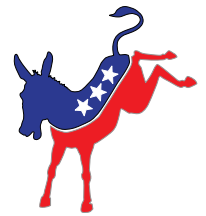


# Culver City Democratic Club

## Active Democrat



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

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

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

**General Meeting on Zoom — 7p.m. Wednesday, September 10, 2025**

**Program: engagement/endorsement opportunities with presentations from Unite Here Local 11 Fair Games 2028, Candidate for AD65 Fatima Iqbal-Zubar, and Proposition 50**

*President's Message by Jeanna Harris*

## Reclaiming joy, rebuilding power

Dear members and supportive friends, this past weekend we maintained tradition by having the CCDC booth at Fiesta La Ballona but this year was a vivid reminder of why our Democratic club exists. We are the bridge between community and democracy. There was plenty of great food, good music and warm laughter but what truly stood out to me were the conversations with middle and high school students. These young people asked thoughtful questions about climate action, the ongoing violation of rights by ICE, Gaza, and even concerns regarding the decaying checks and balances by the federal government. They demonstrated that civic engagement doesn't begin at 18, it starts the moment they realize their voices are heard and valued.

Our presence at Fiesta La Ballona wasn't just about visibility, it was about planting seeds. By inviting these students into dialogue, I hope I was able to show them that politics is not some distant adult realm, but a shared community project in which they have a stake and a say. That's why our Club must continue to show up, be welcoming, listen actively, and encourage their participation. When they see us treating them as part of the democratic process, they'll grow up believing they belong there and be ready to lead.

Equally important is the work we do now to secure that future, and one crucial step I'm preparing for is supporting Proposition 50 on November 4. Prop 50, or the "Election Rigging Response Act," is California's response to partisan gerrymandering efforts elsewhere in the country.

It would allow for a temporary redrawing of congressional districts to counter Republican-led distortion in states like Texas, and protect fair representation for California in coming elections. To put it plainly, Texas tried to cheat and California is reminding the Texas GOP and the Trump administration that democracy represents all—not just ones that a childish President wants to let in to his exclusive country club. In the words of Assemblyman Isaac Bryan, "When they go low, we squabble up."

While we have not yet voted to endorse this ballot measure, I wanted to share my personal thoughts and hope that you will have similar feelings. We will be bringing this up for endorsement at our meeting on September 8. Democracy is shaped by those who fight for its integrity and now is the time for everyone, across all generations, to stand up and fight!

I want to thank every volunteer who helped at Fiesta La Ballona and our wonderful guests who spent time with us at our booth. Your presence and willingness to engage made a lasting impact. Let's keep that momentum. Let's continue to be ready to listen and ready to advocate especially when it comes to encouraging all our communities, particularly our young community members, to engage and be active.

Together, we're defending democracy now and showing the leaders of tomorrow that their future is worth fighting for.

Lastly, happy Labor Day to our members—especially those who are labor

leaders past and present. Our labor is one of the most powerful tools we have in our arsenal to fight this oligarchy!

In solidarity and with hope for tomorrow, Jeanna Harris, President



**Emergency For Democracy**  
**This isn't politics as usual**

Donald Trump and Texas Republicans are making an unprecedented power grab to steal congressional seats and rig the 2026 election before voting even begins. Other Republican states are following suit. They want to steal enough seats to control Congress regardless of how the people vote. If Californians don't act now, Donald Trump will seize total power for two more years.

**See PROP 50 on page 2**

**From PROP 50 on page 1****Say YES to the Election Rigging Response Act: [CLICK HERE](#)**

California has a duty to defend democracy. To do that, we can't unilaterally disarm or fight with both hands tied behind our backs. When Trump tries to rig elections, we must fight back with every legal tool available.

**LEVELS THE PLAYING FIELD**

Prop 50 makes sure the 2026 mid-term elections are conducted on a level playing field without an unfair advantage for Republicans.

**COMMITTS TO FAIR REDISTRICTING**

Prop 50 reaffirms California's commitment to independent redistricting and calls on all states to commit to fair and impartial maps.

**GIVES VOTERS THE POWER**

Prop 50 puts the power in the hands of the People of California to approve emergency congressional district maps.

**IS FAIR AND PROPORTIONAL**

Prop 50 provides emergency maps ONLY because Republicans moved forward with their power grab.

**IS TEMPORARY**

These maps expire in 2030. Prop 50 preserves California's award-winning redistricting reforms and reaffirms the California Redistricting Commission's authority to draw congressional districts after the next census.

**Click on the map for an interactive map of the proposed districts**



# GOD'S COUNTRY is Great

by Grace McKeaney

With so many people perplexed about what to watch next on streaming, I'd like to propose a movie of quality. *God's Country* (and I'm not talking about the Blake Shelton song) was almost entirely missed by folks due to distribution and promotion failure in 2022.

This quietly affecting independent film, written and directed by Julian Higgins and shot with great sensitivity by cinematographer Andrew Wheeler, deserves your attention.

According to the Internet Movie Data Base, *God's Country* tells a simple story about "an escalating conflict between individuals but can also be seen as a take on what is happening in the USA today." Too true.

Shot by Wheeler in the forbidding but beautiful winter of Montana, the magnificence of the chilling landscape plays a vital character in the drama of Sandra Guidry. A Black professor of communications and a survivor of New Orleans' Katrina tragedy, she flees the indifference and ineptitude of society and government. In the face of that catastrophe she seeks a clean slate. She chooses to find license to live free and be her own gifted person in the wilds of Montana.

Based on the short story "Winter Light"

by James Lee Burke, this indie began as a short film at the American Film Institute in 2015. Substituting a female lead for the original male protagonist in the story was an act of bravery and insight by Higgins. It compellingly reflects back to us the strain on Black females in current American culture.

Seeking refuge and a dignified existence, Sandra settles in the predominantly white domain of Montana, on her own piece of land, in *God's Country*. What follows is a fight for the privileges of that land, a fight for human decency and ultimately a fight for life. Thandie Newton delivers a powerful, intimate and deeply resonant performance as Sandra. Her wonderful work was ignored by both the Globes and the Oscars in 2022, despite deserving a nomination as lead actress in a film. But I'm happily here to tell you the film has now returned, streaming on AMC plus, and available for rental through Apple, Amazon and YouTube, you've got a chance to see its depths. In absolute disclosure, the cinematographer is my son-in-law of whom I am proud; I am prouder still of his skillful eye on the landscape of racism and sexism in this affecting film.

It's also disturbing, but facing disturbing truths is the only real remedy for social injustice, which is alive and kicking in many features of American society.

In "*God's Country*" one woman is forced by unsettling circumstances to take matters into her own hands. Don't miss the searing conclusion.

**YES on Prop. 50!**  
**Join phonebanks, postcards, canvassing & more today!**

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

You may have received a mailer from "Protect Voters First" about the redistricting ballot initiative this November. By naming our organization and quoting Gloria Chun Hoo, the mailer wrongly implies that the League of Women Voters of California is part of their coalition and endorses the information contained in the flyer.

This implication is not correct—we are not part of that coalition. The League of Women Voters of California did not authorize this action.

**LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA**

**MARISSA ROY**  
**FOR LOS ANGELES CITY ATTORNEY**

**Endorsed by  
the Culver City  
Democratic Club**  
**[Click here for  
Marissa's website](#)**





## Early returns on Measure CL seeing big lead on “YES”

*from Culver City Crossroads*

Preliminary voting results on Measure CL, which would impose a general sales tax at the rate of 1/4-cent per dollar, have been released. As of 10 pm on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, a majority of Culver City voters are in favor of the ballot measure.

On Tuesday, August 26th at 8:01 PM, in the City Council Chambers, the City Clerk's Office began the official tabulation of all Vote by Mail (VBM) election ballots for Measure CL. The public observed both in person and virtually on a livestream.

Ballots, which had been received by mail or retrieved from the drop boxes and signature verified prior to Election Day, were tabulated. At the end of the evening, 5,920 number of ballots were tabulated, with the preliminary results as follows:

<b>YES:</b>	<b>3,974 votes (67.1%)</b>
<b>NO:</b>	<b>1,946 votes (32.9%)</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>5,920 votes</b>

Ballots mailed and received up to seven (7) days following the election, with postmarks on or before election day, will be processed. Canvassing and preparation of those ballots will begin at or after 7:30 AM on Wednesday, August 27, 2025 at City Hall. The post-election day count of the second batch of VBM ballots will commence at 11 AM on Thursday, September 4th at City Hall in the Mike Balman Council Chambers.

The final results will be certified at the City Council Meeting on Monday, September 8, 2025.

To determine if ballot envelope processing or canvassing will take place on a particular day, please call (310) 253-5851.

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

# Sharp WEAPONS

by Grace McKeaney

I purposely have read no other reviews of WEAPONS, the recent box office horror film causing so much talk. And I assume much has been written.

I thoroughly enjoyed the film, which I saw last night. But unlike viewers who compare it to *The Shining* or *Rosemary's Baby*, I found it having more in common with Jordan Peele's brand of comic horror.

I saw a brilliant satire, in the horror genre, with a large helping of Bruno Bettelheim-style fairy tale imagery as its foundational core. Essentially the “children going missing” trope in the opening of the story (although suspenseful and initially very alarming) is sort of the Hitchcock “McGuffin” which sets this comic horror film in motion.

From there we do not actively follow any frantic police search for the children (although it's referenced as happening.) Instead we enter the nutty life of a small town where the citizenry are up in arms about a boozy third grade teacher, Justine, from whose class all the kids (save one) have been “transported.” Justine is literally labeled a witch by the town. But, surprise! The town has the wrong witch in its sights! The underpinnings of the entire story revolve around a real witch named Aunt Gladys who is casting horrifying spells on the town of Maybrook. It is she who has taken the children as “weapons,” a kind of mini arsenal she can ultimately use while she is causing mass zombie-like, violent insanity amongst the terrified townsfolk.

The actual witch, played with spectacular aplomb by the often under-sung Amy Madigan, is the “rotten core” of the story. Aunt Gladys is a modern, re-energized and ingenious throwback to Grimm's fairytale witches. With her phantasmagoric orange wig and her chipper ability to entrance all onlookers, the spectacular Madigan draws us completely into her witchy web.

Using the branch of a mysterious thorny tree and the hair from any living person, she can gain power over them to do her bidding. It is she who has cast a spell over the children. Why does she do it? I don't know—Why does any witch do anything? Because she can!

Alas, things don't go as planned in fairy tales, and just as Hansel and Gretel eventually push the wicked witch into her own oven, the entranced children, set free by one of their own, ultimately “devour” Aunt Gladys. And it's a moment all of us grown-up children in the audience must applaud.

*Weapons* is a rollicking good ride, with just the right blend of comedy, gore and genuine scares to please anyone. I haven't seen an audience as exhilarated and genuinely entertained since Jordan Peele brought *Get Out*, *Us*, and *Nope* into the world. *Weapons* also stands in league with the Coen Brother's “*Fargo*”—one of the great comic / suspense / dash-of-horror films of the last decade.

Josh Brolin, Julia Garner, Austin Abrams, and Alden Ehrenreich, play the main small town folks—the aggrieved father, the suspected schoolteacher, the town drug addict, and the over-zealous cop. They are each absolutely terrific in their very original performances.

But Amy Madigan nearly steals the show. As the mysterious Aunt Gladys, (having something in common with the clown in *IT*) she embodies the worse childhood nightmares we have of craven, powerful witches who want to enslave and do us all manner of harm.

And if the trope of the witch is essentially misogynistic in nature, I still had a hell of a good time in the world of Zach Cregger, who wrote and directed this admirable film where genuine laughs, real suspense, over the top horror, and even a touch of sexy romance blend so effortlessly.

So, for a good time and a feeling of triumph over childhood adversity, see this film!

### Year-and-a-half special!

Between July 1 and November 1, you can get the rest of 2024 and all of 2025 for \$45

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

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

# New CCDC t-shirts are here!



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

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

They come in small, medium, large, and extra-large and, for the first time, we have Men's (boxy) and Women's (fitted) cuts.

Place your order by donating \$20 (or more!) via [Act Blue](#) and emailing us at [CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com](mailto:CulverCityDemClub@gmail.com) your desired size and cut. We will deliver in Culver City and nearby; other orders will be mailed.

We also have a few shirts remaining with the previous design (now known as "heritage" or "throwback") shown below.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

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

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

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

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

### September 6 • 6-9 PM

The Gloria Kaufman Community Center Open House Celebration  
Wende Museum—10858 Culver Blvd.—[Click here](#) to RSVP

### September 6 • 7 PM

Our Culver Comedy Night Fundraiser  
[bit.ly/OCFunny](http://bit.ly/OCFunny)



### September 8 and 29 • 7 PM

[Culver City Council Regular Meetings](#)

### September 9 and 23

[CCUSD School Board Meeting](#)

### September 10 • 7 PM

 CCDC Membership Meeting on Zoom   
Assemblyman Isaac Bryan and  
Candidate for AD65 Fatima Iqbal-Zubar have been invited

### September 13 • 9 AM

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Candidate Forum  
CADEM Children's Caucus  
[CADEMChildrensCaucus.org](http://CADEMChildrensCaucus.org)

### September 18 • 6 PM-8 PM

Supervisor Holly Mitchell—Birthday Celebration and Fundraiser  
[https://secure.actblue.com/donate/9.18.25\\_oh\\_event](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/9.18.25_oh_event)

### September 21 • 2 PM-5 PM

**SUN DAY** You're invited to a local event for SunDay!  
Clover Park—2600 Ocean Park Blvd, Santa Monica  
Host Contact Info: [losangelesclimatesunday@gmail.com](mailto:losangelesclimatesunday@gmail.com)

### September 27 • 1 PM-4 PM

Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas Campaign Kickoff  
[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

### September 27 • 10 AM to 12 NOON

Fight back against the Trump regime's immoral actions against our communities and his election rigging redistricting power grab. There will be an 80-mile protest along the coast of Orange County, Long Beach, San Pedro, and South Bay, all the way to LAX. [CLICK FOR INFO](#)

### JOIN or RENEW CLUB MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025

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





Culver City Democratic Club booth at Fiesta La Ballona on Saturday, August 23, when Congressional Representative Sydney Kamlager-Dove visited.

# 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**



SEPTEMBER 27

1 PM TO 4 PM

DULANS NEXT DOOR

LOS ANGELES

TICKETS

START AT \$25

Sponsorships

welcomed



QUESTIONS?

sarahkate@sarahkatelevy.com

523-791-1485

Paid for by Lola Smallwood-Cuevas for Senate 2026  
1 W Manchester Blvd., Suite 700 Inglewood, CA 90301  
FPPC #1456867



Culver City Democratic Club booth, clockwise from back row left: President Jeanna Harris, School Board Member Brian Guerrero, Corresponding Secretary Haifaa Moammar, former Mayor Alex Fisch, Legislative Committee Chair Leah Pressman, Membership Secretary Diane Rosenberg.

## 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](#)



You're invited to a [birthday celebration and fundraiser](#) for the honorable Holly J. Mitchell!

Each year, this [special event](#) raises critical funds to support Supervisor Mitchell's continued impact in serving LA County's 2nd District - helping to bridge gaps in funding for initiatives aligned with our shared vision for an equitable and thriving LA County.

We look forward to you joining us on **Thursday, September 18** from **6:00 to 8:00pm** in the West Adams community ([location provided upon RSVP](#)).



Join us for a  
**Birthday Celebration & Fundraiser**  
for the  
**Honorable Holly J. Mitchell**  
**Thursday, September 18**  
6:00pm - 8:00pm  
**West Adams**  
*Location Provided Upon RSVP*

**HOLLY**

PAID FOR BY HOLLY J. MITCHELL OFFICEHOLDER FPPC ID#1435302

**\$1,500 - Champion**  
**\$1,000 - Pathmaker**  
**\$500 - Supporter**  
**\$61 - Advocate**

Questions: [Nicole.Ward.ca@gmail.com](mailto:Nicole.Ward.ca@gmail.com)



**OUR CULVER**

**A Fundraiser for**

**Comedy Night**

**Drinks! Tacos! Stand-Up! Storytelling!**

WITH

Subhah Agarwal · Julia Lechner · Aparna Nancherla  
Nthenya Ndunda · Amy Silverberg · Dhruv Uday Singh  
Sarah Tiana · Adam Conover

**YOUR MC**

**KENNY STEVENSON**

**Saturday, Sept 6<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm**  
**in Culver City**

**DRINKS AND TACOS INCLUDED! RSVP NOW!**  
**[bit.ly/OCFunny](https://bit.ly/OCFunny)**



Paid for by Our Culver - FPPC # I476034

EVERY TUESDAY from noon to 1pm, the Godmothers of the Disappeared host a vigil for those who've been kidnapped by ICE. We pray for them in front of the

detention center so that they can hear us publicly witnessing their plight. And also we pray for the law enforcement personnel who detain them, leaving

flowers for them as our last act. It's a peaceful and powerful act of witness. Please come. Hope to see you soon  
—Patrick Meighan

# PRAYER VIGIL

## FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN DISAPPEARED BY I.C.E.

**TUE. AUG 26, 2025**  
**AND EVERY TUESDAY**  
**12PM-1PM**

**Los Angeles Federal Building**

300 N Los Angeles St, Los Angeles, CA 90012

**We are Godmothers of the Disappeared — women of faith  
giving voice to those taken from us.**

**Officers, your mothers are pleading with you: release our  
children and lay down your weapons now!**

