

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, February 14, 2024

Program: To be determined

President's Message by Jeff Schwartz

Spilling tea on the LACDP

Fellow Democrats,

Thank you for electing me to another term as Club President. It is a great honor to have your support to continue to lead Culver City's original Democratic club. Since I've been in office, we have expanded our scope by endorsing in some elections in neighboring communities, used technology to become the city's largest creator and publisher of political information and analysis, and brought you the highest possible level of programming. I look forward to our work together in this crucial election year. If you have not renewed your membership for 2024, [click here now](#) to avoid missing any more of the action.

I am asking you to [vote for me](#) for another office. If you are in the 55th Assembly District, represented by Club Member Isaac Bryan, I will be on your primary ballot as a candidate for the Los Angeles County Democratic Party Central Committee. What is it, why does it matter, and why pick me?

Each district elects seven members to this body as part of the Presidential Primary ballot. I am running to be one of these. This is not the only way one can become a member. Every two years each district elects fourteen delegates to the California Democratic Party, which is not to be confused with being a delegate to the Democratic National Convention or a member of the Democratic National Committee, which share an abbreviation for added confusion.

The biennially elected delegates are called ADEMs, for Assembly Delegate Election

Meeting. ADEM candidates can choose to be considered for State Party Executive Board when they run, and the candidate who opts in and gets the most votes in their district becomes both a member of the State Party Executive Board and a voting member of their County Committee. In our district in 2022 you chose Leah Pressman for this position, and she is my wife. I have watched several LACDP Zoom meetings with her, which helped convince me to run.

There are also members of LACDP who are Democrats elected to state and national offices, the highest finishing Democratic candidates for state and national offices held by members of other parties, members of the Democratic National Committee, LACDP officers appointed by the chair, and [a few other categories](#).

The major roles of LACDP are to charter Democratic Clubs, endorse candidates and ballot measures, and fundraise. In each of these areas, it has acted in ways which I believe do not reflect the Party's best interests or its values. [I have no illusions that I can change these things, but I intend to try.](#)

LACDP recently chartered a second Democratic Club in Culver City. Many places are covered by multiple clubs with different areas of focus. Stonewall, for example, welcomes LGBTQ+ Democrats and allies from all of LA County. It does not compete with regional clubs such as Culver City or Santa Monica but compliments them by providing a queer-centered space. The Culver City splinter group, in contrast, is clearly in-

tended to compete with this club and create brand confusion. They chose a very similar name, logo, URL, email address, and social media handles, as well as the exact same meeting night and time. This prevents local Democrats from participating in both groups and dilutes the power of the Democratic brand in Culver City. While we have endorsed District Attorney George Gascón for reelection, the other club is supporting one of his conservative challengers. Voters are likely to soon receive mailers from both campaigns citing the endorsement of "Culver City Democrats," a problem which will surely increase in the November election because it will feature many more Culver City items. This could have been easily prevented if LACDP had protected the brand they gave us by asking the splinter group to call themselves the "Joe Biden Democratic Club," the "Heart of Screenland Democratic Club," or some other distinctive name.

Please excuse my suspicions that LACDP intended to weaken our influence. Democratic Clubs are rooted in the midcentury good government/reform movement led by Alan Cranston and the California Democratic Council, [in opposition to the machine politics epitomized by Jesse Unruh](#). Whether individuals know this history or not, the Bernie-inspired Class of 2016, which I proudly identify with, is a revival of this movement. In Culver City, it grew in the past few decades alongside the breakdown of the center-right consensus which I have [written about](#) exhaustively in this

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space. When I became Club President, things had been tense with LACDP because of our support of Bernie Sanders over Hillary Clinton and of a progressive challenger to Diane Feinstein (Unfortunately that was Kevin de León, but more about him shortly). LACDP's endorsements carry enormous influence. They can make or break a campaign. LA is the largest County in the state, and the California Democratic Party is the largest in the nation. Many organizations will follow LACDP's lead, and chartered Democratic Clubs are technically barred from campaigning against LACDP's endorsees. This is not always enforced, and its main effect has been to get clubs to endorse before LACDP in order to not be preempted.

In the last couple of Culver City elections, LACDP's endorsements have differed significantly from those of this club. In 2020 they backed Albert Vera Jr. for City Council, despite his ties to organizations that consistently oppose the Democratic Party's platform, such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Police Officers' Association. In 2022 they supported Howard Adelman for School Board, despite his running on an "anti-woke" platform and [being under a restraining order for threatening to rape and murder his neighbor](#). Vera and Adelman also performed poorly in our forums and [Adelman also literally chose to remain silent](#) rather than answer a question about vaccine mandates at the Kids Scoop Media forum. I could speculate about the affinities and animosities which inspired LACDP to make these endorsements, but what matters is that those relationships overrode the Party's policy goals.

LACDP has an endorsement committee, selected by its Chair. They create a consent calendar of endorsements. At the December 2023 LACDP meeting they recommended no endorsement for District Attorney or for LA City Council District 12, where Democrat Serena Oberstein, the former Chair of the LA City Ethics Commission, is challenging Republican-turned-No Party Preference incumbent and alleged bagman John "City Staffer B" Lee. They also recommended Ethan Weaver over incumbent Nithya Raman for LA Council District 4. All three of these recommendations

were pulled by a majority of the members, who then voted to endorse Gascón, Oberstein, and Raman. This was a spectacular victory for progressives inside LACDP, especially because it is not enough to have a majority to pull a recommendation. A member of the endorsement committee must also agree, and that committee is appointed by the Chair. Progressives beat the house in a rigged game.

Before leaving the topic of endorsements, let's return to Kevin de León. You may recall the ["Fed Tapes" scandal which broke in October 2022](#), when a recording was leaked of a wild conversation between him, LA City Council President Nury Martinez, Council Member Gil Cedillo, and LA Federation of Labor President Ron Herrera, in which they discussed gerrymandering Council districts to increase Latinx representation and reduce that of African-Americans, renters, and progressives while making a variety of racist and homophobic comments. Cedillo was defeated by Eunisses Hernandez in the next election. Martinez and Herrera resigned. De León chose to tough it out and, after several weeks of Council Members leaving the room in protest when he arrived in order to break quorum and force adjournment, they yielded to keep the City functional. He is now running for re-election.

This was not the only recording leaked. [In a second conversation, Herrera and LACDP member Hannah Cho discussed buying the endorsements of Democratic clubs including Stonewall and LA County Young Democrats. Herrera also mentioned attempting to bribe Hugo Soto-Martinez to not run for LA City Council.](#) Stonewall's [President spoke out against the corruption of their endorsement process](#) but, like de León, Cho and LACDP have stood their ground, with no accountability, apology, or reform.

At the January 2024 LACDP meeting, Chair Mark Gonzalez proposed creating an ombudsperson position to run the grievance process. This ran aground because progressives objected to the Chair getting to appoint another voting member, which would increase the Chair's power and dilute that of elected members. His motion defeated, Gonzalez complained that the majority had chosen to deny abused members redress rather than allow him another appoint-

tee, ignoring that he had turned down a compromise which would have made the ombudsperson a non-voting office, enhancing its neutrality, and that this was a vote of "no confidence" in him. It does not reflect well on his leadership that a majority of members would rather delay having an ombudsperson than allow him a small increase in power, but this is a structural issue as well as a personal one.

He also complained that his opponents did not raise money for the party, an example of a Kinsley gaffe, in which the speaker tells the truth at the wrong time. Is a member's credibility related to how much they can raise or donate? Money may talk, but leaders are not supposed to admit they are listening.

In 2019, at the first state Democratic convention I attended, [the party violated its own rules by accepting donations from vape company Juul](#), and shamefully also took money from Uber, Lyft, and DoorDash. That year those companies were backing [Prop. 22](#), which [allowed them to classify their workers as independent contractors, denying them labor protections](#). When challenged, party leadership gave the same reply as Mark Gonzalez: if we stop taking this money, what will you do to replace it? They repeated this when a coalition of caucuses, including the Progressive, African-American, and Environmental Caucuses, attempted to ban fossil fuel, police, and prison money from the party.

The same is true for LACDP. No sooner had they finished apologizing for accepting Fox as a sponsor of the 2023 Roosevelt Awards Dinner while actors and writers were on strike, than they announced the Chair's Holiday Party with Rick Caruso as a sponsor. [Caruso did not seek the LACDP endorsement when he unsuccessfully ran for Mayor of LA and is now using his financial leverage to move the party to the right](#).

The issue here is not quid pro quo as much as mistaking foes for bros. We won't see a Democratic Representative [vaping on the House dias](#), no matter how much Juul donates, but just a little more hesitation to regulate this business or otherwise stand up to "stakeholders."

Gonzalez also told the progressives who denied him an additional appointed member: "Who needs Republicans when

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I have you?" I have only been a Club President for three years, but it seems unwise for a leader who has had a proposal defeated to respond by insulting the majority of members present for voting against him.

My question is the opposite: who needs Republicans when we have Democrats who were Republicans until five minutes ago, like Caruso and Weaver, or who, like Vera, are rubber stamps for Republican proxies like the [Chamber of Commerce](#), the [Police Officers Association](#), and the [Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles](#)? Democratic organizations use the very real threat of Republican rule to

fundraise, and LA County is a huge and diverse place, but Culver City and the westside elect and re-elect Democrats by margins that Putin would envy, so locally the threat to the Democratic establishment is from the left. That threat is not that we oppose the Democratic Party, but that we take [its promises](#) seriously.

Why do I want to be part of this body and why should you vote for me? Didn't I just spend 2000 words tearing it down? Isn't life frustrating enough already? Yes, but as with my participation in the State Party and the Democratic Party in general, it is necessary because this is where the power is. If progressives abandon these institutions there will be no checks

on how their power is used against us.

Thank you, the members of this Club, for voting to endorse me, Leah Pressman, and Freddy Puza for LACDP. I personally encourage you to also vote for Ilisa Gold, a labor lawyer who was the founding President of the [Miracle Mile Democratic Club](#) and is a delegate from the Forward 55th slate, and for [Jasmyne Can-nick](#), whose reporting and advocacy was essential in [exposing Ed Buck's crimes, those complicit in them, and demanding justice](#). This is not a slate, but these are people who have proven their courage, compassion, and integrity and who I would be honored to serve alongside.



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FOR LA SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

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FOR SUPERIOR COURT

VOTE
MARCH
BY 5TH



Culver City
DEMOCRATIC CLUB

ENDORSEMENTS

President	Joe Biden
Senate	Barbara Lee
Congress	Ted Lieu (CD36)
Congress	Sydney Kamlager (CD37)
State Assembly	Isaac Bryan
State Measure 1	Yes
County Supervisor	Holly Mitchell
District Attorney	George Gascón
Superior Court Office 39	George A. Turner
Superior Court Office 48	Ericka Wiley
Superior Court Office 97	La Shae Henderson
Superior Court Office 124	Kimberly Repecka
CCUSD Measure E	Yes
LA County Democratic Party Central Committee (AD55):	
Leah Pressman, Freddy Puza, and Jeff Schwartz	

SAVE THIS CARD!
IT'S YOUR GUIDE FOR MAIL-IN BALLOTS
OR IN-PERSON VOTING!



RE-ELECT GEORGE GASCÓN Los ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Endorsed by
Culver City Democratic Club

L.A. County Federation of Labor
Planned Parenthood Los Angeles
L.A. County Democratic Party
The Los Angeles Times
Asian Democrats of Los Angeles County
Democrats For Israel Los Angeles
Feel the Bern Democratic Club of
San Fernando Valley
Muslim Democratic Club of
Southern California
Westside Young Democrats
Burbank Democratic Club
Santa Clarita Valley Democrats
Miracle Mile Democratic Club
Glendale Democratic Club
Progressive Democrats of
the Santa Monica Mountains
L.A. County Democratic Party
Stonewall Young Democrats
San Fernando Valley Young Democrats
Black Los Angeles Young Democrats
California Black Women's
Democratic Club
Stonewall Democratic Club
California Working Families Party
Dolores Huerta
(Labor Leader and Civil Rights Activist)
Mike Bonin
(Former LA City Councilmember)
Meghan Sahli-Wells
(Former Culver City Mayor)
Cara Robin
(President, West LA Democratic Club)

*Titles for identification purposes only.

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>

Black History Month

February 5

Look for your Vote by Mail Ballot

February 12 • 7 PM

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

February 13

[CCUSD School Board Meeting](#)



February 14 • 7 PM

CCDC General Meeting via Zoom
Installation of 2024 Club Officers



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

February 16

California Legislature—Last Day for Bills to be Introduced

February 19

President's Day

February 20

Last Day to Register to Vote in March 5th Primary Election

[TO REGISTER TO VOTE CLICK HERE](#)

February 24

Vote Centers Open for March 5th Primary

February 26 • 7 PM

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

February 27 • 7 PM

[CCUSD School Board Meeting](#)

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/grassrootsdemhq>

Bryan named Sentinel Legislator of the Year

Reprinted from the Los Angeles Sentinel

Assemblymember Isaac G. Bryan is the L.A. Sentinel Legislator of the Year. His many achievements on behalf of the people in the 55th District persuaded the Sentinel editorial board to recognize him.

When asked what motivates Bryan to continue doing the work of the people? He humbly responded, “I come from a



Assemblyman Bryan speaking to guests.

family of 12. All of us came through the foster care system and because of this, I have been able to see first-hand how lives can be affected.

“Some of my family members have been incarcerated and they need to be involved in recidivism programs. Some are or have been un-housed, so I see how their lives have been affected.”

Outlining other factors that inspire him in his work, Bryan stated, “To be in a position where I can be involved in helping to make and bring forward change for those in my family and at a greater level, those in my community who need help and services, is what motivates me every day to continue doing the work that I do.”

The 55th Assembly District covers about 476,444 people in Culver City and the Los Angeles communities of Baldwin Hills, Crenshaw, West Adams, Mid-City, View Park, Ladera Heights, Mar Vista, Pico-Robertson, Century City, Exposition Park, Vermont Square and Mid-Wilshire.

Currently, Bryan chairs both the Assembly’s Committee on Natural Resources and Select Committee on Poverty and Economic Inclusion. He is also the secretary and treasurer of the California Legislative Black Caucus as well as vice chair and a founding member of the Renters Caucus.

Although one of the youngest representatives in the State Assembly, Bryan has

not let age stop him from seeking justice in a range of areas. During his current term, he sponsored legislation to direct 40% of federal Infrastructure funding to disadvantaged and low-income communities, ensure inmates returning to their communities have stable housing, and restore voting rights to the formerly incarcerated people.

Some of his other accomplishments include phasing out the Inglewood Oil Field and other oil drilling near homes and communities in California (SB-1137), ending prison gerrymandering (AB-1848), ending punishing fees for parents with children in foster care (AB-1686), protecting students from predatory insurance practices (AB-1823) and strengthening online campaign finance disclosure requirement (AB-1848).

In addition, Bryan secured funding for the Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy at UCLA School of Law; the first Climate Change Education Center in the California Community College system at West LA College; and a stipend program for students in the trades to earn a living wage while studying for certificates.

Bryan’s dedication to assisting others is a trait that he has possessed throughout his career. Prior to his election to the State



Bryan introduced a range of legislation to benefit the 55th Assembly District.

Assembly, he was the founding director of the UCLA Black Policy Project, which focused on connecting Black scholarship with public policy decision-making.

A committed proponent of criminal justice reform, Bryan served as director of organizing for the Million Dollar Hoods (MDH), a community-based participatory research project; and co-chaired Measure J where voters approved the diver-

sion of 10% of county funds “to address the disproportionate impact of racial injustice through community investment and alternatives to incarceration.”

The road to his considerable success was not easy for Bryan. A native of Dallas, Texas, he was adopted as an infant and has been in California since the 6th grade.



Bryan, at podium, at the Justice Reform Press Conference.

His parents, who adopted Bryan and eight other children, were a foster family to hundreds of youths in the child welfare system for more than 20 years. As a child, Bryan attended seven public schools.

Bryan overcame all hurdles to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Arizona and a Master of Public Policy from UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. Later, he served as a David Bohnett Foundation fellow and as a commissioner on the LAUSD task force studying the reinvestment of funds taken from the school police budget.

Although young in years, Isaac Bryan has quickly risen to power not only locally, but across the state. His name is often mentioned in various political circles almost any time a political vacancy arises, or an elected leader is scheduled to “term out” of office.

In response to conversations of this nature, Bryan has said, “I am here to do the people’s business, and I will continue to do to the best of my ability the work that they elect me to do. I am here to serve my community in whatever capacity they so humbly deem is the role they ask me to serve in.”

“We take the responsibility of embracing and supporting those who serve our community through public policy very seriously here at the Sentinel. I have

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dedicated my life to serving the African American community and I have taught and empowered our editorial board to do the same,” stated Danny J. Bakewell, Sr., chairman and executive publisher of the Los Angeles Sentinel.

“Bestowing the Legislator of the Year Award is something we don’t take lightly and look very closely at the work of every elected official to determine who is most deserving of this award. This year



To launch the California Center for Climate Change, Bryan presented West L.A. College officials with a \$5 million check.

our editorial board selected Isaac Bryan to receive this award, because of his uncompromising positions on bringing forward the necessary services that our community needs and deserves,” explained Bakewell.

“I applaud Isaac for his continued service to our community and I am honored to present him with the Los Angeles Sentinel’s 2023 Legislator of the Year Award.”

Bakewell also addressed Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas’ most recent decision to remove Isaac Bryan from his position as Majority Leader.

“We must remember that Assemblymember Isaac Bryan played an intricate role in the election of Robert Rivas as Assembly Speaker. I dare to say, that if not for the work of Isaac Bryan, Robert Rivas would not be speaker,” declared Bakewell.

“So, for the speaker to remove him from his position of leadership arbitrarily is completely unacceptable and will not be forgotten.”

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

Nominations deadline extended for Culver City Equity and Human Relations Awards

Each of you knows at least one deserving recipient of the four Culver City Equity and Human Relations Awards.

These awards were created by the Culver City Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee.

The Awards will shine a light on the achievements of the four recipients. These awardees will become role models for everyone else who previously was unaware of their contributions.

Awards to four recipients

- Culver City resident or person employed in Culver City
- Student in any CCUSD school or West LA College

- Culver City business owner
- Executive director of a nonprofit organization serving Culver City area

Medallions

Medallions will be presented to awards recipients by the Culver City City Council at a ceremony this spring.

Locate nominations forms and information By [clicking on this link](#) Or by entering the word “award” in the city website search screen.

Rebecca Rona-Tuttle,
Member
Culver City
Equity and Human Relations
Advisory Committee

VOTE BY MARCH 5

GEORGE TURNER
SEAT #39
FOR LA SUPERIOR
COURT JUDGE

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JUSTICE
FOR SUPERIOR COURT**

Di's Corner:

by *Diane Rosenberg*

Update on Club member Charlotte Gunter: Even though she is still in the rehab. Her attitude is always positive. She still misses everybody and looks forward to when she can see all in person.

At the General Meeting on January 10, the new Club officers were elected.

President:

Jeff Schwartz

First Vice President:

Jeanna Harris

Second Vice President :

Will Herrera

Corresponding Secretary:

Haifaa Moammar

Recording Secretary:

Shannon Theus

Treasurer:

Cynthia Hart

Membership Secretary:

Diane Rosenberg

The Club congratulates the new board.

In LA—vote for Streets For All

by *Olga Lexell*

A Culver City resident might wonder: why should I care about [Measure HLA](#), a City of LA ballot measure that Culver City residents can't even vote in? The simple answer is that Culver City doesn't exist in a vacuum, especially when it comes to transportation. Very few people who live in Culver City only stay in Culver City.

Right now, we have a beautiful transportation corridor downtown that connects much of the heart of our City. But it's hard to go further east or west until Los Angeles does its fair share to meet the moment. The opening of the Venice Blvd. mobility lanes was a boost to Move CC's connectivity, but it's not enough. Culver City residents deserve a connected transportation network that enables you to travel across Los Angeles without a car. Measure HLA would require LA to upgrade roads that connect to Culver City's network: Sepulveda, Overland, Motor, MLK, La Brea, Obama, and many more.

Barbara Lee for US Senate

by *Alex Fisch*

Barbara Lee is the rare candidate who brings grassroots progressive passion and values together with the pragmatism necessary to get legislative results. She had the courage to stand alone in Congress, presciently calling out the Authorization for Use of Military Force of 2001 as a blank check for war. But she also managed to get Pete Wilson to sign sixty-seven of her bills into law while in the California legislature. Barbara Lee would distinguish herself in the Senate as a powerful and effective advocate for ordinary Californians, and an important voice in the Senate for progressive values.

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ERICKA WILEY, SEAT #48
FOR LA SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE



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Re-elect Holly J. Mitchell for L.A. County Board of Supervisors, District 2

by Disa Lindgren

In 2006, I had the great good fortune to get to know Holly J. Mitchell. She was the Executive Director of Crystal Stairs, one of the largest nonprofit child and family development agencies in California. At that time, Holly was also the Public Policy Chairperson of the CA CCR&R Network (Network), the membership and advocacy organization where I work, which Crystal Stairs belongs to. I helped to staff the public policy committee meetings that Holly facilitated during her tenure on the Network Board of Directors, so I had a front row seat to observe her prodigious leadership skills. I will never forget the in-person yearly conferences where Holly presided over member meetings of 80 people, who discussed and then voted on adopting the organization's annual policy agenda. Holly handled everything about these meetings with brilliance, a keen listening ear, wit, the ability to get people to focus, and tremendous competence. I have never seen anyone manage so many people, often with passionate differences of opinion, with such skill and compassion.

After leading Crystal Stairs for seven years, Holly J. Mitchell distinguished herself in the state legislature as our elected representative for a decade. As a State Assemblymember and Senator, Holly helped to author and pass over 90 bills impacting all Californians for the better. Now, as the 2nd District Superintendent of the LA County Board, Holly continues

to fight for our most vulnerable community members, championing equity and justice, and working for systemic change. Holly has accomplished a great deal, passing a countywide guaranteed universal income program and making L.A. County the first in the nation to phase out urban oil drilling. We need Holly's continued leadership, which is always guided by a spirit of compassion and respect.

I respect and appreciate Holly J. Mitchell so much, because she is deeply committed to the causes that the Culver City Democratic Club cares about, because she represents all of her constituents with integrity, and because she understands how to govern to effect positive social change. Vote to re-elect Holly J. Mitchell for Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, District 2!



U.S. SENATE
Barbara LEE
speaks for me

Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, who served as the Grand Marshal for this year's MLK parade, decided to forgo the traditional car escort in favor of riding her bike. You can (sort of) see Club members Bubba Fish, Leah Pressman, and Kelly Kent behind her with the dozens of other advocate-escorts who rode with her.

Two new bills in Sacramento to be considered at February 14 Democratic Club General Meeting

by Leah Pressman, Chair
Legislative Committee

There are two new bills that the legislative committee would like the Club to consider for endorsement at our February meeting on the 14th:

AB 1810—(Isaac Bryan, Tina McKinnor, and Mia Bonta) - Menstrual Products in Prisons.

Currently menstrual products are provided to inmates who need them “by request.” This bill would require prisons to provide menstrual products to inmates without having to request them.

ACA 16—(Isaac Bryan)-Green Amendment. The Green Amendment will affirm the right to clean air, water, and a healthy environment for every Californian. If this passes, California will follow Pennsylvania, Montana, and New York in enshrining and codifying environmental protections into its constitution. For a green amendment to guarantee the highest level of protection, it must become part of the rights section of a state’s constitution and be written so that the legislature does not have to pass laws for the amendments to go into effect and be enforceable.

You can read more about green amendments [here](#) and [here](#).

YOU'RE INVITED!

JOIN
SENATOR LOLA SMALLWOOD-CUEVAS AND
OUR CO-SPONSORS FOR A PRIVATE FILM
SCREENING AND PANEL DISCUSSION

‘ORIGIN’

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
AVA DUVERNAY

Sunday, February 4th, 2024 @ 4pm



Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
LA County Board of Supervisors



Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas



Mayor Yasmine-Imani McMorris - Culver City



Assemblymember Isaac Bryan



VP Triston Ezidore,
Culver City School Board

Co-Sponsors:
Culver City Councilmember
Freddy Puza
Nat'l Council of Negro Women
Pan African Film Fest
Sanctuary of Hope
K.W. Lee Ctr for Leadership
Immigrant Magazine



Pastor William Smart,
Southern Christian Leadership Conference



Dr. Helena Johnson,
Pres. NCNW-SoCal

FREE SHOWING AT

Cinemark
Baldwin Hills Crenshaw
4020 Marlon Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90008



RSVP Here, via QR
Code, or link below:
<http://bit.ly/42fVZMA>
Moderator:
Pastor Kelvin Sauls

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Letter from a CCUSD parent

Dear Editor,

Many residents do not realize that the state of California does not have dedicated funds for school facilities—any consistent funding for CCUSD must come from Culver City. This is why a School Bond, Measure E, will appear on the March 5th ballot. Bonds like Measure E can only go on ballots in even years—2024 is our shot.

Whether or not you have students in our Culver City schools, you have likely heard that our facilities are in serious disrepair. To give a few examples from the past two years of our own family's experience:

Last year my Lin Howe student spent an unanticipated three months having class in the District Annex due to massive flooding of multiple classrooms.

This past December, a literal duck pond ("Lake Panther") formed on my youngest's middle school campus after a fairly average rainfall. This is not a new situation.

Students at the high school are taking classes in roughly 20 "temporary" trailers that were installed in the 1980s.

There is not sufficient indoor lunch space for high school or middle school students in case of inclement weather. Many kids eat lunch standing up under overhangs when it rains.

My high schooler's band class is crammed into a former welding studio that was never intended for music—in fact, no facilities for music have ever been built at the high school despite a growing and well-regarded music program.

I am certain that most families in CCUSD have similar stories regarding their own experiences with our school buildings.

I will be voting YES on Measure E because we are long past the luxury of delay. Our kids, teachers, and staff deserve better than this.

Sincerely, Bronwyn Schrecker Jamrok
Former CCUSD PTA Officer &
Current School Volunteer
Yes on Measure E Committee Member,
www.excellentculvercityschools.org

Why I endorse Measure E

by Dr Kelly Kent, President, CCUSD Board of Education

I support Measure E, because it is essential to our students and staff. Currently every dollar we spend on building repair and maintenance draws from the dollars we use for teaching and learning. Once we pass this bond, we will have a fund that can not only support our facilities upkeep without taking away from our curriculum and instruction dollars, but we will also be able to build new infrastructure to support more innovative learning environments! I'm Pro-Measure E, because I'm Pro-Student!



VOTE BY MARCH 5
LA SHAE HENDERSON
SEAT #97
FOR LA SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

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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.

Our Culver—building grassroots power

Building grassroots power is essential to making Culver City a more welcoming, equitable and inclusive community. To accomplish this, a group of long term and new community activists are taking action through Our Culver. We invite you to join us.

We have a lot to be proud of in Culver City, but we still face significant challenges. Whether you're just starting out in life, retired from paid work, or

somewhere in between, we're all being squeezed. For young people, finding a good job or an affordable apartment feels impossible. The high cost of childcare hits overstretched parents. Being able to buy a home would be like winning the lottery. Pensions have disappeared and healthcare costs keep rising. And even just traveling from one side of town to the other requires fighting through choked streets.

Nationally, it's just as challenging. Climate change; the rise in hate against people of color, the LGBTQ+ and trans community, the growing numbers of poor and unhoused, the loss of reproductive freedom and even the threat to democracy itself.

Our hope for Our Culver is that together, we can engage our neighbors, empower the next generation of leaders, and educate our community on solutions that genuinely meet our needs. Young people and people of color are at the forefront of the anti-racist movement and the climate justice movement. Writers and actors speak to struggles against corporate greed and income inequality. Our older teens are calling for voting rights. Worried parents and seniors are standing up for their kids and communities. Our Culver is a place for us to take action together.

Our Culver is needed because the current City Council majority is letting down our young people, people of color, renters,

and families. The majority have a vision of Culver City populated by single family homes, cars, commercial development and high income lifestyles. They see Culver City as a place for people who have already "made it," and if you aren't one of them, then live somewhere else until you have.

Our city is way more diverse than that vision accounts for. High density housing, public transportation, caring for the vulnerable, the unhoused and genuine opportunity for historically excluded people and our kids are the future for the LA region, and Culver City can't be the outlier.

Our Culver will highlight the opportunity we have with the resources at our disposal. We have a city budget of nearly \$300 million. How is that money spent? Does that spending align with our values? Does the city have effective policies to tackle climate change? Create more affordable housing? Take care of the most vulnerable? And to right past and current racial injustices?

Over the next few months, Our Culver will work to make our community more aware of local policies and how they have supported a vision of the past instead of the needs of the future. We want to invite everyone who lives, works, or plays in our community to take part. To find out more about Our Culver, go to the [Our Culver webpage](#) or follow us on [Instagram](#), Twitter/X, or BlueSky.

From the editor

This month I'd like to pass along a few links to articles, podcasts or videos that readers of the newsletter might like. The first is a [Michael Hiltzik column](#) about the "concerted attack on American higher education — indeed, all education — by a right-wing cabal."

The second link is to an interview on the [Ezra Klein podcast](#) with Simon Rosenberg, a long-time Democratic strategist who makes the case that the Democratic Party is in a good position to win the Presidential election in 2024. I found it full of evidence and very encouraging.

Here is a recent episode of "You're Wrong About" that is [an interview with Megan Burbank](#) about the "Pro-Life" movement.

Last is an [interview](#) on Good Morning America with my son, Sam Rockwell, and Brian Cranston about their new film *Argyle*, an action-comedy that comes out February 2.

—Pete Rockwell

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

The February General Meeting of the
Culver City Democratic Club
 is sponsored by Jeff Schwartz and Leah Pressman
 with a donation to the Club in honor of the
 78th birthday of our Newsletter Editor



Happy Birthday
 to Lifetime Club Member
Pete Rockwell



Dear Editor—parents @ La Ballona plead for bond support

This letter to the editor was first printed in Culver City Crossroads.

As members of the La Ballona Elementary community, we are in support of Measure E to renovate and improve our outdated and unsafe facilities. As we shelter from the rain this weekend, the custodial staff and principal at La Ballona are dreading what the days of wet rain will bring.

Will the main courtyard flood from a clogged drain and turn the line-up area into a lake? Will the roof leak into the teacher's lounge through the already missing ceiling tiles onto the working areas (where lesson plans are created and copied)? How big will the waterfalls get with this rain where two busted rain gutters dump right in front of the newly decorated library and special education office? Will the exterior of the second floor wall give way where the rain pipe has worn out a dent in the wall across two stories?

If the rain lasts until Wednesday, music classes will be difficult for our students who practice on a stage that is in the same room as indoor P.E. class and groups of students gather for cafeteria time. It is impossible to hear the plucking of a stringed instrument, let alone the instructor's voice. Against the windows in this very "cafetorium," mold grows on the molding just a couple of feet away from the tables where children eat their lunch.

The smell of moist, old carpets in Building A reminds the staff of what happened in 2022, when major water pipes burst on the second floor and damaged the entire wall and floor structures beneath it. That was a tough two months!

Sunny days are not taken for granted at La Ballona, because outdoors is a great place for outdoor eating, learning, and play spaces. Many of the classes overflow onto sun-soaked tables arranged on concrete and black asphalt without natural shade. Teachers do not have private office space and may have no choice but to conduct IEP meetings via zoom from the garden area, or private zoom calls regarding students' confidential information on a bench or a stairwell.

Outdated "portable classrooms" arranged around the edges of the asphalt blacktop accommodate art class and intervention classes as well as our youngest preschool and Transitional Kindergarten students. Custodial staff does not have space to properly store cleaning supplies. PTA does not have space to store supplies for community events and after school clubs.

However, as outdated as our school appears, La Ballona is rich with its dual-language immersion program and English-medium program, consisting of a talented team of teachers, including OT and interventionists, classroom aides, librarian, school counselors and education coaches enthusiastically supporting a largely English learning community (>40%) and historically underserved populations. Despite the disadvantages compared to other schools in the district, there is a valiant effort to nurture the education on campus and to embrace social-emotional learning.

It is because of our diverse, highly engaged community of teachers, administration, students and families that we are motivated to listen closely to the needs of the school and to advocate for their great ideas.

We request to have respectful working spaces for our counselors, learning intervention services, special education services, classroom spaces for reading, science and the arts.

Without the funds from Measure E, none of these improvements will be possible. And our kids at La Ballona will continue to learn, play, and grow in unsuitable conditions, rain or shine.

Sincerely,
Dr. Huong Nghiem-Eilbeck
Angela Graves
Fabien Ricard
Stephen Jones

This letter was signed by over 100 parents and school community members of La Ballona Elementary. Signatures were withheld by request of the organizers, but were included in the communication with CulverCityCrossroads.

New CCDC t-shirts are here!



We are now accepting orders for Club t-shirts in a new design, refreshed for our 70th anniversary.

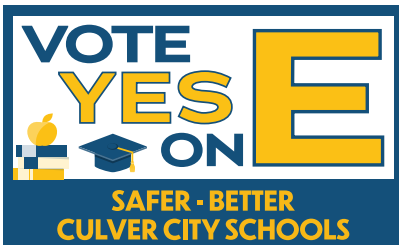
Shirts are 100% cotton, union made in Boyle Heights.

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.





Vote Yes on Measure E for Safer, Better Culver City Schools



We are proud that our local Culver City Unified School District is ranked among the best and most diverse public school districts in LA County.

Unfortunately, most neighborhood schools date back to the 1950s and haven't had significant renovations in decades. Crumbling ceilings and foundations, leaky roofs and old wiring must be fixed.

Our students also need safe, modern classrooms, science labs, instructional technology, and libraries; or they will be at a disadvantage in competing for college and careers.

We can't count on the state government to fix these problems for us. We must take action to improve our local schools today!

Vote YES on Measure E – Repair and Improve Culver City Schools Join us in passing Measure E for Safer, Better Culver City Schools

YES! I endorse Measure E. Please add my name to your growing, public list of supporters

Name

Title

Organization

(For identification purposes only.)

Phone

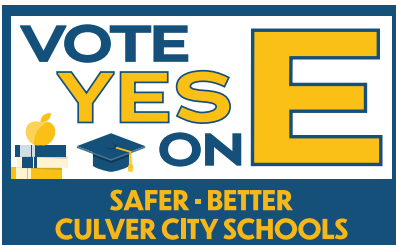
Email

I will Donate

Please make checks payable to:
Committee for Excellent Culver City Schools – Yes on E
P.O. Box 1153, Culver City, CA 90232

ExcellentCulverCitySchools.org

Have additional questions or comments?
Contact the campaign at
excellentsculvercityschools@gmail.com



Vota Sí en la Medida E

para Escuelas Más Seguras y Mejores en Culver City



Nos enorgullece que nuestro Distrito Escolar Unificado de Culver City se encuentre entre los mejores y más diversos distritos públicos del condado de Los Ángeles.

Desafortunadamente, la mayoría de las escuelas de la comunidad fueron fundadas en la década de 1950 y no han tenido renovaciones significativas en décadas. Los techos y fundaciones se están desmoronando, techos que gotean y el cableado eléctrico es muy antiguo y debe ser arreglado.

Nuestros estudiantes también necesitan aulas modernas y seguras, laboratorios de ciencias, tecnología educativa y bibliotecas actualizadas; de lo contrario, estarán en desventaja al competir para un cupo en universidades y carreras profesionales.

No podemos depender del gobierno estatal para solucionar estos problemas por nosotros. ¡Debemos tomar medidas para mejorar nuestras escuelas locales hoy!

Vota Sí en la Medida E – Para Reparar y Mejorar las Escuelas de Culver City

Únase a nosotros para aprobar la Medida E para Escuelas Más Seguras y Mejores en Culver City

¡Sí! Apoyo la Medida E. Por favor, añada mi nombre a su lista pública de patrocinadores

Nombre

Título

(solo con fines de identificación)

Organización

Teléfono

Correo Electrónico

Donaciones

Por favor, haga los cheques a nombre de:
Comité por Escuelas Excelentes de Culver City - Sí a la E
P.O. Box 1153, Culver City, CA 90232

ExcellentCulverCitySchools.org

¿Tiene preguntas o comentarios adicionales?
Póngase en contacto con la campaña en
excellentsculvercityschools@gmail.com