • 9AM-Noon

[Earth Day Creek Cleanup](#)

### April 24 • 7 PM

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

### April 25

[CCUSD School Board Meeting](#)

### April 26

Denim Day—Wear jeans with a purpose.  
LA Rape & Battering Hotline: (310) 392-8381.  
#DenimDay

### May 13

LACDP JFK AWARDS

[Early Bird Tickets Available through April 7.](#)

### May 26–28

California Democratic Party Convention—Downtown LA Convention Center.  
Volunteers receive a free convention observer pass upon completion of a shift.

[Sign up here](#)

# Report of the Legislative Committee

With our club's support, local leaders have won their elections and are at work in the state legislature authoring and advocating for progressive policy. As a club, we can and should give them our support.

The Legislative Committee of the Culver City Democratic Club—Cynthia Hart, Alex Fisch, Leah Pressman and Bubba Fish—have worked to research and select a slate of impactful legislation to recommend for the club's endorsement. The committee conferred with activist leaders and groups, other local democratic clubs, and state elected officials to come up with our recommendations.

It is not a short list, so please review the materials in the newsletter so you will be prepared to vote at our next club meeting.

There will be three packages of endorsements that we will bring to the club at the next meeting: 1) a package of bills the club has previously endorsed that are returning to the state legislature, 2) a package of bills from *Streets For All* (excluding their second-year bills) and 3) a group of new bills. The bills in these three packages address issues of health-care, housing, and transit; criminal, social, and environmental justice; as well as election reform and civil rights.

## Once more with feeling

Several of the bills that the Committee presents are repeats of bills that the club had endorsed last year. They were not enacted then, but they are back with new bill numbers for another try.

[AB309](#) (Lee)—Social Housing—re-introduces AB2053 which would add social housing to the State's toolkit to address the shortage of affordable homes for all income levels in California.

[AB745](#) (Bryan)—Reentry Housing/Workforce Development Plan—re-introduces last year's AB1816 which would create the Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program to provide grants for innovative or evidence-based housing, housing-based services, family reunification services, women services, and employment interventions to allow people with recent histories of incarceration to exit homelessness and remain

stably housed.

[AB610](#) (Holden)—Free Youth Transit Pass Program—re-introduces last year's AB1919 which would create a five-year Youth Transit Pass Pilot Program to provide grants to transit agencies to create or expand free fare transit programs for college and K-12 students.

[AB1690](#) (Kalra)—CalCare—re-introduces AB1400 which would establish the intent of the Legislature to guarantee accessible, affordable, equitable, and high-quality health care for all Californians through a comprehensive universal single-payer health care program that benefits every resident of the state.

Climate Corporate Accountability and PERS Fossil Fuel Divestment are back this year with more urgency (see below).

*By Leah Pressman*

[AB920](#) (Bryan)—Unhoused as a protected category—would make being an unhoused person a protected category under California's anti-discrimination statute. In the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) survey of unhoused people, 70.4 percent of respondents complained that they faced discrimination solely based on their housing status. Across California, unhoused people are routinely victims of assault and harassment.

ACLU California Action (Co-Sponsor) Disability Rights California (Co-Sponsor) Housing California (Co-Sponsor) Public Advocates (Co-Sponsor) Western Center on Law and Poverty (Co-Sponsor). [FACT SHEET](#).

[AB93](#) (Bryan)—Criminal procedure: consensual searches—would prohibit police officers from asking for consent to search a person or their vehicle without an evidence-based legal justification.

It would require that police have a warrant or probable cause in order to conduct a search. Limiting consent searches would help limit unjustifiable police interactions that lead to more intrusive stops of people of color and often escalate to unsafe, traumatic or even lethal encounters. A large [study of how policing differs by race and ethnicity](#) conducted by the California Attorney General's office revealed gross dispar-

ities in consent searches and recommended that the law be changed. Racial profiling does not help solve crime. Consent searches of Black individuals are the least likely to result in the discovery of contraband compared to searches of other groups. Despite this, cops ask a far higher percentage of Black individuals to consent to a search compared to any other group.

ACLU Cal Action (Co-Sponsor), Cal-Bike (Co-Sponsor) [FACT SHEET](#)

[SB238](#) (Wiener) mandates an automatic referral to the state's existing Independent Medical Review process every time a private insurance company denies a child mental health treatment.

This is very personal to me. In 15 years as a psychologist at the UCLA child and adolescent psychiatric hospital, I constantly witnessed children with life-threatening psychiatric issues denied coverage because insurance company nurses and doctors who never meet the patients and are often not trained in child psychology deemed it "not medically necessary."

This leads to gross inequities in treatment, even among insured families, at a time when we are seeing an explosion of need for child mental health care. Read the full [PRESS RELEASE](#)

## Climate Package

This year's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report is beyond terrifying. It is urgent that California take action to address climate collapse. The legislative committee recommends our club endorse the Climate Accountability Package, a group of three bills that both Igor Tregub and RL Miller (the current and former chairs of the CADEM Environmental Caucus who have both been guest speakers at our meetings) wholeheartedly endorse. The climate accountability package is comprised of [SB261](#) (Stern) "Greenhouse gasses: climate-related financial risk" and two bills which were supported by our club last year: [SB253](#) (Wiener) "Climate Corporate Data Accountability" and [SB252](#) (Gonzalez) "Public retirement systems: fossil fuels: divestment."

**See LEGISLATIVE on page 7**

**from LEGISLATIVE on page 6**

SB253 requires all large corporations that do business in California to more fully disclose the greenhouse gasses emitted by their corporate supply chain. This will help the public, investors, and others be better informed about which corporations are serious about climate action and which are engaged in greenwashing.

SB261 helps protect consumers from the massive potential financial losses associated with the climate crisis by requiring companies to disclose these risks.

SB252 will require the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) and the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) to divest from investments in fossil fuel companies by 2023. California cannot lead on climate while also funding the fossil fuel corporations that are the leading cause of climate collapse. Divestment will also protect civil service benefits from the fallout of the end of the carbon economy. [FACT SHEET](#)

*By Cynthia Hart*

[ACA8](#) (Wilson) California Abolition Act. We all learned in school that the Constitution prohibits slavery and involuntary servitude (so far, so good) "except to punish crime." Yeah. About that. [Jim Crow used that exception to re-enslave](#). Inmate labor is often compensated for as little as 8 cents an hour. Inmate fire fighters risk their lives for little pay, and a skilled plumber might receive eighty cents an hour. "How is that not a workers' rights issue?" asks State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, who is co-authoring ACA8. The California Abolition Act seeks to amend Article 1, Section 6 of the California Constitution to prohibit slavery and involuntary servitude without exception.

[AB421](#) (Bryan)—Proposition Reform. It's been clear for awhile that California's referendum process has strayed far from its original purpose of providing a path for grassroots democracy to speak truth to power. With enough money for an army of signature gatherers who are paid per signature, just about anybody can qualify a referendum to overturn (or at least delay) just about any good piece of legislation our elected representatives can pass. The paid gatherers are anonymous,

accountable to no one, and have every incentive to say just about anything to get a signature.

Last year, Governor Newsom vetoed SB660, which would have ended the practice of paying gatherers per signature. His veto message consisted of some nonsense about it being more economical and hence more democratic to use paid-per-signature gatherers. This after he was subjected to a recall in a campaign that used paid signature gatherers.

So the problem continued and there was nothing we could do about it. Until now. Now our AD55 [Assembly Member Isaac Bryan has crafted AB421](#).

AB421 would require that 10 percent of the signatures be gathered by unpaid volunteers. It would require that the paid gatherers register with the State, obtain an ID badge to be worn while gathering, and receive mandatory training. AB421 would also require that petition signers must initial a statement that they have viewed the list of the top three donors. Enough is enough. I ask all of you to say "yes" to Isaac's package of reform.

[AB793](#) (Bonta)—Privacy: Dragnet Digital Surveillance. This bill would protect the privacy of those who seek abortion care, gender-affirming care (or simply engage in First Amendment-protected activity) from a type of [dragnet digital surveillance](#) demand known variously as "reverse warrants", "keyword warrants", or "geofence warrants." Such warrants can compel tech companies to search their records and reveal the identities of all people who have driven down a certain street or looked up a particular keyword online. This bill would prohibit a California person or entity from complying with such a demand. (Are you listening, Google?) The threat grows as [more states enact anti-abortion and anti-trans legislation](#). Google alone has received thousands of these warrants from those states. Already, this type of warrant has been used to track the locations and identities of people protesting police violence. And no probable cause is required.

Assembly Member Tina McKinnor, a club endorsee, is a co-author of AB793.

**Streets For All**

*By Bubba Fish*

[AB819](#) (Bryan) Decriminalizes fare evasion, removing the threat of a misdemeanor and jail time for not paying a few dollars for bus or transit. [FACT SHEET](#)

[AB825](#) (Bryan) Legalizes biking on the sidewalk in areas without safe bicycle infrastructure, so you don't have to choose between riding your bike on dangerous streets or breaking the law. [FACT SHEET...LA Times Article...Bubba on Instagram](#)

[AB364](#) (Bryan) Collects data on street furniture across the state, such as bus shelters, trash cans, and benches. [FACT SHEET](#)

[AB413](#) (Lee) Increases the visibility of people crossing the street by preventing cars from parking immediately before the crosswalk. [FACT SHEET](#)

[AB1317](#) (Carillo) Separates parking costs from rent, making sure people who don't need a parking spot aren't paying for one. [FACT SHEET](#)

[AB251](#) (Ward) Requires the state to study the impact of vehicle weight on pedestrian safety to inform possible policy decisions about registration fees. [FACT SHEET](#)

[SB695](#) (Gonzalez) Requires Caltrans to report annual data on state highway widening projects, including miles built, dollars spent, vehicle miles traveled, and greenhouse gasses emitted. [FACT SHEET](#)

[SB411](#) (Portantino) Requires a virtual option for public meetings of Los Angeles agencies. [FACT SHEET](#)

[SB538](#) (Portantino) Establishes a Bicycle Czar. [FACT SHEET](#)

[SB712](#) (Portantino) Prevents Landlords from prohibiting e-bikes.

[AB645](#) (Friedman) Creates a speed safety cameras pilot program to slow down drivers on high-injury streets and areas with a history of street racing. [FACT SHEET...EQUITY FACT SHEET FROM LAST YEAR](#)

**See LEGISLATIVE on page 8**



## from LEGISLATIVE on page 7

by Alex Fisch

[SB567](#) (Durazo) builds on the Tenant Protection Act (AB1482). The Bill expands protections from no-fault evictions, lowers the amount that rent may be increased to inflation or 5 percent, whichever is lower (like Culver City), makes statewide tenant protections applicable to single family homes, condos and mobile homes, and creates new enforcement mechanisms. Our own Senator Smallwood-Cuevas is a co-author. The LA Times recently [highlighted it](#) along with other proposed housing legislation.

[SB4](#) (Wiener)—Planning and zoning: housing development: higher education institutions and religious institutions. SB4 makes it easier for churches and non-profit universities to build housing if they so choose. Thanks to the previous council's support for affordable housing, Culver City approved a project like this, Jubilo Village, that will bring nearly 100 affordable homes to people making between 30 percent and 80 percent of the area median income. Not

every city welcomes affordable housing, even when proposed by a religious institution. All SB4-eligible homes would be required to be 100 percent affordable to low- and moderate-income households, with a restriction that no more than 20 percent can be targeted to moderate-income households earning up to 120 percent of area median income. [The Los Angeles Times has endorsed SB4. FACT SHEET](#)

[ACA4](#) (Bryan) would allow voters the opportunity to extend the right to vote to incarcerated people. Expanding the franchise will more closely connect people in prison with society, potentially reducing recidivism. It will also ameliorate an injustice where districts with prisons, which are often more conservative, are allowed to count incarcerated people in their area for redistricting, even though incarcerated people cannot vote in that district. [Our Assembly Member Isaac Bryan is the author](#). Capital and Main [has covered ACA4](#) in some depth.

[SB466](#) (Wahab) would amend the statewide limitations on local power to enact rent control by allowing cities to

regulate rents on projects more than 15 years old, instead of only projects completed before 1995. It would also allow local rent control ordinances to apply to single family homes and condominiums.

## SUCCESS!

by Cynthia Hart

Last month, our CCDC endorsed bill, AB83—the Get Foreign Money Out of California Elections Act—was passed out of the Assembly Elections Committee, the first hurdle on its path to becoming California law.

At the Elections Committee hearing California Chamber of Commerce was the only organization speaking against the bill, and they had no public support either in the room or on the call-in lines. Your Corresponding Secretary called in and announced our club's endorsement.

But AB83 still needs our support. Now that it has passed the Elections Committee, it has gone on to the Appropriations Committee. That's where good bills go to die. Our AD55 Assembly Member Isaac Bryan is on that committee. Please call him and tell him that Culver City wants Foreign Money Out of California Elections. Assembly Member Bryan's Sacramento phone number has changed since last year to (916) 319-2055. His District Office number remains (310) 641-5410. Email him at <https://lcmspubcontact.lc.ca.gov/PublicLCMS/ContactPopup.php?district=AD55>

**SAVE THE DATE**

**CULVER CITY**

**PRIDE**

**2023**

**PRIDE AND RALLY**

**RIDE | 4 PM**  
SYD KRONENTHAL PARK

**RALLY | 6 PM**  
MAIN ST, CULVER CITY

**RIDE - RALLY - BLOCK PARTY - MUSIC**  
**FOOD - ENTERTAINMENT - MORE!**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 3**

@CULVERCITYPRIDE CULVERCITYPRIDE.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**



# Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove's swearing-in

By Cynthia Hart

On February 26 the 37th Congressional District celebrated the in-district swearing-in of our new Congressional Representative Sydney Kamlager-Dove. Supervisor Holly Mitchell and Los Angeles



**Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove is sworn in by Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass.**

Mayor Karen Bass were there to cheer on their mentee. It was a joyful occasion with music, dancing, and a community resource fair. There were many familiar faces in attendance.

After Mayor Bass ceremonially passed the torch by swearing her in, Sydney gave a rousing inaugural address. She first



**Club members Tom Camarella, Ronnie Jayne Solomon, Scott Houston, Diane Rosenberg and Shannon Theus attended Sydney's local swearing-in.**

thanked her predecessor "...for getting me into this trouble in the first place." Sydney went to Congress to fight the good fight, but before that fight could begin, the new Congress had to be sworn in, and before that a new Speaker had to be elected, and before that there was "a whole lotta' drama." The drama included a slapdown between two Republicans on CSPAN. (Sharp-eyed constituents spotted Sydney on camera.) While all that was happening, Sydney's mother up in the gallery called security on a misbehaving Republican. ("Did you know I had to



**Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly Mitchell spoke at Sydney's event.**

throw her out? I had to throw her out!") But eventually the new Speaker took the gavel and Sydney was sworn in with her hand on a Bible owned by Rosa Parks.

Our Congresswoman quickly learned that it is hard to be in the minority (Toto, I don't think we're in Sacramento anymore) and that a lot of nutty things were going to happen in the 118th Congress. There was an early vote in Committee on whether to allow firearms and grenades in the Committee room. (Both will be allowed.)

In her first two bills Sydney picked up where Mayor Bass left off, with the [One Stop Shop Community Reentry Program Act](#) to provide reentry resources for the formerly incarcerated and the [Pregnant Women in Custody Act](#) to get those pregnant while incarcerated the health-care and nutrition they need.

From her seat as Vice Ranking member



**Vice-Mayor Yasmine Imani-McMorris, School Board Member Triston Ezidore and City Council Member Freddy Puza also attended Sydney's swearing-in.**

of the Committee on Natural Resources, she is well positioned to protect our oceans and wildlife. Already she has introduced the [Preparing Superfund for Climate Change Act](#) and the [A. Donald McEachin Environmental Justice for All Act](#). Like her predecessor, she serves on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

She has cosponsored dozens of bills and spoken on the House floor about issues of concern to her constituents. She has also been there to vote against extreme bills brought to the House by the Republicans. One of those was HR5, the so-called "Parents Bill of Rights." [Click here to hear our Congresswoman explain her vote.](#)

A high point of her first days in the Congress was her first State of the Union address at which she invited as her guest Dominique Hamilton. Ms. Hamilton is the fiancée of Keenan Anderson, [who died at the corner of Lincoln and Venice after being tased by LAPD six times over a period of 42 seconds.](#) Her choice of



**At one point Sydney said "I see Culver City in the house!" and pointed out a number of Culver City Democratic Club members in the audience.**

guest signals her commitment to reforms such as the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. She said "This is important to every parent of a Black or Brown child."

Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove's contact information is:

By email

<https://kamlager-dove.house.gov/contact>

By phone

District Office (323) 965-1422

Washington Office (202) 225-7084



# Salt water and the Ballona Wetlands

by Patricia McPherson, President, Grassroots Coalition, and Margot Griswold, PhD, Restoration Ecologist

Ballona Wetlands is a uniquely situated coastal wetland overlying three aquifers that act as one (Playa Vista EIR, 1992), and therefore, protection of this wetland, protects these freshwater aquifers. The current plan from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) would introduce daily tidal flow into the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve which not only exacerbates the potential for saltwater intrusion into three groundwater aquifers but would violate the purpose and goals of the designation of Ballona Wetland as an Ecological Reserve per the California Fish and Game Commission (2005).

In 2005, the Ballona Wetlands was designated as an Ecological Reserve by the Fish and Game Commission, pursuant to Title 14 of the Cal. Code of Regulations, Section 630. The public notice for this listing stated that designation was required for the “protection and enhancement of coastal salt marsh and freshwater marsh habitats, and associated species, including the state listed endangered Belding’s Savannah Sparrow. The area is also an important wildlife movement corridor to other public lands in the vicinity of the wetlands. ... Since the property contains sensitive species, including a state listed endangered species, sensitive vegetation communities and acts as a linkage for other important

protected lands, it is necessary and appropriate to provide this level of regulatory protection to prevent improper use and degradation of wildlife resources.” (Cal. Regulatory Notice Register, Vol. 20-Z, at 663-664, 2005).

Thus, freshwater was a key component to the designation of the Ballona Wetlands as an Ecological Reserve. Consistent with its designation, and contrary to CDFW’s current claims, the Ballona Wetlands is a seasonal freshwater coastal wetland with groundwater at or near the surface, and it is not, historically, a tidally influenced saltwater marsh open to the ocean (Dark et. al, 2010 and Jacobs et. al. 2011). The State’s Registry specifically requires protection to Ballona’s freshwater resources under Title 14, Non-Marine Section 630 Ecological Reserve protective status, which was approved by the California Fish & Game Commission in 2005.

The seasonal freshwater and the groundwater connection must be protected. The wetlands and the groundwater aquifers are ready made to save freshwater now.

However, the interaction of sea water intrusion with groundwater aquifers may be increased with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s certified plan (FEIR, ESA 2020) to lower the elevation of the Ballona Wetlands to allow current sea level to flood the wetlands with daily tidal flows, converting the vegetated wetlands into open saltwater estuary. The freshwater aquifers that are underlying

the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are classified by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board as Drinking Water and Potential Drinking Water.

And finally, although the Santa Monica Sub-Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan acknowledges that there is a data gap with no monitoring wells to assess the potential for saltwater intrusion into the groundwater, there is little indication in the implementation section of the Plan that there is any urgency to fill this data gap. We would ask that this important data gap be identified and included in a list of urgent projects that the State Water Resources Department will fund. Saltwater intrusion potentially may affect the freshwater aquifers that are underlying the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve which as previously mentioned are classified by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board as Drinking Water and Potential Drinking Water.

In conclusion, Grassroots Coalition requests that the Culver City Democrats put forth a letter to the Culver City Council to support the protection of Ballona Wetlands natural fresh surface water and groundwater resources. And further, to request the Culver City Council to direct their representative on the Santa Monica Sub-Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Mr. Dave Singleton, to request an in-depth Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem evaluation at the Ballona Wetlands.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

# BALLONA CREEK

*Trash Interceptor - Pilot Project*

[Click here to read about the Interceptor in the Los Angeles Times](#)



[Click here to learn more about the Ballona Creek Trash Interceptor Pilot Project](#)



# MY JEANS PROTEST VIOLENCE

Denim Day is April 26, 2023



Wear jeans with a purpose.



Denim Day is a project of Peace Over Violence

[denimday.org](https://denimday.org)