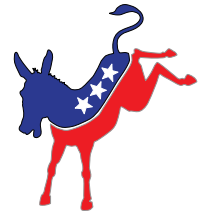


Culver City Democratic Club *Active Democrat*



www.CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Email: CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com • Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/culvercitydems

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

General Meeting on Zoom — 7p.m. Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Program: Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascon

President's Message by Jeff Schwartz

How it started—how it's going

Fellow Democrats,

We are approaching the end of another year, and of my third term as President. We will form a nominating committee at this month's meeting, charged with recruiting a slate of officer candidates to present in January. Nominations from the floor, including self-nominations, will also be accepted at that meeting, and our 2024 leadership chosen.

Whatever the outcome of that process, it has been an honor to lead this organization for the past three years. Much of the work I am proudest of has happened behind the scenes. For example, when I took office the Club used checks for many transactions and kept membership records solely on paper.

The transformation of the Club's website and newsletter are more visible. With Karim Sahli's technical and design expertise, we have become a major producer of political information and analysis. Newsletter editor Pete Rockwell has expanded the *Active Democrat* from four Xeroxed 8.5x11 pages to a full-color monthly often more than ten pages long. All modesty

aside, I think we have published some material which could hold its own in a professional publication such as *Jacobin* or *Slate*. Culver City deserves no less.

There has also been no shortage of drama. I am a proud member of the Class of 2016: people inspired to work within the Democratic Party by Bernie Sanders' example. As I've learned more about the history of our party, I understand that "mods vs. progs" (which is a terrible name that makes me think of *Who* fans beating up *Yes* fans) goes back much farther. We can talk about Unruh vs. Crans-

ton, McCarthy vs. Johnson, Stevenson vs. Kennedy, Jackson vs. Mondale, etc. However, as I've argued here since [my first column](#), the fight for control of the Democratic brand is exceptionally intense now because of the [total devolution of the Republican one](#) and the resulting impossibility of being elected with an "R" next to your name in many places. [Ask Rick Caruso](#). AOC famously said that [in most countries she and Joe Biden would not be in the same political party](#). The same holds for Traci Park and Mike Bonin, Dan-

See MESSAGE on page 2

The November General Meeting of the
Culver City Democratic Club
is sponsored by Rick Tuttle and Rebecca Rona Tuttle
with a donation to the Club of \$80 in honor of the
80th birthday of our longest-serving CCDC officer

Happy Birthday
to Membership Secretary
Diane Rosenberg



From MESSAGE on page 1

iel Lee and Göran Eriksson, but here we are.

Maybe I should say here we were. During my tenure our membership swelled from around 100 to nearly 400, as Democrats of various ideologies attempted to gain a majority and control this Club's direction. I am sincerely disappointed that quite a few of these people did not renew and that a handful, after failing to gain traction here, formed a splinter group rather than attempting to press their case within this Club with stronger arguments and organizing. I continue to encourage all registered Democrats to [join this Club](#). Our decision-making process is more inclusive and transparent than most, with [all endorsements made by direct votes of the membership on a secret ballot](#).

Despite the schism, our membership remains proportionally exceptional. Two-thirds as many people voted in our Senate endorsement election as did in the Santa Monica Democratic Club's, despite Santa Monica being over twice as large as Culver City and having a more intense history of activism.

That endorsement election was the first step in our 2024 election work. We will choose our remaining March Primary endorsements in December, then select our officers and approve our budget in January. I do not anticipate much controversy in the remaining Primary endorsements; most offices are held by popular incumbents. After March, however, things will become very intense, with a heavy lineup of State propositions and

three City Council and two School Board seats in play. Last election [we produced dozens of videos with candidates for offices from local to Federal](#), publishing far more election information than any other Culver City organization, and we're going to do it again!

If you renewed since July of this year and took advantage of our \$45 mid-year deal, or have bought a \$500 lifetime membership, you are ready for 2024. All other memberships will expire at midnight New Year's Eve, like in a fairy tale, so [renew now](#) so you don't miss any of the action!




Don't Forget to Renew Your Club Membership for 2024!

[To Join the Culver City Democratic Club CLICK HERE for the Club's ActBlue page.](#)

Join the Culver City Democratic Club for next year and the rest of 2023 for a \$30 donation!

For more information on becoming a member of the Culver City Democratic Club, call Diane Rosenberg at (310) 398-5328.



Culver City DEMOCRATIC CLUB POP-UP FUNDRAISER AT Village Well

BOOKS & COFFEE

Dec. 2-3
Mention us and 20% of your tab will go to the Club

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 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

Club email address: CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com

Follow us on Twitter: @CulvCityDemClub

Instagram: CulverCityDemClub

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

November 2

Mayor Albert Vera's State of the City Address

Reception: 6 pm Address: 6:30 pm

Atrium at One Culver

10000 Washington Bl

Culver City

RSVP: <https://www.culvercity.org/Events-directory/Mayor-Albert-Veras-State-of-the-City-Address>

November 8 - 7 PM

CCDC General Meeting via Zoom

Speaker: Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascon

[LINK TO REGISTER FOR CCDC GENERAL MEETING](#)

November 11

Veteran's Day

Lest we forget...

November 13 - 7 PM

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

November 14

[CCUSD School Board Meeting](#)

November 15 - 6:30 PM

LA District Attorney Candidates Debate Santa Monica Democratic Club

Thelma Terry Center [\(and on Zoom\)](#)

2200 Virginia Ave., Santa Monica, CA 90405

Ongoing

Grassroots Democratic Headquarters

Offers volunteer opportunities to flip the House!

Choose from in-person or virtual phonebanking,

textbanking, postcarding and canvassing

<https://linktr.ee/grassrootsdemhg>

Click here to R.S.V.P for the Santa Monica Democratic Club's LA District Attorney candidate forum

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY CANDIDATES DEBATE



FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15
6:30PM DOORS | 7:00PM PROGRAM

THELMA TERRY CENTER
2200 VIRGINIA AVENUE
SANTA MONICA

OR WATCH THE DEBATE ON ZOOM

RSVP NOW!



Di's Corner:

by Diane Rosenberg

Update on Club member Charlotte Gunter. She is still in the rehab center, and always with a positive attitude. She misses everyone, and looks forward to the day when she can see all in person.

On Saturday, Sept. 2nd, I celebrated my 80th birthday and had my celebration at George Petrelli's Steakhouse here in Culver City. I want to thank all who came and helped me celebrate.

Legislative status update November 2023

Of the 32 legislative endorsements our club made this year, thirteen bills have been signed into law, two proposed constitutional amendments have qualified for the November 2024 ballot, four bills were vetoed, and 12 didn't make it to the Governor's desk. Some bills died in committee ([SB 252](#) was killed by committee Chair Tina McKinnor) and some were withdrawn when the authors realized they didn't have the votes. Many of the bills that did not make it out of the legislature this year will return in 2024. Here are the bills that were signed into law:

[AB 251](#) (Ward, Friedman) Requires the state to study the impact of vehicle weight on pedestrian safety to inform possible policy decisions about registration fees. [FACT SHEET](#).

[AB 413](#) (Lee) Increases the visibility of people crossing the street by preventing cars from parking immediately before the crosswalk. [FACT SHEET](#).

[AB 421](#) (Bryan) Majority Leader Isaac Bryan (AD 55) said in a statement: "A confusing referendum process has made it too easy for concentrated special interests to silence and manipulate the voice of voters in our communities, but with Governor Newsom's signature on AB 421 we are putting power back in the hands of the people." The law will require referendums that seek to repeal existing law to make it clear whether a yes vote will "keep the law" or "overturn the law." It will take effect for new measures added to the 2024 ballot." [Editorial](#)

[AB 645](#) (Friedman) Creates a speed safety camera pilot program to slow down drivers on high-injury streets and in areas with a history of street racing. [FACT SHEET](#)

[AB 1317](#) (Carillo) Separates parking costs from rent, making sure people who don't need a parking spot aren't paying for one. [FACT SHEET](#).

[SB 4](#) (Wiener) aims to make it easier for churches and nonprofit universities to build housing. [PRESS RELEASE](#)

[SB 261](#) (Stern) helps protect consumers from the massive potential financial losses associated with the climate crisis by requiring companies to disclose these risks.

[CALMATTERS](#)

[SB 253](#) (Weiner) requires all large corporations that do business in California to more fully disclose the greenhouse gasses emitted by their corporate supply chain. [CALMATTERS](#).

[SB 411](#) (Portantino) Requires a virtual option for public meetings of Los Angeles agencies. [FACT SHEET](#).

[SB 538](#) (Portantino) Establishes a Bicycle Czar. [FACT SHEET](#)

[SB 567](#) (Durazo) will strengthen tenant protections against fraudulent just-cause evictions and illegal rent increases. Here is a recent [editorial](#) in support.

[SB 695](#) (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](#).

[SB 712](#) (Portantino) Prevents Landlords from prohibiting e-bikes. [FACT SHEET](#)

One Club-endorsed measure has qualified for the November 2024 ballot:

[ACA 5](#) (Low) Marriage Equality. If the Supreme Court overturns the right to gay marriage as they did with the right to an abortion with Roe, 2008's Proposition 8 will go back into effect and same-sex marriage will be illegal in California. This ballot measure will repeal Prop. 8 amending the California State Constitution to protect marriage equality from the Trump/Thomas Court.

Governor Newsom vetoed these bills:

[AB 309](#) (Alex Lee) aims to address the shortage of affordable homes for all income levels in California by creating the Social Housing Program under the Department of General Services, with the goal of developing social housing on state property. [Read more here](#).

[SB 403](#) (Wahab) would add specific language to California civil rights law to

explicitly prohibit discrimination based on their ancestry/caste. [LA Times](#)

[AB 819](#) (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](#)

[AB 825](#) (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](#)

The list of bills our club endorsed that did NOT make it to the Governor's desk this year or qualify for the 2024 ballot are:

[AB 83](#) (Lee) Political Reform Act of 1974: contributions and expenditures by foreign-influenced business entities

[AB 93](#) (Bryan) Criminal procedure: consensual searches

[AB 364](#) (Bryan) Street Furniture Data

[AB 610](#) (Holden) Free Youth Transit

[AB 745](#) (Bryan) Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program

[AB 793](#) (Bonta) Privacy: reverse demands

[AB 920](#) (Bryan) to make the unhoused a protected category

[AB 1690](#)—CalCare

[SB 252](#) (Gonzalez) to divest state pensions from risky Fossil Fuel investments

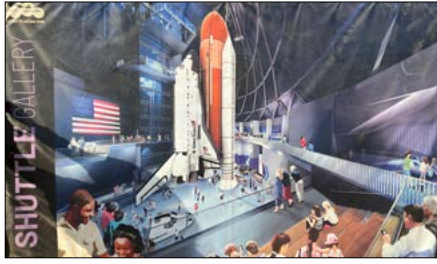
[SB 238](#) (Weiner) Child mental health care coverage: independent medical review

[SB 466](#) (Wahab) Costa-Hawkins Reform, and

[ACA 4](#) (Bryan) Elections: Eligibility to Vote.

[ACA 8](#) (Wilson) The California Abolition Act seeks to amend Article 1, Section 6 of the California Constitution to prohibit slavery and involuntary servitude without exception.

by *Leah Pressman*



Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas welcomes the solid rocket motors to Senate District 28

What Angeleno can forget the magical three days when the retired space shuttle Endeavour rolled through the streets to its forever home at the California Science Center? Eleven years later, on October 11, the last surviving set of solid rocket motors (SRMs) came up Figueroa to join the Endeavour and the external fuel tank to be on display in the future Shuttle Gallery.

The street was lined with a happy crowd of school kids and other space enthusiasts. Everyone was smiling. You would have thought the Dodgers had just won the Series!

The SRM's were accompanied on the last leg of their journey by a small group of dignitaries that included our SD28 State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas. Later that day, the SRM's came to rest on their storage cradles in Expo Park just steps from her SD28 district office.

—*Cynthia Hart*



Club 1st VP Jeanna Harris received the LACDP "Democrat of the Year" award



This weekend, CCUSD Board President Amezola joined Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell at the county event "The Radical Power of Dance: United by the Beat," where we danced and learned about our culture in the spirit of unity

Culver City Democratic Club members at "¡Si Se Puede Culver City!—An Inclusive Celebration" on October 21



Rebecca Rona-Tuttle, Karim Sahli, Jeff Schwartz, Mary Daval, Kelly Kent, Will Herrera, Paula Amezola, and Leah Pressman



Leah Pressman, Shannon Theus, Jeff Schwartz, and Paula Amezola

Culver City Council majority paves the way to remove dissenting voices from city committees

by *Bubba Fish*

At Monday's City Council meeting, a seismic shift in city governance occurred, though if you blinked, you may have missed it. Buried inside a list of seemingly mundane proposed changes to the city's committees, boards and commissions (CBCs) was a clause to enable the removal of a CBC member "with or without cause...upon a majority vote of the City Council." The previous policy required a 4/5 vote, a much more difficult threshold to meet.

The "Council majority," referring to Mayor Vera and Councilmembers Eriksson and O'Brien, vocalized their support of the change and voted to adopt it, despite members of the public (and even Councilmember Eriksson himself) pointing out that it will have far-reaching consequences for city governance.

Planning Commissioner Nancy Barba, speaking as an individual, stated in her public comment, "There is a value in diversity of thought. And to think a simple majority could remove people because you don't agree with their thoughts, you are going to lose out on diversity...and [lose out] on making this a city where everyone feels like they belong and their thoughts and ideas are valued."

Stephen Jones, who also serves on the City's Planning Commission, also commented as an individual: "I think it looks like you're trying to do this without anyone noticing. It's on the consent calendar. You kind of buried the change among a host of totally noncontroversial changes to the policy. What you are proposing is making these [positions] political when they haven't been. It's a huge change from the way things have been done. If it's a wise course of action, you need to tell us why, and you haven't done that."

Councilmember Puza, who voted against the change, asked staff, "What would be the downside of keeping it as is?" City staff explained that the 4/5 threshold is a "high bar to meet." But why should the

bar to remove someone from a city body be lowered? Staff explained that the change would make the removal threshold consistent with what is required for appointing a member of a CBC, which is indeed a simple majority. But should the removal of a member not be a rare occasion or at least be justified by more than political ideology? What does this mean for the future of our City's CBCs?

Councilmember Eriksson spoke to the political impact of his decision, remarking: "Wouldn't that be valuable to have all these commissions and boards to be somewhat aligned with the current council? Wouldn't that make things flow better?" The comments seem to signal a desire to take advantage of this new policy to remove CBC members who may not align with his political agenda and that of the current majority.

CBCs had little to no hard powers under the old policy, nor do they under this new policy. Council still retains the right to overturn any recommendation made by a City committee, board, or commission. The power of the CBCs was in their ability to inform and influence the direction of the Council and the community through thoughtful deliberation. So that begs the question: is this not just about removing the inconvenience of criticism or competing ideas from official city channels?

I happen to have some personal experience on this subject. As one public commenter pointed out during Monday's meeting, I was the only incumbent not reappointed to my CBC position in July. For over two years, I served as Vice Chair of the City's Advisory Committee on Housing and Homelessness. During my time on that body, I was not shy about sharing my leanings with this Council and yes, even some respectful criticism when I felt it was warranted—particularly when the majority moved to criminalize homelessness, a policy which I believe was not supported by evidence. Eriksson called my criticism

of the ordinance "rather negative" just days before declining to reappoint me. Eriksson alluded to this moment in his remarks on Monday, clarifying that I was not removed but rather not reappointed, "because that would have required four votes with our current policy." This sounded like an admission that yes, he would have preferred to remove me sooner had the rules allowed for it, hence his vote to change them.

The revised policy sets a dangerous precedent by allowing any Council present or future to craft their committees and commissions in their image, leading to accelerated turnover on CBCs and a massive loss of organizational knowledge that hampers their influence on the city's direction. City residents may also be less willing to share their honest thoughts or even volunteer to serve on these bodies altogether, knowing they could be removed at any time for voicing an opinion contrary to the majority view.

Since this City Council was sworn in to office on December 12, 2022, the majority has voted to make sleeping on the street with anything more than a blanket and a pillow illegal, eliminate the protected bike lanes in downtown, remove two car-free streets on Melville and Main Street, and roll back a minimum wage increase for healthcare workers. Some CBC members expressed their concerns with these policies, and one can only hope the Council majority found value in those criticisms, even if they disagreed. Now, those same CBC members may think twice before speaking up at all.

Diversity of thought enhances the civic process and results in better policy—but only if we choose to value it.

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