

FEBRUARY, 2018 Giving Voice to Progressive Democrats for Over 6 Decades

PREVIEW OF FEBRUARY MEETING

PLEASE NOTE: OUR FEBRUARY MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AT <u>HARDING SCHOOL</u> <u>AUDITORIUM.</u> No food is permitted, so we will not have pizza.

Our February meeting will be a candidate forum for Assembly District 15. All 9 candidates will participate. We have timed our agenda to allow each candidate to introduce her/himself, and answer 3 questions prepared by our club executive board, and present closing remarks. The question about campaign finances was provided to the candidates in advance.

All ECDC Members will be provided with ballots, and will be able to vote to endorse ONE candidate. We will tally the votes during the business portion of the meeting and be able to announce the results by 8:40.

February 27, 2018 Agenda
6:00 Doors Open (no food or beverages)
6:30 Meeting Called to Order
6:35 AD15 Endorsement Forum
8:15 Consideration of Motion
8:25 Announcements
8:40 Endorsement Results Announced

8:45 Meeting Adjourned

Summaries of the questionnaires prepared by the candidates is on pages 8-18. The full questionnaires are available on the website.

In order to vote, new members would have had to join 45 days before February 27 (January 14, 2108). Anyone who was a member during 2017 can renew at the meeting with cash. You can also renew on our website: http://ecdclub.org/join/

RECAP OF JANUARY 23 MEETING

2018 Budget

Treasurer Greg Lyman discussed the proposed budget. (*See his article*.)

Members unanimously approved the budget, which included about \$2K of expenses for an IT support person (on contract) to provide website functionality (for Newsletter, Digest and email) that had previously been performed by the VP-Publications --and a change from \$10 to \$12 annually for those who want a hardcopy Newsletter.

2018 Election of Officers

The following are the E-Board nominees and new officers for 2018:

President: Janet Abelson Executive Vice President: Mister Phillips Treasurer: Greg Lyman Vice President-Membership: Champagne Brown Vice President-Records: Rosa Esquivel Vice President-Programs: Paul Fadelli Vice President-Publications: none Vice President-Media: none

Members were requested to nominate themselves or others for VP-Publications and VP-Media. However, no one was nominated. Members then unanimously approved a motion to elect the E-board nominees listed above. **Members are encouraged to volunteer to serve as VP-Publications and VP-Media roles --** and they should contact Hilary if they are interested.

2018 Programs

Our new VP-Programs Paul Fadelli and Hilary Crosby lead the discussion.

Paul handed out a list of possible program topics. After discussion, members unanimously agreed on the following topics:

February – AD 15 candidate forum event (at Harding Elementary)

March –Upcoming campaigns on the June Ballot (e.g. Senate bills), East Bay Parks, BART)

April – Immigration/Climate Change

May - Fight Back CA/ CA Voter Foundation

June – Post-Election review

July – El Cerrito Charter (including emergency reserve)/Housing/some CERT

August - Endorsements

September - Education

October - Annual Dinner

November – Post-Election review

December - Holiday party

PREVIEW OF HOW THE ECDC CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC COUNCIL ELECTION ON FEBRUARY 23 IN SAN DIEGO

The CDC is affiliated with the California Democratic Party (CDP) and, for many years, has provided conferences and training to Dems. While an important part of California Dem politics, it has fallen on hard times. At the last CDC meeting, their President appointed a committee of 5 to figure out By Laws and operations. The CDC is not bound by the California Democratic Party for endorsements.

This year, the CDC will meet at the Democratic Party convention in San Diego. Fourteen CDC officer slots are available--and the ECDC gets 1 vote for every 10 members on our roster as of this January. Thus, we could have 18 member attendees. Several ECDC members already will be going as CDP delegates (including Hilary Crosby, Greg Lyman, Janet Abelson,

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Mister Phillips, and Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto). ECDC member Maria Alegria will attend in her county role.

No one has to register for the CDP convention to attend the CDC convention. So, we encourage ECDC members to attend to fill out our 18 voting slots. Proxy voting is not allowed.

After discussion, members unanimously approved a motion that we appoint all of our CDP delegates as voting CDC delegates--and for additional members to propose themselves as attendees (provided they were on the ECDC roster submitted this month). Interested members should contact our new President Janet Abelson via email at ecdc.pres@gmail.com

PRESENTATIONS BY CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

Lynn Mackey - Candidate for Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools:

- Lynn described herself as someone who cares about the kids who fall between the cracks of our educational system and who was a young, single mom who worked while getting an education (first at DVC and then university). She was a teacher in the county jail for the county office of education, a curriculum specialist and is currently the Senior Director at the county office of education. She wants more budget oversight, is endorsement by the state superintendent of schools and is the only Democrat running in race
- When asked about charter schools, she said that we need to legislate at the state level to change the laws to ensure that we get <u>local</u> community decisions informing our educational choices. She opposes the privatization of schools and commented that presently, by law, charter

schools are allowed to have non-credentialed teachers.

- When asked about her funding, she has raised about \$40K. Her biggest funders are teachers, family members, and friends.
- For more information, see her website: Lynnmackey.org
- And she can be reached at: Lynnvmackey@gmail.com

Jeff Bleich – Candidate for Lieutenant Governor

- Jeff described himself as a lifetime Democrat, growing up in the East Bay, attending Harvard and then UCB's Boalt Law School (when it was \$750/semester). A member of the California bar, he did pro bono work as lead counsel opposing the NRA, fighting against discrimination in public universities, and on immigration cases. He served as US Ambassador to Australia and on the Fullbright Board.
- He wants to "pay forward" the opportunities he had growing up as Lt Governor, which is a position that can help shape important public policy, for example, as a sitting member of the UC Regents Board, and the California Coastal Commission.
- In response to questions, he said that a key focus of his administration would be on education helping people succeed in the new economy, particularly focusing on pre-K-14, including vocational education.
- For more information, see his website: JeffBleich.com
- Friend him on: facebook.com/bleich4lg

CLUB APPROVES 2018 BUDGET

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At the January meeting, Treasurer Greg Lyman presented the actuals for the 2017 budget and the proposed 2018 budget. Lyman apologized for another year where we did not meet budgeted expenditures, resulting in an increase of our reserve, now exceeding \$10,000.

The proposed 2018 budget includes no changes to membership dues or dinner fees, and only a \$2 per year increase in hard copy newsletter (from \$10 to \$12 per year). Revenue is expected to increase as a result of being an election year and the corresponding endorsements. On the expenditure side, the proposed budget includes two notable expenses, including a one-time expense for computer software to improve our accounting and membership tracking and a recurring expense of the website manager. Technology and website demands have advanced beyond our current volunteer capabilities. The Executive Board recommended - and the Club General Membership agreed - to contract with a Website manager at an amount of approximately \$2,000 per year. Other expenses are typical for an endorsement year when we hold endorsement meetings at the WCCUSD facilities. See budget on page 19.

RECAP OF ECDC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

- 1. Call to order & Roll Call
 - Members Present: Quorum present consisting of President Janet Abelson President, Treasurer Greg Lyman, Membership Vice President Champagne Brown, Records Vice President Rosa Esquivel, and Programs Vice President Paul Fadelli.
 - b. Not Present: Executive Vice President Mister Phillips.

- 2. Minutes of last executive board meeting were approved
 - a. Peter currently posts to the website
 - b. Rosa can to post to website until publications position is filled.
- 3. Treasurer's report
 - a. The club had an \$11,700 balance with \$800 in accounts payable.
 - b. The club now has a \$10,900 balance with zero outstanding payables
 - i. The balance includes \$2,000 for approved expenditures of IT consulting.
 - c. Board members should send their club receipts to Treasurer Greg Lyman within one month of expenditures to ensure that our accounting is balanced.
 - d. Action item: Greg Lyman will submit summary of club accounting, including membership approved budget.
- 4. Distinction between the ECDC Board the El Cerrito City Council
 - a. The ECDC board will have a standing e-board agenda item to avoid Brown Act violations during meeting discussions.
 - b. Janet will create an agenda item for all meetings so that items that can potentially violate the Brown act are identified prior to the start of the meeting.
 - i. Some members of the Council will leave the room during discussion of items that can potentially create Brown Act violations.
- 5. Executive Committee Meeting Schedule
 - a. The ECDC board will meet on the first Monday of the month at 7 pm at Janet's House.
 - b. Next board meeting is 3/5 @7 pm.
- 6. Filling vacant positions

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- a. We need volunteers for Newsletter Editor or Publicity.
- b. Greg recommends blending newsletter editor with publicity.
- c. Consultant is doing: email blast, getting articles, printing the newsletter, and the mailings.
- d. Board recommends promoting more electronic newsletters.
- e. Action Item: Champagne to get correct email addresses from those members whose emails have bounced back.
- f. It is just as important to record the correct home address as phone numbers and email addresses.
- g. Home address is needed to validate and identify the correct delegate counts.
- h. The club still needs somebody getting newsletter articles as well as for printing and mailing hard copies and for getting articles.
- 7. Program
 - a. Survey results on ECDC program will guide 2018 schedule.
 - b. Board agreed to extend the deadline for survey results for another week.
 - c. Greg will analyze results by next week.
 - d. Send results to <u>ecdc.pres@gmail.com</u>
 - e. Janet to send problem accounts to Paul so that he can follow up with correct instructions. Paul can be contact for the program. Names and phone numbers go to Paul. Surveys go to Greg.
- February 27th ECDC Meeting to host Candidate Q&A
 - a. The next ECDC meeting will be at Harding Theatre for February 27th from 6:30 pm - 9 pm. Marlene has already submitted permit and Peter will have more details on the logistics of this event.

- b. Greg, Champagne, and Paul will identify the questions in a separate meeting. Each candidate gets the same question and we need at least four thematic questions. Allow for two-minute introductions and at least a one-minute closing.
- c. Keep in mind that membership check-in will take time.
- 9. Hiring IT Consultant
 - a. Greg motioned to: begin conversation with IT consultant, to begin contract negotiations, and to invite Consultant to next meeting.
 - b. Motion made, seconded, and passed by all members present.

Greg Lyman had to leave meeting and was not present during the following discussion items.

- 10. Events
 - a. CDP convention
 - i. Champagne Brown is a volunteer for the event.
 - ii. Janet Abelson is also going.
 - iii. Early delegates endorsements will be made at the convention.
 - iv. Janet will prepare the comments for the awards.
 - b. Loving Day
 - i. Paul Fadelli is the liaison to this event and he will provide further details.
 - ii. Paul proposes inviting real people attend affected by the decision to make a Loving Day presentation.

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- iii. Paul will book the ECHS cafeteria via the School district office.
- c. ECDC Dinner
 - i. Janet will identify an accessible local location for the ECDC Dinner.
- d. 4th of July Planning
 - i. The ECDC needs volunteers to increase recruitment for the club.
- e. Walk for two elections
 - i. We will discuss this at next meeting. Decision needed on this item.
- 11. Membership
 - a. Champagne to reach out to those whose membership lapsed
 - b. Champagne is updating the membership cards. Board members should review and send comments.
 - c. It has been recommended that Membership roster (in Excel) should not be modified to keep historical records.
 - d. Champagne to look at simplifying membership roster process. She will make a recommendation in a future meeting.
 - e. In addition, Champagne to make presentation about how membership works.
- 12. Other Programs
 - a. Paul is inviting EC Police Chief to make presentation for April Sanctuary City update.
 - b. Ask Mister on his suggestions for back to school in September activities.
 - c. Paul is reaching out to get calendar items confirmed.

- d. Board agreed to remove climate change from April program because of time restrictions.
- e. The club does not do per diems or honorariums.
- f. Champagne will invite DA ("Diana") for May meeting.
- 13. Greg recommends adding agenda item to review ECDC bylaws.
- 14. Meeting Adjourned at 12:30 pm.

EL CERRITO DEMOCRATIC CLUB **AD15 CANDIDATE RESPONSE MATRIX**

We asked all nine candidates to provide us with their positions on 64 issues; we provided space for them to comments with a 15 word limit. We also asked them to prepare 60 word answers to 8 questions, and those responses are also included below. If candidate responses exceeded the word limit, we asked them We truncated responses that exceeded the word limit. to provide edited responses. The full questionnaires are posted on our website: ecdclub.org.

Candidates:

AK = Andy Katz, Attorney, Law Offices of Andy Katz BB = Ben Bartlett, Lawyer, Re: Public Good BW = Buffy Wicks, $CS = Cheryl Sudduth, Consultant, M_2E_2 Inc.$ DK = Dan Kalb, City Councilmember, City of Oakland JA = Judy Appel, Senior Grants Manager, James Ford Foundation JB = Jovanka Beckles, Mental Health Specialist, Contra Costa County OP = Owen Poindexter, Freelance Writer, self employed RPO = Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto, Registered Nurse, Sutter Health Response Codes:

s = support without comment

- S = Support with Comment see full Questionnaire on the ECDC website
- n = Neutral without comment
- N = Neutral with Comment
- o = Opposed without comment
- *O* = Opposed with Comment
- *NS* = Neutral Support with Comment
- Blank = No response checked and no Comment
- * = No response checked with Comment

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Policy Statements

		AK	BB	B W	CS	DK	JA	JB	OP	RP O
Bu	siness and Economy									
1.	The rights of all employees to organize and strike	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
2.	Privatizing essential governmental services and outsourcing public sector jobs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Implementation of tax policies that provide a higher degree of equity, including a fair-self-employment tax rate to support small businesses	S	S	S	S	N S	S	S	S	S
4.	Financial institutions for recreational marijuana industry	S	S	S	N	S	S	S	S	S
5.	Split property tax roles for businesses	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Cł	ildren, Young Adults, and their Families									
6.	Comprehensive immunization services	S	S	s	S	S	S	S	S	S
Civ	vil Justice			S						
7.	The right of people to join together in class action lawsuits	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
8.	Funding for the Courts	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Co	mmunications and the Internet									

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9. Build-out of high speed wired and wireless networks	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
10. Online access for everyone to all legal content and data services	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Criminal Justice									
11. Drug addiction treatments located in the community	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	S	S
12. Capital Punishment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13. Marijuana regulation and taxation with respect to California's health and safety	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
14. Increasing pay and benefits for law enforcement officers	N S	S	n	S	S	N	n	S	S
15. Body worn cameras	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
16. Overcrowded prison populations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	S	0
17. Gun control legislation to keep guns out of the hands of the people with mental illness and of persons identified as dangerous to society	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
18. Restorative Justice Programs	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Death with Dignity									
19. Death with dignity	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Education									
20. Access to free world-class K-12 Public Education	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S

21. Teacher retirement plans should be funded by all students	*		n	0	N	0	S	S	S
22. Charter schools teaching more than 20% of a District's student body	0	0	n	0	0	0	0	0	0
23. Free Community Colleges	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	S	S
24. Restorative policies and practices	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
25. Curricula development by teachers	S	N	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
26. Parents should be able to choose where their children are educated	N	S	S	S	N S	N	n	N	N
Energy and Environment									
27. Fracking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28. Transportation of fracking oil, tar (oil) sand oils and other hazardous materials on the county's rail corridors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29. Statewide plastic bag ban should include micro-beads and micro-fibers	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
30. Fossil fuel extraction tax	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
31. Utility pricing should change to promote resource conservation and public good	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
32. Community Choice Aggregation	*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
33. Increased reliance on the electricity grid for industry, residential and transportation uses	S	0	*	0	S	S	0	S	N
34. Twin Tunnels are good for the Bay-Delta ecosystem	0	0	0	0	0	n	0	0	0

Equality of Opportunity									
35. Affirmative action	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	S
36. Full equality for LGBT individuals, including marriage	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
37. Pay inequities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health Care									
38. Universal comprehensive health care for all Californians	S	S	S	N	S	S	S	S	S
39. Respite care and in-home support services and associated home care workers	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
40. Holistic healing practices and alternative medicines	S	S	n	S	S	S	S	N	S
41. California should lead the nation in funding oppioid addiction treatment research	S	S	S	S	N S	S	S	S	S
Immigration									S
42. Family reunification and naturalization	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
43. Local law enforcement agencies acting as federal immigration law enforcement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
44. State and Local law enforcement cooperation with immigrant communities	S	S	*	N	S	0	0	S	N
Labor, Economic Justice and Poverty Elimination									

45. Public assistance programs that allow individuals to support themselves and their families	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
46. Tax reform which eliminates corporate welfare and achieves an equitable tax system for working families	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
47. Preference for contractors who employ Californians during selection for publically funded construction work	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
48. Project Labor Agreements for private and public-sector infrastructure projects that provide for local hire, returning veterans, and training programs for the community	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
National Security									
49. Work with gun owners and sporting associations regarding responsible gun ownership, safety education and reasonable background checks	S	S	*	S	S	S	S	S	S
50. Infrastructure improvements that promote energy independence through renewable sources	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Political Reform									
51. Supreme Court Decision <i>Citizens United vs</i> <i>Federal Elections Commission</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
52. Full disclosure of funding sources for political advertisements	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
53. Public financing of elections campaigns at the local, state and federal levels	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S

Seniors									
54. Mandatory training for Public Employee to recognize and serve seniors suffering with dementia	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Sustainable Communities									
55. Constrain urban and suburban sprawl	S	S	*	S	S	0	S	S	S
56. Regional tax revenue sharing	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
57. Limit eminent domain to reasonable uses	S	S	n	S	N	S	S	S	S
Veterans and Military Families									
58. Leases and use of Veteran Administration property solely benefit veterans and/or their families	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	N	S
59. Provide our troops with the latest protective equipment, weaponry and training prior to deployment	S	S	S	S	S	*	S	S	S
Women									
60. Age-appropriate sex education in California school curriculum	*	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
61. Confidential, unrestricted access to health care services, including the full range of reproductive services, contraception and abortion, without requiring guardian, judicial, parental or spousal consent or notification	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
World Peace and International Relations									

62. International efforts to establish Arms Trade Treaty	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
63. Follow the Geneva and Hague Conventions	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
64. Reduce trade deficits and restore America's global economic leadership by designing policies regarding globalization	S	S	n	S	N S	n	S	S	S