

# Culver City Democratic Club

## Active Democrat



[www.CulverCityDemocraticClub.com](http://www.CulverCityDemocraticClub.com)

Email: [CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com](mailto:CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com) • Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/culvercitydems](http://www.facebook.com/culvercitydems)

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

### General Meeting on Zoom — 7p.m. Wednesday, February 12, 2025

### Program: Assembly District Election Meetings (ADEMS)

*President's Message by Jeanna Harris*

## Let's build our shield

Dear members, friends,  
and curious readers,

I want to offer my sincerest gratitude for electing me as the new president of the Culver City Democratic Club and thank my fellow Executive Board members for their commitment to serve alongside me. I would like to give immense thanks and appreciation to our now immediate past president Jeff Schwartz for his ongoing leadership and dedication to this Club over the years. It is not an easy task to run and maintain an active Democratic club such as ours and we all serve as volunteers while maintaining our jobs and families. Don't worry, Jeff is still here and I am thankful for his ongoing guidance to the Executive Board and myself. 😊

As president, I want to use this opportunity to move us towards a brighter future despite the constant attacks on our democracy. We have to assess where we are, where we want to go, and have a strategy to get there. I remember a quote from former Ohio State Senator Nina Turner during a CADEM convention, "You don't build your shield on the battlefield," and right now I am focused on building our shield. The only weapon we have to fight this plutocratic oligarchy in the federal government is to fortify the layers of our shield starting at the local level where we have the most impact, and work up.

Over the years, our Club has made major impacts locally that have filtered up into the County and State. I want to continue to grow that power. To do that I hope to focus on the following:

- Membership Growth and Engagement
- Fundraising
- Internal Structure Building
- Coalition Building
- Youth/Young Dem Engagement
- Civic/Voter Education

I know many of us feel demoralized, burnt out, and even hopeless, due to the nonstop fight we have been in to maintain our progressive values at all levels of government. Now we are facing a major environmental disaster with the fires that have either directly or indirectly impacted all of us. I encourage you not to give up hope. The community response to the fires has shown me how much impact each person can have when we come together as one. Folks

of all ages have shown up at donation or aid sites around LA county and contributed what they could.

That is exactly what we need! Everyone contributing a little to create a large impact. That is what community is about, seeing beyond the small things that make us different and realizing that we all are in this together.

Now let's keep that going beyond major disasters and let it be a core value that drives us forward.

So, to all of you who have taken the time to read our newsletter, I hope that you are willing to help build this shield with me, because I cannot do it without all of you. See you (on Zoom) at our next meeting, on February 12.

—Jeanna Harris, President-Elect

## Meet the candidates for Democratic Party district delegates

*by Cynthia Hart*

This month you have the opportunity to vote in an internal party election for delegates (ADEMS) to represent your values at the California Democratic Party convention. The ADEMS will play a role in shaping the future of our state party as it recovers from last year's stinging defeats and copes with a full shock-and-awe campaign coming from the gleeful victors. Now more than ever, it matters who wins the seats at ADEMS.

At our February 12 meeting, we are inviting the candidates running for Assembly District 55 ADEMS to come and introduce themselves. We ask the candidates to RSVP to our Club email [CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com](mailto:CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com) so that we can be sure to reserve time for them. An endorsing vote will be taken.

We have several current members running for ADEMS. Here is the list in the order in which they will appear on the ballot:

**See ADEMS on page 2**

## From ADEMS on page 1

### CCDC members running as part of the [Forward 55 ADEM slate](#):

The numbers next to the candidates names correspond to their position on the ADEMS ballot:

- 2) Greg Bartlett— Activist, Community/Mutual Aid Organizer, Producer
- 3) Shannon (Ziggy) Theus— Recording Secretary of our Club, Community Activist, Environmentalist
- 6) Leah Pressman—Member of our Club’s Executive Board, Member of the State Party’s Executive Board, Child Clinical Psychologist, Community Activist
- 8) Omer Sohail—Community and Labor Advocate
- 10) Cynthia Clemons—Housing Justice Organizer & Advocate for Systemic Change
- 16) Nancy Barba—Energy Programs Director, Housing Advocate, Equity Champion, Mom
- 25) Shetarrah Byfield—Grassroots Local & National Organizer, Former AD55 District Director

### Member running for ADEMS in Another District

AD61 ADEMS: Jeanna Harris—Culver City Democratic Club President-Elect, Registered Nurse, Activist

### What to know about voting in the ADEMS election

If you registered for a vote-online ballot in the ADEMS election, you should receive your voting credentials in the mail after January 31. Be sure to keep the PIN number you received when you registered. CADEM promised to post a handy “How to Vote” guide on its website in the near future. <https://adem.cadem.org/ballot/>.

If you missed the vote-online registration deadline, it is still possible to register online to vote *in person*. There will be in-person voting locations open on February 22 and February 23. [Click here to register to vote in person](#). To find your Assembly District number, [click here](#). All voting ends at 6pm on February 23.



### Greg Bartlett

Hi, I’m Greg Bartlett, Delegate to the California Democratic Party. I’m running with a phenomenal slate of activists called Forward 55. I’m seeking your endorsement for a fourth term because our work is not done.

California Democrats, with supermajority control of the (soon to be) 4th largest economy in the world, should be leading the country doing what our democracy should do: take care of it’s citizens.

We must prioritize assistance to the most vulnerable: our unhoused neighbors, people formerly and currently incarcer-

ated, and those with disabilities.

We must endeavor to make single payer healthcare a reality, I believe healthcare is a right.

We know that climate change is a real and present danger requiring massive infrastructure shifts toward clean energy and upgrading our power grids.

For far too long our systems in the US have exploited Black, Indigenous, and people of color to uphold white supremacy. Black lives must matter.

Our education system must reflect 21st century needs with high quality, tuition-free, pre-K through College. And we must reject the criminalization of students of color.

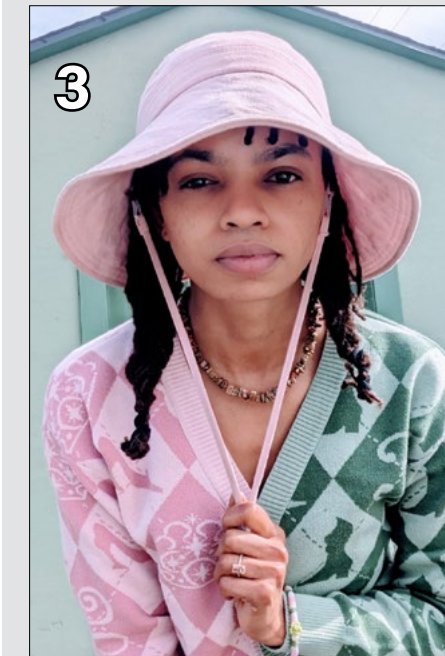
We also need dramatic changes in our criminal justice system and shift police funding towards care, housing, and hunger.

We have to stop the scapegoating immigrants and institute real immigration reform and, immediately close the camps.

Our politicians should answer to their constituents, not corporate donors.

With your support, I look forward to continuing my work with the California Democratic Party.

Please vote the complete FORWARD 55 ([www.adem55.org](http://www.adem55.org)) slate so we can work together to accomplish these goals.



### Shannon (Ziggy) Theus

Stirred by an overwhelming sense of duty, I am running for my fourth term. I am an environmentalist, an ally, and a caretaker for the community. As an educator I campaign for children’s rights, and family rights. As a transmedia artist, I use my platform to give voice to the voiceless. I’m effective; what I pursue, gets done. I’m accessible; y’all know how to find me. As the Recording Secretary for Culver City Democratic Club, I am fully edified in the current concerns of our communities. I’m an advocate; and I am at your service.

## From ADEMS on page 2



### Leah Pressman

I am a member of the Central Committee of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party and the Executive Board member for the 55th Assembly District, elected in the 2023 ADEMs.

I am proud to be running for re-election with the [Forward 55 slate](#), a group of outstanding social justice activists. Our slate has swept the last three elections and we hope to serve you for a fourth!

I believe that Democrats should be the party that fights to give voice to the voiceless and power to the powerless; that serves the needs of the poor and working class—not a party working for millionaires and billionaires.

After three terms as a delegate to the California Democratic Party, I know that progressive values can remain at the center of our party ONLY if WE, the delegates, hold party leadership accountable. I am running to hold party leadership, elected officials, and other delegates to these high standards.

My history of pro-people advocacy and organizing includes working to help pass permanent rent control and robust tenant protections in Culver City and then successfully defending these measures against a ballot initiative created by landlords and Republicans to repeal them.

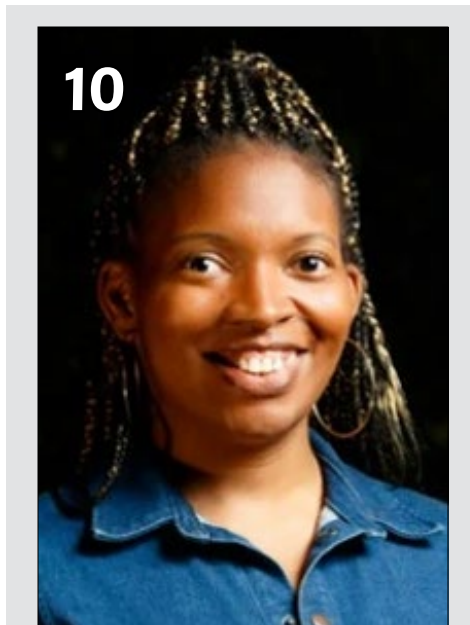
As Chair of the Politics/Elections and Legislation committees of the Culver

City Democratic Club, I have organized candidate forums and overseen the Club's candidate and legislative endorsement process. I also serve on the Santa Monica Democratic Club legislative committee. I coordinated grassroots support for state bills on getting corporate money out of California politics, criminal justice reform, environmental protection, safe streets, LGBTQ rights, affordable housing, and tenant's rights —

selecting, tracking and advocating for around thirty bills a year. I volunteered on campaigns of many local progressive leaders such as Daniel Lee, Alex Fisch, Yasmine-Imani McMorrin, Freddy Puza, Bubba Fish, Holly Mitchell, Sade Elhawary, Isaac Bryan, and Ysabel Jurado.

I am a co-organizer of the Forward 55 slate. We are proud to be endorsed by the Progressive Delegate Network.

**See ADEMS on page 4**



### Cynthia Clemons

Cynthia has a background in providing homeless services in both New York City and Los Angeles. Cynthia has worked as a Case Manager and Residential Manager for The People Concern in Santa Monica. Working from a shelter and directly with its clients, she learned more about the causes of homelessness and the barriers those affected face to becoming housed. Desiring to make more of an impact on the policies and resources available in the community, she became involved with Abundant Housing LA and later joined the organization as a Field Organizer.

Cynthia's experience also includes serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Crimea, Ukraine, comedy writing, and teaching English. " She currently serves as the Special Events Chair of the Miracle Mile Democratic Club and is a member of the Culver City Democratic Club.

## Di's Corner:

*by Diane Rosenberg*

**At the General Meeting on January 8, the following Club officers were elected:**

President:  
**Jeanna Harris**

First Vice President:  
**Kelly Kent**

Second Vice President :  
**Sameen Ahmadnia**

Treasurer:  
**Cynthia Hart**

Membership Secretary:  
**Diane Rosenberg**

Recording Secretary:  
**Shannon Theus**

Corresponding Secretary:  
**Haifaa Moammar**

**The Club congratulates the new board.**

## Join the Club or renew your membership

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

*or*

**[Click here to join the Club or renew your membership online](#)**

## From ADEMS on page 3

**Nancy Barba**

My name is Nancy Barba, I am a Latina, mom, and passionate advocate for equity, sustainability, and community. I am running as part of the Progressive Delegate Network endorsed slate. I am rooted in the values of hard work and resilience, shaped by my family's journey as braceros and my upbringing in South

Central Los Angeles by a single mother. Growing up I learned the importance of resilience, community, and opportunity. These values shape my candidacy to seek opportunities to galvanize our party to stand for housing, healthcare, and environmental justice as human rights.

Education was a transformative force in my life. As part of the school's integration program, I commuted daily from South Central Los Angeles to Sherman Oaks, a journey that showed me the disparities in opportunity and inspired my passion for equity. I earned a B.S. in Business Administration and furthered my expertise with certifications in energy efficiency and green building.

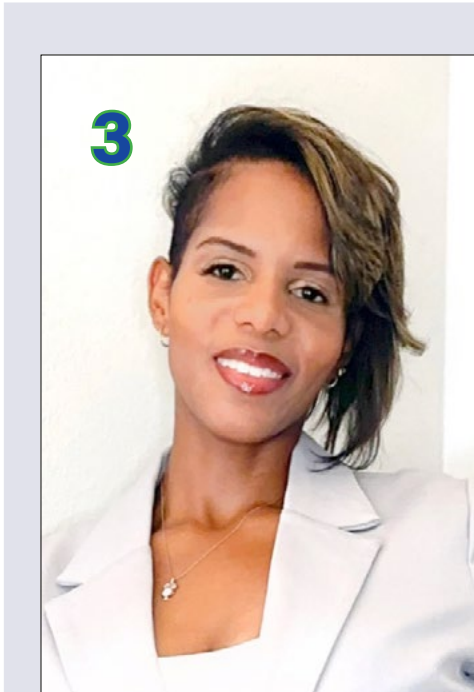
I serve as a director at an energy efficiency and decarbonization consulting firm, working with local governments and utilities to tackle climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and build climate-resilient communities.

I've dedicated years to public service and community advocacy. As a former city planning commissioner, I've addressed housing and exclusionary zoning policies that perpetuate inequality.

I founded Culver City for More Homes, a grassroots group advocating for housing equity, tenant rights, and sustainable development. My leadership extends to environmental advocacy as a Sierra Club West LA executive committee member, where I champion urban sustainability and environmental justice initiatives. My advocacy and work is intersectional, focusing on issues like racial justice, housing accessibility, and climate resilience, ensuring that every policy I champion uplifts the most vulnerable.

I'm deeply invested in holding the California Democratic Party accountable in centering the values of civil rights, worker rights, LGBTQ+ rights, reproductive justice, and informing policies that shape people's ability to create a world where everyone can thrive.

I bring a results-driven, data-informed approach to policymaking, paired with a deep commitment to community engagement. I'm ready to tackle the most pressing challenges—housing, climate change, and civil rights—with bold, progressive solutions.

**Jeanna Harris—AD 61**

As a dedicated nurse case manager and passionate advocate for patients and our community, I have devoted my career to ensuring that every individual has access to quality, compassionate care. I've witnessed firsthand the challenges families face navigating our healthcare system, and I've worked tirelessly to bridge gaps, promote equity, and empower those in need. My journey has been driven by a deep belief in putting people first, whether at the bedside, in the community, or advocating for systemic improvements.

As a nurse, I've stood alongside patients and families in their most vulnerable moments, advocating for their needs and supporting their recovery even when the system has turned its back on them.

As a community leader, I've pushed for legislation like CalCare to address healthcare disparities, improve access, and prioritize preventive care. Over the last 8 years I have served as a DNC delegate for Bernie Sanders in 2016 and 2020, ADEM delegate and LACDP member. I was also LACDP Democrat of the Year for AD61 in 2023 and continue to proudly serve CCDC as the new President.

This work has reinforced my commitment to creating solutions that not only serve individuals but also strengthen our community as a whole. I humbly ask for your support in re-electing me as a delegate to continue representing the 61st Assembly District and building a healthier, more equitable future that supports the many not the few.

*Jeanna Harris will be on the ballot for Assembly District 61. She will be number three (3) on the ballot in that district.*

**From ADEMS on page 4****Shetarrah Byfield**

I am excited to announce my candidacy for a third term as a delegate to the California State Democratic Party for Assembly District 55. I am committed to advancing policies that promote justice, equity, and meaningful change. My work as an advocate, organizer, and public servant has positioned me to effectively represent our district and fight for policies that uplift marginalized communities. Serving as a delegate over the past several years has deepened my commitment to ensuring our party reflects the diverse voices in our community. I have seen firsthand how grassroots organizing drives change, and I am passionate about continuing this work in my third term. Previously, I served as District Director for the 55th California State Assembly District, managing constituent relations and organizing events to engage the public. This experience gave me a deep understanding of state government and strengthened my ability to advocate for policies that address our district's needs. In addition to my government work, I have led several volunteer and advocacy



efforts, both locally and nationally. As PAC director for Reproductive Freedom For All California, I focused on protecting reproductive rights and expanding healthcare access. As Chair of the Women's Committee for the Los Angeles County Young Democrats, I advocated for policies to empower women. I also serve as Vice President of the Black Women's Democratic Club and as a board member of the

Black Los Angeles Young Democrats, where I fight for racial justice and equality. These roles have reinforced my belief in the power of collective action. I have organized canvasses, recruited volunteers, and led large-scale events to ensure our voices are heard. Through these efforts, I have gained the skills to continue pushing for meaningful, lasting change. I am committed to building a future where everyone has access to quality health-care, economic opportunities, and education. I stand for policies that protect the environment, reduce violence, and promote equality and fairness for all communities. I look forward to continuing to use my voice to encourage the Democratic Party to push forward a future in AD 55, grounded in justice, equity, and sustainable opportunity. With your support, I will bring the same dedication, passion, and experience to my third term as a delegate. I'd be honored to earn your vote. Please vote for the complete FORWARD 55 slate ([www.adem55.org](http://www.adem55.org)) so we can work together to achieve these goals and create lasting, positive change for all Californians.

**Omer Sohail**

Hi, I'm Omer (they/he), and I'm asking for your vote as an Assembly Delegate. As a first-generation immigrant who grew up in a working-class family, I've lived the realities of paycheck-to-paycheck struggles and saw my family lose our home due to the 2008 financial crisis. These experiences drive my commitment to public service and grassroots organizing. I'm a UCLA graduate with a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning, and I've built my career as a Policy Analyst, Strategic Researcher, and community advocate. I've worked with labor unions, community-based organizations, and local governments to fight for worker rights, equitable development, and sustainable policies. My previous roles include working for progressive leaders in the State Legislature, always centering labor, environmental, and racial equity in policy. I have been endorsed by the Progressive Delegate Network and am committed to organizing with progressive Democrats at the grassroots level to build movements that fight for justice and equity. I am also proudly anti-gene-



cide, and am horrified by the actions of the Israeli state against Gaza and the West Bank. The Democrats have not

always been on the right side of history, but that needs to change if we want a livable planet and for the carnage in Palestine to end. Now more than ever, our party leaders need to know who we stand up for and divorce money from politics. As an ADEM, I will speak truth to power through my vote and voice. Together, we can make bold, people-centered change a reality.

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# Episcopal Bishop Mariann Budde enrages Donald Trump when she asks him to “have mercy”



**[Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde](#) serves as spiritual leader for 86 Episcopal congregations and ten Episcopal schools in the District of Columbia and four Maryland counties.**

by *Pete Rockwell*

The day after he was sworn in as President, Donald Trump attended the traditional church service at the Episcopal National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

Trump didn't like the sermon.

Bishop Mariann Budde, leader of the Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C., may have risked her life by angering Trump and some of his more violent supporters by beginning with a prayer for unity and ending with a message asking Trump to “have mercy.”

“I ask you to have mercy upon the people in our country who are scared now,” she said, [in a calm, gentle voice](#). “There are gay, lesbian and transgender children in Democratic, Republican, and Independent families. Some who fear for their lives.”

Trump sat there in the front row and twisted his mouth to one side. He seemed frustrated that he had to listen to the sermon. He looked like a kid being scolded by a teacher, but he seemed to understand that he was stuck there in the front pew and had to listen with his mouth shut while Bishop Budde said all that she had to say. If he got up and

walked out he would show that he was a coward—and if he attacked her verbally (or any other way) he would reveal himself as a bully—or worse.

## OPINION

Bishop Budde continued: “The people who pick our crops and clean our office buildings; who labor in poultry farms and meat packing plants; who wash the dishes after we eat in restaurants and work the night shifts in hospitals—they may not be citizens or have the proper documentation. But the vast majority of immigrants are not criminals. They pay taxes and are good neighbors. They are faithful members of our churches and mosques, synagogues, gurudwaras and temples. I ask you to have mercy, Mr. President, on those in our communities whose children fear that their parents will be taken away. And that you help those who are fleeing war zones and persecution in their own lands to find compassion and welcome here. Our God teaches us that we are to be merciful to the stranger, for we were all once strangers in this land. May God grant us the strength and courage to honor the dig-

nity of every human being, to speak the truth to one another in love, and walk humbly with each other and our God for the good of all people. Good of all people in this nation and the world.

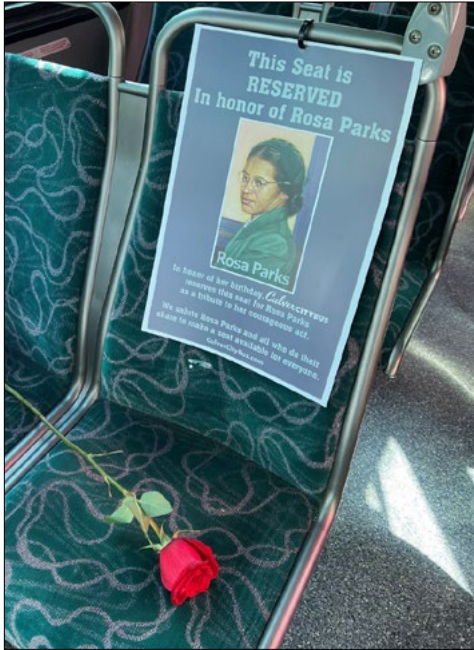
“Amen.”

Here's [a link to the entire sermon](#) on YouTube, which is a bit less than fifteen minutes long. The New York Times has [a video of part of the sermon](#), that shows Trump and his family while they are listening. And here's a link to a [complete transcript of the sermon](#).

It's worth watching the whole thing from the beginning. As I said, it's less than fifteen minutes long. Most people who have learned about it from the news media have probably seen only parts of the last minute or so, that begins: “Let me make one final plea, Mr. President.”

But the whole sermon could have been addressed directly to Trump. It's a plea for “unity that serves the common good.” and “for dignity, honesty, and humility that such unity requires, [to] realize the ideals and the dream of America.”

For reasons I can't fully express, the sermon reminded me of the poem [Barbara Frietchie](#), by John Greenleaf Whittier. ∞



## Timothy Snyder's lesson eight: Stand out—like Rosa Parks.

Why was February chosen for Black History Month? Many have speculated that February was chosen for Black history month because it is the shortest month of the year. But the Encyclopedia Britannica says it came from the coincidence of two birthdays, i.e. Abraham Lincoln (Feb 12) and Frederick Douglass (Feb 14). However, I would like to add to that honor roll the birthday of Rosa Parks (Feb 4).

In a courageous act of resistance, she chose a seat in the white-only section of the bus. Was it because she was old and tired? No. [As she explained years later](#), she was only 42 at the time and the only “tired she was, was tired of giving in.”

In Timothy Snyder's book of lessons “On Tyranny,” he points to her as an example of what happens when someone stands out. He writes, “Remember Rosa Parks. The moment you set an example, the spell of the status quo is broken and others will follow.”

And others did follow Rosa Parks. The result was the Montgomery Bus Boycott which she helped to organize and plan. And the rest is history. Happy Birthday, Abraham, Frederick and Rosa.



## 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: <https://x.com/CulvCityDemClub>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/culvercitydemclub/>

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

**NOW IS THE TIME!**

**RENEW CLUB MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025**

<https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/ccdcmembership>

**February 1 • 9 AM-1 PM**

Culver City E-Waste Collection and Shredding Event

Syd Kronenthal Park

[www.culvercity.org/Events-directory/Quarterly-E-Waste-Collection](http://www.culvercity.org/Events-directory/Quarterly-E-Waste-Collection)

**February 10 • 7 PM**

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

**February 11**

[CCUSD School Board Meeting](#)

**February 12 • 7 PM**



CCDC Membership Meeting on Zoom

New Club Officers will be Sworn In



**February 15 • 2-4:30 PM**

Martin Luther King day of service celebration (**Rescheduled**)

Veteran's Memorial Park, 4117 Overland Ave

<https://www.culvercity.org/Events-directory/Annual-Martin-Luther-King-Jr.-Celebration>

**February 23**

ADEMS Voting Closes at 6 PM **SHARP**

**February 24 • 7 PM**

[Culver City Council Meeting](#)

**February 25**

[CCUSD School Board Meeting](#)

# After 2024, Republicans ought to want to abolish the Electoral College too

**It's time to make nationwide popular vote an issue about not partisan advantage, but civic virtue and democratic legitimacy.**

*By Tad Daley*

January 6th this year marked not just the anniversary of the violent assault on the U.S. Capitol four years ago, but the actual counting of the electoral votes in Congress (by the loser of the presidential race, Vice President Kamala Harris). Last month, [three Senate Democrats presented a bill to abolish the Electoral College](#). It's a pity they couldn't secure a couple of Republican cosponsors. Because it's quite conceivable this time around that Donald Trump might have decisively won the nationwide popular vote— but nevertheless lost in the Electoral College. The same thing that happened to Democrats in 2000 and 2016 might well have happened to the GOP in 2024.

Let's take a look at the math. If candidate Harris had held the line in her three "Blue Wall" states, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Pennsylvania, she would have captured the presidency. [Instead, she lost all three](#). But by how much?

In Wisconsin, about 30,000 votes. In Michigan, about 80,000 votes. In Pennsylvania, about 120,000 votes. Grand total? About 230,000 votes.

[That's not as close](#) as the 78,000 votes which, if flipped, would have given Hillary Clinton an Electoral College victory to accompany her 2.9 million popular vote triumph in 2016. That's not as close as the 43,000 votes which, if flipped, would have stolen from Joe Biden his Electoral College victory after his whopping 7 million popular vote triumph in 2020. But this time, around 230,000 votes, if flipped – less than 0.15% of 155 million cast nationwide – would have stolen from Donald Trump the Electoral College victory he legitimately earned with his popular vote triumph of nearly 2.3 million votes in 2024.

That's three elections in a row now where the clear winner of the popular vote eas-

ily could have lost or did lose the presidency!

Republicans should recall, too, that the 2000 Bush v. Gore race obviously might have gone the opposite way. Gore could have lost the nationwide popular vote by 543,895 votes yet won Florida by 537 votes – and consequently the presidency – rather than, as it actually happened, the other way around.

## OPINION

So how about it, GOP? How about we work together to get rid of the thing once and for all? Because the Electoral College effectively disenfranchises all, repeat all, of the residents of all 43 of the non-swing states. I vote for the Democratic presidential candidate every four years from my home in California. My misguided brother votes for the Republican presidential candidate every four years from his home in California. But both of us know that our presidential votes really don't count. Really don't matter. Really cannot possibly affect the outcome.

Yet voters in the seven swing states – red and blue alike – know their votes matter extraordinarily. Think how much this distorts the actual final national vote count. Who knows how many potential voters in those 43 states, because they understand this reality, don't bother to show up? Why should they, when the presidential candidates campaign there approximately never? The Electoral College isn't just awful because it has burned Democrats twice in the past quarter century. The Electoral College is awful because it burns our democracy every four years without fail.

Fortunately, getting rid of this civic atrocity does not, repeat not, require amending the U.S. Constitution. Article II, Section 1 says that each State shall appoint its allocated Electors "in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct." State legislatures do not have to award all of their electors to the winner of the popular vote inside their state. They could instead assign them in

proportion to how the vote was split in that state. That's one of the imaginative plans pushed by the group [Make Every Vote Count](#). (Nebraska and Maine do just that already.) Or they could award all their electoral votes (in an "interstate compact" with other states) to the winner of the popular vote not inside their own state, but inside the United States. That's the brilliant plan pushed by the group [National Popular Vote](#).

"A republic, Madame, if you can keep it." So said Benjamin Franklin to a Philadelphia matron who asked what had emerged from the deliberations inside Independence Hall in 1787. The 250th anniversary of the birth of our country, July 4, 2026, is only 18 months away. What better moment to seize this opportunity to correct this monstrous flaw in our American democracy? Let's compete on a level playing field for hearts and minds and votes across all the fruited plain. Let's choose our national leader in roughly the same way they do in most other countries and exactly the same way we choose every other elected official in our country. One person. One vote. And one United States of America. □

This article was first printed in *The Fulcrum*. Tad Daley is President of the Americans for Democratic Action Foundation of Southern California, founded nationally in 1947 by Bayard Rustin, Hubert Humphrey, and Eleanor Roosevelt. Daley has served as a policy advisor, speechwriter, and/or coauthor with three members of the U.S. House and two U.S. Senators. He is the author of the book *Apocalypse Never: Forging the Path to a Nuclear Weapon-Free World* from Rutgers University Press. @TheTadDaley

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# Triston Ezidore sworn in as Culver City Unified School District president

by *Cynthia Hart*

On January 11, Triston Ezidore, a 2022 endorsee of our Club, was sworn in as president of the Culver City Unified School District by Supervisor Holly Mitchell. Because of the fires, the event was transformed into a combination swearing-in ceremony and community relief effort.

A stellar group of elected public officials was on hand to celebrate the presidency of our city’s youngest elected official, but the fires consuming our county were never far from thought.

State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas noted that it was hard to be here on a

night when the fires burned and encouraged us all to “look for the light in the darkness.” She spoke of the importance of carrying the voices of youth into government and of the need for “warriors on the front line” to give every student access to a quality education.

Congressional Representative Sydney Kamlager-Dove praised the young leadership in Culver City who have the earnestness and courage to talk about and to find themselves in diversity, equity and inclusion.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond presented Triston with a framed proclamation. Superinten-

dent Thurmond, a former school board member himself, said that school board was the hardest elected job because it was that board that had the mission of giving all students access to a quality education. He encouraged both the celebration of diversity and of what we have in common.

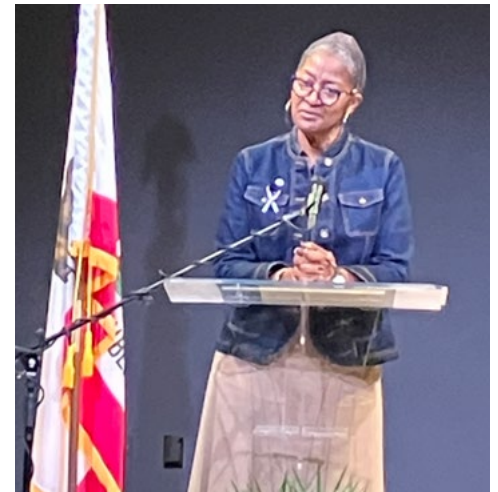
County Supervisor Holly Mitchell noted that “Our beloved community is in pain.” And advised new President Ezidore with these lessons from her own experience: “Haters are always going to hate, so stand in your courage. There is never enough money, so know your budget like the back of your hand. Kids never get a do over.”



**LA Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell swore in Triston as Culver City Unified School Board president**



**Triston Ezidore speaks to guests after his swearing-in as Culver City's new School Board president**



**Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell introduced Triston at his swearing-in ceremony**



**California State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas spoke at Triston's swearing-in ceremony**



**Tony Thurmond, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, presented a plaque to Triston**



**Congressional Representative Sydney Kamlager-Dove praised the young leadership in Culver City**