

August 2025

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, August 13, 2025

Program: Consider endorsement of Livable Communities Initiative, LA City Attorney race, and AD 65 race

President's Message by Jeanna Harris

Reclaiming joy, rebuilding power

This summer has been one where a strong line has been drawn between chaos and community and our Club chooses Community. From providing Know Your Rights info at our table at Culver City Pride and being present to support our immigrant neighbors to sharing food and laughter at our annual 4th of July BBQ, we came together not just to celebrate, but to revitalize. In times like these, joy is not a distraction, it's resistance. Interacting with folks in community reminded me that our community's spirit is far from broken, and we are locking arms stronger than ever now despite what news cycles may show.

However, we cannot ignore the storm clouds lingering overhead. We are witnessing the cruel rollback of hard-won rights due to decades of organizing and sacrifice. I stand on the shoulders of civil rights leaders who gave the ultimate sacrifice to give me the opportunity to be sharing this message with you today. Immigrant communities are being targeted and scapegoated, treated like they are less than human not as beloved neighbors and friends. The social safety net is being shredded, leaving too many of our elders, our children, and our working families without the support they deserve. And from the White House, we see a shameless abuse of power that undermines our democracy and threatens the very foundations of justice through manufactured chaos in effort to distract us from the fact that the GOP has absolutely no sense of leadership. Truthfully, I question their common sense as well.

BUT WE ARE NOT POWERLESS. In

moments of uncertainty, the antidote is engagement. Organizing at the local level has always been the heartbeat of progress, whether we gather for Pride, BBQs, or advocating for our community at city hall. We are building a movement rooted in dignity, equity, and collective action. This is why we canceled our July monthly meeting to be present at the [special city council](#) meeting where it was voted to suspend sharing data from its Flock Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) with any outside agency after concerns were raised about data sharing with fed-

eral agencies such as ICE.

So, if you've been feeling outraged and exhausted, remember hope is not lost and joy is a form of resistance too. Get out and spend time in the community! The Culver City Democratic Club will be at Fiesta La Ballona August 24th-26th, and I'm personally looking forward to seeing you at our booth. If you would like to volunteer with us, feel free to sign up here: <https://bit.ly/CCDCFiesta25>

With solidarity and determination,
Jeanna Harris, President

The Culver City Democratic Club ENDORSED Measure CL Election Information

**Special Vote-By-Mail Ballot Election to be Held on
August 26, 2025 for One Ballot Measure**

Measure CL:

CULVER CITY NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY MEASURE. The election is for a general tax ordinance to be submitted to the qualified voters that imposes a general sales tax at the rate of 1/4-cent per dollar. The tax would raise approximately \$5,600,000 annually for the city's general fund.

YES **X**

NO _____



Sign up for our Club's booth at Fiesta La Ballona August 22, 23, or 24

Help carry our Club's message at the
Club's fiesta booth!

Sign up to volunteer here:
<https://bit.ly/CCDCFiesta25>

Di's Corner:

by Diane Rosenberg

Yesterday being July 4 the Club held its annual 4th of July picnic. This year it was held at Blanco Park here in Culver City. Want to thank Diane Rosenberg and Shannon Theus for holding this spot (the shelter). They were at the park at 7:15 am until they were relieved at 9 am. The picnic started at 12 noon. There were many elected officials in attendance; and former Culver City School Board Presidents Paula Amezola De Herrera and Kelly Kent (who is also our current club first vice president)! Attending from the Executive Board were President Jeanna Harris, 2nd V.P. Sameen Ahmadnia and her family, Membership Chair Diane Rosenberg, Recording Secretary Shannon Theus, Emeritus President Jeff Schwartz, Political/Elections Committee Chair Leah Pressman, Treasurer Cynthia Hart, Newsletter Editor Pete Rockwell, Former 2nd V.P. Will Herrera, former Culver City School Board President Paula Amezola De Herrera, Vice Mayor Freddy Puza, Councilmember Yasmine-Imani McMorris, Councilmember Bubba Fish,

See CORNER on page 3



The Culver City Democratic Club ENDORSED Measure CL

Election Information

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YES X

NO _____



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Our Club website: www.culvercitydemocraticclub.com

Club email address: CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com

Follow us on Blue Sky: <https://bsky.app/profile/culvercitydemclub.bsky.social>

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

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

Protest Gatherings at Culver City Hall

Sign up for the mailing list at ShowUpCC@gmail.com

Let's make good trouble in the heart of screenland!

August 11 • 7 PM

[Culver City Council regular meeting](#)

August 11

Last day to register to **VOTE** in Culver City's **ALL MAIL** special election
<https://www.lavote.gov/home/voting-elections/voter-registration/register-to-vote/register>



August 13 • 7 PM

CCDC Membership Meeting on Zoom



August 15

If you have not received your ballot to vote in Culver City's all mail special election, Call the City Clerk at (310) 253-5851

August 22-24

Fiesta La Ballona

Help carry our Club's message at the Club's fiesta booth!

Sign up to volunteer here: <https://bit.ly/CCDCFiesta25>

August 26

[Women's Equality Day](#)

Anniversary of the Certification of the Nineteenth Amendment

August 26

Last Day to Vote for Culver City Measure CL

Culver City Neighborhood Services & Community Safety Measure

<https://www.culvercity.gov/City-Hall/Election-Information>

August 26

[CCUSD School Board meeting](#)

JOIN or RENEW CLUB MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025

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

From CORNER on page 2

Former Mayors Meghan Sahli-Wells and Alex Fisch, Culver City School Board Members Stephanie Loreda and Brian Guerrero, State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (and campaign field consultant Sherri Bell), as well as former Club Presidents Tom Camarella and Ronnie Jayne (who handled the raffle). Thanks to Umberto Castro for helping with the grilling.



Long time Club member Charlotte Gunt-er has moved back to Bentley Manor at 3425 McLaughlin Avenue, Los Angeles.

Club EBoard endorses anti-ICE legislation

As community members are being disappeared by secret police in masks and by criminals taking advantage of how easy it is to impersonate these secret police, The Culver City Democratic Club executive board has endorsed (SB) 627 (Weiner)— the No Secret Police Act — and SB 805 (Perez)— the No Vigilantes Act. These bills, respectively, bar law enforcement from hiding their faces and require them to identify themselves clearly when operating in California. More detail about the legislation [here](#) and [here](#).

RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN KICKOFF

Lola SMALLWOOD CUEVAS

FOR STATE SENATE

JOIN US! RSVP TODAY and HELP POWER OUR CAMPAIGN!

California Federation of Teachers, Southwest Mountain States Carpenters, International Longshoreman and Warehouse Union Local 13, International Operating Engineers Local 12, UA Journeyman and Apprentices Local 250, Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove, State Controller Malia Cohen, Senator Maria Elena Durazo, Assemblymember Tina McKinnor, Assemblymember Sade Elhawary, Assemblymember Rhodesia Ransom, Bryan "Bubba" Fish, Councilmember, Culver City, Hon. Meghan Sahli-Wells, Former Culver City Mayor, Dr. Diandra "Dee" Bremond, Jim Mangia, President & CEO, St. John's Community Health, Jane Wishon, Chair Emeritus, Westside Democratic HQ, Bamby Salcedo, Worldwide Renowned Trans Activist, Larry Frank, Marcus Tyson III, Areva Martin, Karen Horne, Bernice White, Lawrence White, Karim Zaman, La'Nae Norwood

SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 27

1 PM TO 4 PM

LOS ANGELES

TICKETS START AT \$25

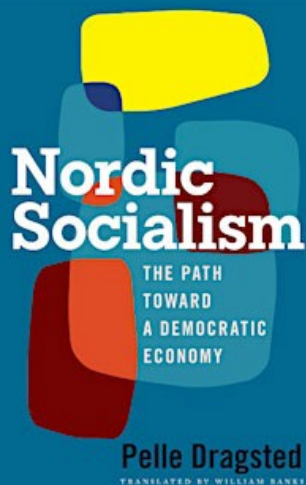
Sponsorships welcomed

QUESTIONS?
sarahkate@sarahkatelevy.com
323-791-1485

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TOWARD A PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRACY

Village Well
BOOKS & COFFEE



PELLE DRAGSTED

LEADER OF THE DANISH ENHEDLISTEN PARTY



IN CONVERSATION WITH
MEAGAN DAY BEN BURGIS



AUGUST 16 @ 6 PM
MORE INFO AT VILLAGEWELL.COM





Cardboard, markers, and rage—the art of the homemade protest sign

edited by Pete Rockwell

There's something about a homemade protest sign that just hits home.

In the year 2025—where AI writes your news, your fridge judges your sodium intake, and billionaires are still trying to privatize air—it turns out that nothing says “power to the people” like a crooked piece of cardboard with a message written in Sharpie and a little too much glue-stick residue.

You can tell a lot about a person by their protest sign. Are they the “clever pun and angry font” type? The “quotes John Lewis in cursive” type? Or the underrated “chaotic toddler scribble but with real conviction” type?

The beauty of protest in 2025 is this: no

one is showing up for perfection. We're showing up for each other.

There's power in glitter. Homemade signs are messy, joyful, full of grammar crimes, and deeply democratic. They reject polish. They reject corporate branding. They say, “I made this with what I had—printer paper, poster board, the inside of a pizza box—because what's happening in the world demands I say something.”

In 2025, we're still fighting for voting rights, reproductive freedom, climate sanity, and the fundamental idea that empathy is not a partisan issue. In the face of that, a handmade sign becomes a battle flag for the hopeful and the fed up.

Also, let's be real—it's therapeutic. There

is something deeply satisfying about writing “Hands Off My Democracy” in hot pink bubble letters while eating left-over fries and venting to your group chat. Add a little glitter glue if you're feeling spicy.

So yes, make your sign. Misspell something and cross it out. Cover it with stickers. Use both sides—double the fury. Show up. Because protests aren't about being perfect. They're about being Present. That's the kind of chaotic democracy energy we need.

The constitution was, after all, hand-written and homemade. Of, By, and for the People.

So, People: See you in the streets—cardboard in hand, heart wide open.

Budget week CEQA tweaks offer unique peek into realpolitik

edited by Pete Rockwell

In politics, “hardball” is the unabashed pursuit of a preferred outcome through the use of power. Most people with an interest in current events can think of examples from Washington, D.C., whether it’s Kamala Harris’s 33 tie breaking Senate votes as Vice President or the more destructive act of Mitch McConnell refusing to hold a hearing for Merrick Garland. But California is also no stranger to hardball politics. This month, significant reforms to the California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA (pronounced “SEE-kwa”) reminded everyone that hardball is, and has long been, a regular feature of the annual California budget process.

The budget combines legislators who are hungry to secure their spending priorities and the Governor’s veto pen in a process that eschews many legislative veto points. That puts the Governor and the Legislature’s leadership in a uniquely strong position to advance their top priorities. For example, California’s jungle primary system [can be traced](#) back to arm twisting by Governor Schwarzenegger and Senator Abel Maldonado. Another year, legislators briefly [worked without pay](#) when Governor Brown [vetoed](#) a budget that he deemed “unbalanced.” That move arguably set the stage for the passage, the very next year, of [Prop 30](#), which increased taxes, particularly on the state’s highest earners, to pay for cherished programs.

The 2025-26 budget adds another chapter to this dramatic history, as evidenced by the headlines in the nation’s largest newspapers. “California Dismantles Landmark Environmental Law to Tackle Housing Crisis,” [blared](#) the Wall Street Journal. “California Rolls Back Its Landmark Environmental Law,” [chided](#) the New York Times. These headlines, and the call-to-action emails in thousands of Democrats’ inboxes, were of course talking about changes to CEQA made through the budget process, specifically two trailer bills: [AB 130](#) and [SB 131](#), and effective July 1, 2025.

CEQA was enacted in 1970. Signed into law by Governor Ronald Reagan, it’s an

artifact of an era of unimaginable bipartisan consensus about the need for environmental protection and what about

OPINION

the environment needed to be protected. Generally speaking, CEQA requires public agencies to analyze and disclose environmental impacts that will be caused by proposed projects and adopt mitigation measures. Courts quickly interpreted CEQA to cover virtually any public agency review of a discretionary permit—not just public agency actions. With this expanded scope, a broad right to sue, and the obligation to mitigate impacts, CEQA became a valued tool for environmental justice advocates, organized labor, and those opposed to change in their neighborhoods. Its status as the *bête noire* of business and real estate interests, which blamed CEQA for every ill in the state, seemed to validate its reputation as the state’s “preeminent environmental law.”

Yet, at the same time, about 80% of CEQA lawsuits have targeted development within [already developed areas](#) and a large portion has specifically challenged climate-friendly infill housing. As both awareness of [climate science](#) and the suffering imposed by the state’s [housing shortage penetrated](#) the consciousness of Democratic rank-and-file, pressure for reforms that would encourage infill residential construction [built](#).

In mid-May, Governor Newsom signaled that he would use his leverage over the budget [“to do something big and bold,”](#) praising two pending bills that exempted infill housing development from, and made a variety of technical changes to, CEQA. After weeks of intense negotiation and some tense public hearings, on June 30, Governor Newsom signed into law AB 130 and SB 131, which included language based on these two bills. This background, and more, are discussed in more detail in a [recent interview](#) of Senator Scott Wiener and Assemblymember Buffy Wicks by Derek Thompson, a co-author, along with Ezra

Klein, of the recent book “Abundance.” Those with an unsatisfied interest in the process will also appreciate [in-depth reporting](#) by Politico’s Jeremy White.

So, did California really just dismantle CEQA? In a word, no. CEQA remains the law of the land for most projects and, where it applies without exemption, private individuals retain broad rights to demand robust environmental review. The significance of AB 130 and SB 131 lies mostly in a series of new exemptions for:

- Urban infill housing that is generally consistent with local plans, not situated on hazardous or environmentally sensitive land, after tribal consultation;
- agricultural employee housing;
- disadvantaged community water systems;
- wildfire risk reduction activities;
- climate adaptation planning updates;
- certain public park and trail projects;
- day care centers;
- rural health clinics;
- food banks;
- advanced manufacturing facilities in industrial zones; and
- facilities supporting high-speed rail.

Other reforms, such as the creation of a statewide vehicle miles traveled mitigation bank to offset climate harms from greenfield development, and more focused environmental impact reports for projects that barely miss qualifying for an exemption, are important but do not represent fundamental changes to environmental review.

As Democrats, we’re undoubtedly going to argue about the wisdom of these reforms, particularly the new exemptions. And we’ll continue to debate solutions to California’s housing crisis and how to manage the transition to a green economy. As we do, we’ll live in a state with fewer barriers to things like new [daycare centers](#), [food banks](#), and, yes, housing in communities like Culver City.

Forever Stamp issued in honor of civil rights hero John Lewis

Edited by Pete Rockwell

On July 21, 2023, the U.S. Postal Service celebrated the life and legacy of Rep. John Lewis (1940-2020), an American hero and key figure in some of the most pivotal moments of the Civil Rights Movement, by issuing a Forever stamp with his portrait.

“Look carefully at how the shadow falls on the right side of his face, illuminating the left side, in a way that seems to take the viewer from darkness into the light. A fitting tribute to a man who sought to awaken the conscience of a country,” said Ronald A. Stroman, a member of the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors and dedicating official for the stamp. “The Postal Service is proud to celebrate Lewis — a national treasure — and to honor his legacy with the tribute of this Forever stamp that is as beautiful visually as was the spirit of the man whose image it bears.”

Joining Stroman for the ceremony were mistress of ceremonies Alfre Woodard, activist; Lawrence Edward Carter Sr., professor and founding dean, Martin Luther King, Jr., International Chapel at Morehouse College; John-Miles Lewis, son of John Lewis; Henry M. Goodgame Jr., vice president of external relations and alumni engagement, Morehouse College; Linda Earley Chastang, president and chief executive officer of the John and Lillian Miles Lewis Foundation; Michael Collins, chair of the board for the John and Lillian Miles Lewis Foundation; U.S. Senator Raphael Warnock; Peggy Wallace Kennedy, civil rights activist and author; and Bill Campbell, and Shirley Franklin, former mayors of Atlanta.



“As an avid collector, stamps were important to Congressman John Lewis who always made sure he purchased stamps on their first day of issue,” said Collins. “We are deeply grateful to the United States Postal Service for recognizing the congressman with this official Forever stamp, a testament to the indomitable spirit and unwavering commitment of a true American hero. The congressman was a treasured civil rights icon and a timeless advocate for justice, equality, and human rights. This commemorative stamp serves as a timeless reminder of his remarkable legacy and the enduring impact of his lifelong dedication to the betterment of our society. May it inspire and encourage all Americans to continue the necessary work and the ‘good trouble’ of building a more just and inclusive nation.”

Also, participating in the stamp dedication ceremony were Ebenezer Baptist Church Choir; dancer Logan Byrd; and vocalists Dottie Peoples, Bettie Mae Fikes, and Victory Brinker.

The stamp features a photograph of Lewis taken by Marco Grob for the Aug. 26, 2013, issue of Time Magazine. Lewis’s name is at the bottom of the stamp. The words “USA” and “Forever” appear in the stamp’s top left corner. Derry Noyes, an art director for USPS, designed the stamp.

The John Lewis Forever stamp is available in panes of 15. Forever stamps will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce price.

Background on John Lewis

A key figure in some of the most pivotal moments of the Civil Rights Movement, John Lewis was the face of the Nashville Student Movement, chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, an original Freedom Rider, and one of the keynote speakers at the historic 1963 March on Washington. Even in the face of hatred and violence, Lewis remained resolute in his commitment to what he liked to call “good trouble.”

Devoted to equality and justice for all Americans, Lewis spent more than 30 years in the U.S. House of Representatives steadfastly defending and building on key civil rights gains that he helped achieve in the 1960s. He was a staunch and unwavering believer in and advocate

for nonviolent protests. The recipient of more than 50 honorary degrees, he was called a “saint” by Time magazine and “the conscience of the Congress” by his colleagues.

He served as executive director of the Voter Education Project; as associate director of ACTION, the federal volunteer agency that oversaw the Peace Corps and Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA); and as a member of the Atlanta City Council. He was also the author of several bestselling books, including the “March” comic book series and the inspiring autobiography “Walking With the Wind.”

Elected to represent Georgia in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1986, Lewis garnered the support needed to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1991, sponsored the legislation that created the 54-mile Selma-to-Montgomery National Historic Trail, and worked for more than a decade to establish the National Museum of African American History and Culture on the National Mall in Washington, DC. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor, by President Barack Obama.

Sullivan’s travels

movie review

by Grace McKeaney

Ed Sullivan blurred and challenged the racial divide with his programming on CBS in the earliest days of television. With performances as diverse as Mahalia Jackson and James Brown, Sullivan single-handedly contested the “lily white” version of what “belonged” on television.

Sullivan, an Irishman born in Harlem, saw the prejudicial treatment of Blacks as reminiscent of the discrimination experienced by the Irish upon embarking from Ellis Island. He felt the injustice in his soul. This is a documentary worth two hours of your time in a day in which civil rights is still challenged every day. Heros come in all shapes, sizes and sometimes suits. Ed Sullivan was a rare bird in American history. Revisit his influence and some of the best performances ever captured on TV by watching SUNDAY BEST on Netflix. It will do you good.

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

At our August meeting, the Executive Board voted to support a bill authored by California State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas—**SB 75**. Members will have an opportunity to ask questions about the bill and vote to endorse it at our August 13 meeting. Here is the fact sheet about the bill:



Senate Bill 75 – Employment: Preapprenticeship Pathway to Employment Pilot Program

SUMMARY

SB 75 establishes the Preapprenticeship Pathways to Employment Pilot Program, a statewide initiative to expand incarcerated individuals' access to union-affiliated skilled trades careers. The program aims to reduce recidivism and improve reentry outcomes by equipping individuals nearing release with high-quality training, wraparound services, and certification that supports direct entry into registered apprenticeships.

BACKGROUND

California has made significant investments in rehabilitation, including pre-apprenticeship programming like the Pre-Release Construction Trades Certificate Program. Yet too often, individuals return home without the credentials, continuity of support, or union-aligned training necessary to transition into stable careers. This gap is especially acute for incarcerated women and people in gender-responsive facilities, who face unique barriers to post-release success.

However, once individuals are released, the lack of coordinated postrelease support often undermines these gains. Many reentry programs fall short in providing the continuity, mentorship, and access to union and industry-certified apprenticeships needed for lasting success. As a result, too many, especially women, return home to limited opportunities, increasing the risk of falling through the cracks and reentering the cycle of incarceration.

PROBLEM

Successful reentry into society after incarceration remains a significant challenge, as formerly incarcerated women often face systemic barriers to employment, housing, and essential resources.

According to a report by the Public Policy Institute of California, women make up 23% of the overall incarcerated population. Racial disparities within this group are evident. Black women account for 23% of incarcerated women, despite representing a much smaller percentage of the state's overall population, while Latino women make up 37%.

SOLUTION

SB 75 directs the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to launch a pilot program by January 1, 2028, offering preapprenticeship training in at least one men's and one women's facility. The program uses the Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) to prepare individuals within 24 months of release for union-affiliated trades like carpentry, ironwork, and laborers. Participants receive hands-on training, career readiness support, and MC3 certification. Wraparound services such as housing help, behavioral health care, legal aid, and transportation support reentry and job placement. Annual reports to the Legislature will evaluate enrollment, completions, and outcomes.

Naturally affordable housing in Culver City

What if this? Could be this?



Livable Communities Initiative (LCI) will be presenting their proposal for beautiful, naturally affordable housing to the Club at our August 13 meeting. LCI is asking the Club to endorse their proposal ahead of the city's Housing & Homelessness Subcommittee meeting presentation on August 19, and they hope a full City Council vote in September.

LCI is a local, grassroots organization with a vision to build architecturally beautiful residential housing above existing retail properties, providing desperately needed affordable housing, offering more retail amenities to nearby residents, and enabling existing local businesses to keep their parcels without selling to big developers. The proposal already has support from Culver City for More Homes (CC4MH) and has been presented in May 2025 to the Council Subcommittee on Homelessness and Housing, where councilmembers Fish and McMorris have requested city staff to report on how to enable LCI in Culver City. A similar effort is being cham-

pioned in Los Angeles, and city staff has recommended a blueprint for a pilot implementation

Naturally affordable

Currently, the only allowed method to build housing along corridors would require developers to buy up a number of small parcels, assemble them into one large lot, demolish all of the buildings, and then build a large apartment complex. The LCI proposal would allow narrow, single-staircase construction on individual lots that is far less expensive. Therefore, existing small business parcel owners could develop their own property without selling it, providing housing at a much more affordable price. This allows "naturally affordable" housing to be built without public subsidies.

Necessary City Code Changes

However, this kind of gentle density would require Culver City building and zoning code amendments to allow for the necessary building designs and construction techniques that are common across the globe. In order to achieve

these goals, LCI will be asking City Council to approve the following changes to city code:

1. Single stair construction: Align Culver City building code with International Code Council (ICC) egress committee recommendations to allow for single staircase construction up to 4 stories.
2. Gentle Density: Allow a maximum of 4 residential units per floor (up to 4 floors) in buildings with single-stair construction. Because commercial parcels on Culver City corridors are so narrow (some as narrow as 30 feet), the city would need to change density requirements along corridors to allow these buildings to be built. There are two options: 1) allow for 200 dwelling units/acre only for small lots, or 2) simply specify building size requirements with no density requirement.
3. Open space: Calculate open space requirements based on percentage of lot size, rather than per-unit.

Please join us for our Membership Meeting on August 13, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

Proposed Resolution to be voted on at the August 13 general meeting:

Livable Communities Initiative (LCI) Endorsement

WHEREAS Culver City and the greater metropolitan Los Angeles area are facing a severe housing shortage and affordability crisis, resulting in significant inequities in housing access, and the Democratic Club of Culver City supports an abundance of housing options in our city; and

WHEREAS local small businesses in our community benefit from vibrant, walkable streets with greater foot traffic, and

owners of small commercial lots would benefit from offering residential housing above their existing commercial properties; and

WHEREAS housing located near transit corridors and stations enables residents to more easily utilize environmentally friendly mobility options;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Culver City Democratic Club endorses the Livable Communities Initiative (LCI) proposal to the City of Culver City to enable construction of up to 4 stories of multifamily residences on small mixed-use parcels along the city's

commercial corridors, necessitating:

Changes to city building codes to allow single staircase construction up to 4 stories,

Changes to, or elimination of, density requirements for small mixed-use lots along corridors,

Changes to open space requirements for small lots, and

Ultimately, implementation of entitlement risk reduction policies in Culver City, such as a streamlined self-certify process and/or pre-approved and entitled standard plans.

Culver City Democratic Club July 4 picnic



Club President Jeanna Harris with former Club Presidents Jeff Schwartz and Pete Rockwell

JOIN THE CLUB

or renew your membership for the remainder of this year and all of next year for a \$45 donation

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 one year for a \$30 donation! For more information on becoming a member of the Culver City Democratic Club, call Diane Rosenberg at (310) 398-5328

Parents from La Ballona Elementary have joined forces with the West LA Rapid Response Team to raise funds for families impacted by the recent immigration raids. Please consider making a one-time or recurring donation through the Culver City Presbyterian Church. All donations will go directly toward providing food and other emergency assistance for families. Give here:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/YQ0M/campaign/C-15KX4>



SHE RIDES SHOTGUN hits the bullseye

movie review

by *Grace McKeaney*

In an age where people fear for their lives, fear for the safety of their families and face terrifying reprisal for refusing to pay loyalty to an unjust bully, **SHE RIDES SHOTGUN** has volumes to say.

Nate (the brilliant and ever-surprising Taron Egerton) has just furloughed out of prison after crossing swords with the Aryan Brotherhood in stir.

His refusal to bow to power (in the form of STEEL, the prison brotherhood) has already cost Nate the life of his beloved wife. Now he must at any cost protect his precious daughter Polly as the thugs

close in, gunning relentlessly for both father and child.

As played by Egerton, Nate's prison background makes his emergence as a complexly emotional and deeply loving father a wonder to behold! And Nick Howland (the expert director helming this film) hits the mother-loving jackpot with the casting of newcomer Ana Sophia Heger as the endangered ten-year-old on the run.

The natural poignance and deeply understood emotional consequences contained in this child's performance is nothing short of masterful. She is an artistic force to be reckoned with. And I'll eat my hat if she is not nominated for an Oscar.

The beauty of the pathos between father and daughter amid the gunplay and electrifying car chases is a powerhouse mixture which Nick Howland carries off with gritty, super-charged naturalism.

Based on the 2017 novel by Jordan Harper, the film's cast is uniformly good and top notch performances are delivered by good cop Rob Yang and very very bad cop John Carroll Lynch.

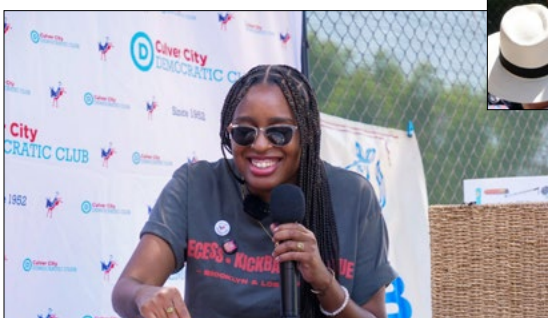
It's a crime thriller like no other. And I see it as having a deep point about our current social and political world. Men who are afraid to lose their lives and families to thugs who demand unflinching loyalty are aplenty these days. But a man who stands up for his family by fighting back...now that's a story worth telling and one richly worth seeing. The emotional impact of this finely calibrated story of love and sacrifice will stay with you as it has stayed with me; because it has something to do with my life, your life and the lives of free people everywhere.

Spread the word. Do not miss this stunning film.

More photos from July 4 picnic



Photos by
Christian May-Suzuki
Publisher, [Culver Crescent](#)



Women's Equality Day—August 26

by Cynthia Hart

In 1971, through the efforts of second wave feminist Representative Bella Abzug, Congress declared August 26 as "Women's Equality Day." That date was chosen to remember the anniversary of the certification of the Nineteenth Amendment that gave women nationwide the right to vote in 1920.

OPINION

So how do we celebrate Women's Equality Day in Trump's America in this the first year of [Project 2025](#)?

First, by remembering our history. The first wave feminists had achieved the seemingly impossible by moving women (well, white women) from political non-persons to full-fledged voters. After women's suffrage became the law of the land, many first wave feminists retired to quiet lives of apolitical domesticity, but others recognized that the vote was not enough to give women equality of rights under the law. In 1923, they began work on the [Equal Rights Amendment](#) (ERA). Decades later, Congress finally sent it to the States for ratification.

The ERA is just a few words of common sense. "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex." But, of course, the defenders of the status quo lost their minds over it, and they spewed a flow of nonsense. "There will be uni-sex bathrooms!", they said. "Girls will be drafted and sent to Viet Nam!", they said. (This was in 1972.) "Mothers will be forced to leave their children and go to work!" "Who will be home baking cookies for the children?" "Women will lose the wonderful right to be supported by their husbands." "Equality will undermine the family," they cried. And so the opposition, led by a woman, slowed the march to ratification until the time limit for ratification tolled. There was no Constitutional requirement that Congress impose a time limit at all, but they did it anyway. No need to wonder why.

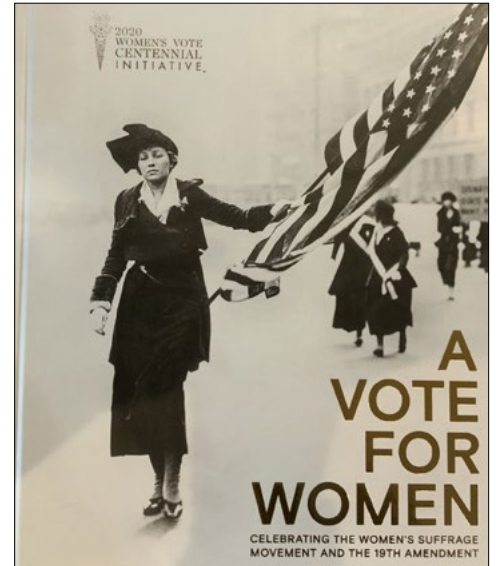
Second wave feminists mourned, then organized. Marginal progress was possible through legislation and through the sometime willingness of the Supreme Court to apply the Fourteenth Amend-

ment's equal protections to women. But absent the ERA, those gains are far too easy to reverse. Gradually, over the years more states began to ratify the ERA until today it has in fact been ratified by $\frac{3}{4}$ of the states. Absent that time limit, it would be part of the Constitution.

It falls now to a third wave to persist. This year, our Representative Sydney Kamlager-Dove and a long list of her colleagues co-sponsored [HJR 80](#) that would remove the time limit for ratification. [Click here to send her a quick email](#) to commend her for her sponsorship.

So how do we celebrate Women's Equality Day in this time of extreme backlash? We continue to raise our voices, to put unrelenting pressure on our Electeds, and to organize to elect the right kind of Democrats at every level. We won't go back. We keep the movement moving.

For more of the thrilling history of how women's liberation changed America, I recommend Clara Bingham's book *The Movement*.



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



BEHIND THE SCENES:
THE REAL SHEROES OF
'MRS. AMERICA'

"The future depends entirely on what each of us does every day; a movement is only people moving."

-Gloria Steinem

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