



# El Cerrito Democratic Club

## April 2025 Newsletter

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ECDC  
PO Box 192  
El Cerrito CA 94530

Newsletter Editor:  
Courtney Helion

## 1. El Cerrito Democratic Club General Information

Since 1952, the El Cerrito Democratic Club (ECDC)—one of the oldest Democratic clubs in the state—has provided a forum for area residents to discuss and take action on issues and campaigns of local, national, and international importance. Our General Membership Meetings are open to all and usually held on the fourth Tuesday of each month except October and December, when we typically have our annual dinner and holiday party.

Our monthly General Membership Meetings are generally in a hybrid format accessible both in person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments (10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remotely via Zoom.

For monthly meeting and calendar reminders, you are invited to download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) invites to your computer:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/tZUpcOCvqDkpEtH10GiVZ7NcegZqDI\\_tJeMI/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGpqjwjHdKXsxGCRpwcBo\\_CXe3wpnpej7d1zU\\_CChZpNS31M-V4I5ZWl8z6](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/tZUpcOCvqDkpEtH10GiVZ7NcegZqDI_tJeMI/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGpqjwjHdKXsxGCRpwcBo_CXe3wpnpej7d1zU_CChZpNS31M-V4I5ZWl8z6)

For those of us who've been able to come to Hana Gardens, it's been wonderful to be in community and gather in person. Whether you join us in person or by Zoom, we encourage you to come a few minutes early to mix-and-mingle with fellow ECDC members.

The El Cerrito Democratic Club and its activities are supported by volunteers and the annual dues of members. Please see the "Membership Renewal Reminder and Instructions" section towards the end of this newsletter for directions on how to join the ECDC or renew your membership. El Cerrito Democratic Club executive board officer elections occur annually each January.

Special thanks to our 2025 volunteer officers:

### El Cerrito Democratic Club Officers (2025)

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ● President – Neil Tsutsui                   | ● VP Programs – Ruthie Abelson Olivas |
| ● Past President – Champagne Brown           | ● VP Publications – Courtney Helion   |
| ● Executive Vice President – William Ktsanes | ● VP Records – Leslie Reckler         |
| ● VP Media – Madeline Kronenberg             | ● VP Treasurer – Ed Crowley           |
| ● VP Membership – Greg Lyman                 |                                       |

The specific duties of officer positions are described in section "VII. Officers" of the Bylaws posted on the ECDC website at <https://ecdclub.org/club-documents/>.

**If you're interested in participating more actively in the ECDC, please consider volunteering with the Club and/or joining the Executive Board.**

*Help is always greatly appreciated!*

Courtney Helion, VP Publications

## 2. Information and Zoom Link for the Tuesday, April 22nd El Cerrito Democratic Club General Membership Meeting

Our General Membership Meetings are generally in a hybrid format, accessible both in person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments (10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and via Zoom.

To join the monthly ECDC General Membership Meetings via Zoom, please use this link:  
<http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting>

Zoom Meeting ID: 814 7976 2385; Zoom Passcode: c5fQKR

Dial In by Phone: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 408 638 0968;

Meeting ID: 814 7976 2385; Phone Passcode: 920761

Please note that the Passcode is different if you dial in by phone rather than join through Zoom.

### April Meeting Agenda (Tentative)

6:20 pm – Assemble and Mingle, Zoom Logins

6:30 pm – Call to Order

6:31 pm – Review and Approve the April 2025 Meeting Agenda **(Action Item)**

6:33 pm – Review and Approve the March 2025 Membership Meeting Minutes **(Action Item)**

6:35 pm – Officer Reports:

President (Neil Tsutsui)

Membership (Greg Lyman)

Media (Madeline Kronenberg)

Publications (Courtney Helion)

Treasurer (Ed Crowley)

Records (Leslie Reckler)

Programs (Ruthie Abelson Olivas)

Records (Leslie Reckler)

6:40 pm – Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC) Report (Champagne Brown)

6:45 pm – Update on WCCUSD, Board President & Area 5 Trustee Leslie Reckler

7:00 pm – Program: John Gioia, Contra Costa County Supervisor, District 1:

*“How will Trump affect us?”*

7:45 pm – Announcements (please limit to 2 minutes)

7:55 pm – Good of the Order

8:00 pm – Adjourn

- Neil Tsutsui, ECDC President

### 3. Minutes from the March 25th El Cerrito Democratic Club General Membership Meeting

El Cerrito Democratic Club  
General Membership Meeting Minutes  
6:30 PM, Tuesday, March 25, 2025  
(in person at Hana Gardens, 10860 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito; and via Zoom)

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#### **Call to Order**

President Tsutsui called the meeting to order

#### **Review and Approve the March 2025 Meeting Agenda**

On the motion of Ktsanes and the second of Bashor, the agenda was approved as presented with no nays nor abstentions.

#### **Review and Approve the February 2025 Membership Meeting Minutes**

On the motion of Ktsanes and the second of Akacic, the agenda was approved as presented with no nays nor abstentions

#### **Officer Reports:**

##### **Membership (Greg Lyman)**

109 current members. Membership will be important for rechartering. Membership determines representation, so if anyone has not renewed, or if anyone knows of potential new members, this would be a great time to join. Membership is important in rechartering.

**Media (Madeline Kronenberg)** No report

**Publications (Courtney Helion)** Please email potential articles and op-eds to [ecdc.pubs@gmail.com](mailto:ecdc.pubs@gmail.com)

**Treasurer (Ed Crowley)** Absent. No report.

**Records (Leslie Reckler)** Absent. No report.

**Programs (Ruthie Abelson Olivas)** Absent. Speaker for next month is John Gioia. "How will Trump Affect Us?"

**Records (Leslie Reckler)** Absent. No report.

##### **Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC) Report (Champagne Brown)**

- The DPCC is now holding hybrid and rotating meetings. The May meeting will be in El Cerrito.
- Convention information will be ready on or about April 1. It is important to pay attention especially for hotel rooms, which go quickly.
- Region 3 CADEM Jeff will hold a meeting during the second weekend of April to discuss what is going on in the party. It will be sent to members via email. Attend the meeting that Jeff will have.
- There is a new member of DPCCC for District 5, Barndon Dawkins.
- There is an effort underway to recall District Attorney Diane Becton. The recall team got the number of signatures required. There will be a need for volunteers to help defeat their efforts. Hoping that ECDC will lend support to the defeat.

- Rechartering - anyone who has not renewed or would like to become an ECDC member, this is the time to do so. The number of members is important in the rechartering process. Membership influences endorsement consent calendar.

### Nye Report District 1

- Brochures about DPCCC are ready that can be sent out.
- Farmers markets are the perfect time to recruit and talk to people.
- CADEM convention - there will be an event for all delegates from Contra Costa County.
- West County Dems - Ahmad Anderson is the new President

### ECDC Budget Report (Ed Crowley) (Action Item)

President Tsustui took the club through the 2025 budget.

El Cerrito Democratic Club Budget For the Year 2025	
Revenue	Budget
Member Dues Revenue	2,600.00
Newsletter Revenue	50.00
Annual Dinner Revenue	2,400.00
Meeting Pizza Revenue	-
Contribution Revenue	200.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	200.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>5,450.00</b>
Expenses	Budget
Meeting Expense - Room Rental	1,515.00
Meeting Expense - Voting Service	40.00
Meeting Expense - Speaker Honoraria	100.00
Meeting Expense - Equipment	200.00
<b>Total Meeting Expense</b>	<b>1,855.00</b>
Annual Dinner Expense - Room Rental	135.00
Annual Dinner Expense - Food & Drink	2,000.00
Annual Dinner Expense - Supplies	50.00
Annual Dinner Expense - Printing	-
<b>Total Annual Dinner Expense</b>	<b>2,185.00</b>
Campaign Expense - Printing	-
Campaign Expense - Political Contributions	-
Campaign Expense - Miscellaneous	-
<b>Total Campaign Expense</b>	<b>-</b>
General Expense - Office Supplies	50.00
General Expense - Insurance	-
General Expense - Affiliations and Memberships	-
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b>50.00</b>
Communications Expense - Website & E-mail	550.00
Communication Expense - Online Membership Web Service	-
Communication Expense - Newsletter Printing	100.00
Communication Expense - Newsletter Postage	60.00
Communication Expense - Post Office Box	248.00
<b>Total Communication Expense</b>	<b>958.00</b>
Membership Outreach Expense	75.00
Printing Expense - Recruitment	100.00
<b>Total Recruitment Expense</b>	<b>175.00</b>
Charitable Contributions - General	-
Charitable Contributions - Racial Equity	-
Charitable Contributions - Future Leaders	-
Charitable Contributions - Environmental Causes	-
<b>Total Charitable Contributions Expense</b>	<b>-</b>
Financial Expense - Mechanics Bank Fees	120.00
Financial Expense - Dues PayPal Fees	150.00
Financial Expense - Annual Dinner PayPal Fees	-

Total Charitable Contributions Expense	-
Financial Expense - Mechanics Bank Fees	120.00
Financial Expense - Dues PayPal Fees	150.00
Financial Expense - Annual Dinner PayPal Fees	-
Financial Expense - Square Fees	-
Total Financial Expense	270.00

Total Expenses	5,493.00
Net Income	(\$43.00)

On the motion of \_\_\_\_\_ and the second of \_\_\_\_\_ the budget was passed unanimously with no nays nor abstentions

### March Program: "Different Perspectives About the Redesign of Richmond Street" Shelby and Inga, "Richmond Street for All"

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

- The plan will remove 60% of the street's parking.
- 40% of the population is over 65. Eliminating street parking is problematic for older residents who have more mobility issues. Not adequate parking for visitor, caregivers. Having to carry groceries or other packages when parking is eliminated.
- Other nearby roads that have less traffic including the Ohlone Greenway
- Not safe for bicyclists. Driveways are considered intersections. Navigating 80 intersections over a 1 mile stretch of Richmond St.

### Steve Price, El Cerrito/Richmond Annex Walk and Roll

<https://www.ecrawalkroll.org/>

- Think of a network and not a single street.
- Multimodal Mobility - gives people transportation choices.
- Cargo electric bike sales are rising. Being used for utility and not recreation.
- Bike lanes reduce fatalities.
- Chicanes and bulbouts calm traffic and result in more cars that adhere to the speed limit.

### Announcements

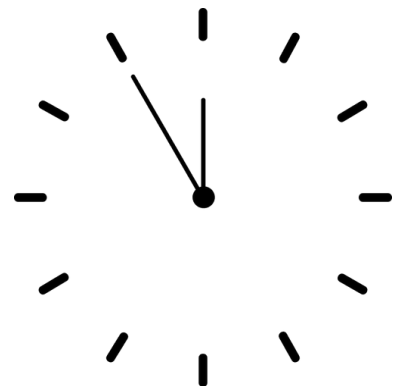
- Go Green Mobility Fair, April 26, 11 - 3 El Cerrito Plaza Bart Station

### Good of the Order

None

### Adjourn

President Tsutsui adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.



#### 4. John Gioia, Contra Costa County Supervisor, District 1: *“How will Trump affect us?”*

<https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/5216/District-1-Supervisor-John-M-Gioia>



The El Cerrito Democratic Club is honored to host an evening with Supervisor John Gioia  
Topic – How the Threatened Federal Cuts Impact Vital Local Services  
John Gioia has been a County Supervisor since 1999 and served on the EBMUD Board from 1989 to 1998.

He has led regional initiatives to improve air quality, address climate change, and make SF Bay healthier and more accessible. He served on the California Air Resources Board for 7 years and has been on the Bay Area Air District Board since 2006.

John holds a leadership position with the California State Association of Counties, serves on the SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and is Chair of both the East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments and the SF Bay Restoration Authority.

He grew up in Richmond, graduated from El Cerrito High School and UC Berkeley with a B.A. and a law degree, and practiced law until elected to the Board of Supervisors.

His public service was inspired by his father, who was a civics teacher at Kennedy High School in Richmond. John helped found the RYSE Youth Center in Richmond and is working with non-profit Urban Tilth to develop a community farm in North Richmond.

#### 5. Future Events - *Mark Your Calendar!*

##### **El Cerrito Democratic Club General Membership Meetings and Events**

**ECDC April Membership Meeting** – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, April 22, 2025;  
(4th Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments  
(10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link  
<http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting>

*Monthly Program: John Gioia, Contra Costa County Supervisor, District 1: “How will Trump affect us?”*



**ECDC May General Membership Meeting** – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, May 27, 2025;  
(4th Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments  
(10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link  
<http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting>  
*Preliminary Monthly Program: TBD*

**ECDC June General Membership Meeting** – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, June 24, 2025;  
(4th Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments  
(10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link  
<http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting>  
*Preliminary Monthly Program: TBD*

**ECDC July General Membership Meeting** – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, July 22, 2025;  
(4th Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments  
(10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link  
<http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting>  
*Preliminary Monthly Program: TBD*

**ECDC August General Membership Meeting** – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, August 26, 2025;  
(4th Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments  
(10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link  
<http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting>  
*Preliminary Monthly Program: TBD*

**ECDC September General Membership Meeting** – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, September 23, 2025;  
(4th Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments  
(10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link  
<http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting>  
*Preliminary Monthly Program: TBD*

**ECDC Annual October Dinner** – 73rd Annual Dinner; time, date and location TBD;  
no General Membership Meeting in October; guest speaker and topic TBD

**ECDC November 2025 General Membership Meeting** – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, November 25, 2025;  
(4th Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments  
(10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link  
<http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting>  
*Preliminary Monthly Program: TBD*

**ECDC Annual Holiday Party** – time, date and location TBD; no General Membership Meeting in December

*\* There are no El Cerrito Democratic Club General Membership Meetings in October or December; ECDC's Annual Dinner is in October and its Holiday Party is in December.*

**ECDC Executive Board Calendar** – The El Cerrito Democratic Club's Executive Board (E-Board) meets monthly via Zoom for about an hour to handle routine club business, plan programs for the monthly General Membership Meetings and discuss newsletter content. As with the



General Membership Meetings, the E-Board meetings are open to the public. The Zoom Link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89264608412?pwd=c2sySEl5ZEplJl1lHVUM5bERCZGpEQOT09>.

Below is the ECDC E-Board Calendar through June 2025:

<b>2025 El Cerrito Democratic Club Executive-Board Calendar (E-Board)</b>					
Monthly ECDC Executive Board Meeting (E-Board)	Deadline for Submitting the General Membership Meeting Agenda and Articles for the ECDC Newsletter	Monthly Newsletter Completed	Monthly ECDC Newsletter Postal Mailed (to those who have paid extra for USPS delivery)	Monthly ECDC Newsletter Emailed (by 6:00 pm)	General Membership Meeting Date
Thursday, 4/3/2025	Sunday, <u>4/13/2025</u>	Tuesday, 4/15/2025	Wednesday, 4/16/2025	Saturday, 4/19/2025	Tuesday, 4/22/2025
Thursday, 5/1/2025	Thursday, 5/15/2025	Tuesday, 5/20/2025	Wednesday, 5/21/2025	Saturday, 5/24/2025	Tuesday, 5/27/2025
Thursday, 6/5/2025	Sunday, 6/15/2025	Tuesday, 6/17/2025	Wednesday, 6/18/2025	Saturday, 6/21/2025	Tuesday, 6/24/2025

### **Other Community Events**

**El Cerrito City Council Meetings** – 6:00-9:00 pm, first and third Tuesday of most months; hybrid format; in the City Council Chambers at City Hall (10890 San Pablo Avenue) and via Zoom; agendas and recordings available; <https://www.el-cerrito.org/113/City-Council>

**El Cerrito Farmers Market** – 9:00 am-1:00 pm, every Tuesday and Saturday; El Cerrito Plaza, 9000 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530; southwest corner parking lot between Trader Joe's and Wells Fargo Bank; [www.contracosta.ca.gov/7549/Contra-Costa-Certified-Farmers-Markets](http://www.contracosta.ca.gov/7549/Contra-Costa-Certified-Farmers-Markets)



**Library Commissioner Office Hours** – Various dates and times (below) at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave, El Cerrito. Are you curious about the workings of the El Cerrito Library, or do you have suggestions on how it can better serve the community? El Cerrito Library Commissioner Michael Fisher and Alternate Commissioner Bethany Woods are eager to listen and engage in informal discussions with you during their new Office Hours (drop-in; no appointment required. These sessions are a perfect opportunity to voice your thoughts, ask questions, and become more involved in your local library community!

- Thursday, April 24th: 10 am-12 noon

### **DPCCC and West County Dem Events**

<https://contracostadems.com/events/>

**West County Dems Monthly meeting** - 6:00 - 7:30 pm, second Tuesday of the month; This is a local Democratic club chartered by DPCCC. Meetings are via Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83146226722?pwd=cHRneSsxYkVnWWdTcTNQRnBBTmhzd09>

For more info, contact the club. <https://www.westcountymdemocraticclub.com>

**DPCCC General Membership Meeting** - 7:00 - 10:00 pm, May 15th, 2025; If you are not a DPCCC member and wish to attend, please RSVP to the DPCCC Secretary at [secretary@contracostadems.com](mailto:secretary@contracostadems.com).

If you are a DPCCC member, you should have received an email with details for the meeting about seven days in advance. If you did not, please email the DPCCC Secretary at [secretary@contracostadems.com](mailto:secretary@contracostadems.com).

*If you know of other community events that may be of interest to our members, please submit them to Courtney Helion at [ecdc.pubs@gmail.com](mailto:ecdc.pubs@gmail.com) for publication in future newsletters!*

- Courtney Helion, VP Publications

## **6. Membership Renewal Reminder and Instructions**

**REMINDER!** – ECDC annual memberships expire annually on **September 30th**. If you have not yet done so, please renew for 2025. **Now is the time!**

You can do so online at: <https://ecdclub.org/join/>

Or by mailing a check to: ECDC Membership  
PO Box 192  
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Dues are \$5 for students, \$20 for individual members, and \$30 for two adults at the same address. The newsletter comes with membership and is delivered electronically by email. The added cost for a printed, hard-copy, postal mailed newsletter is \$18 (in addition to dues). Please make checks payable to “El Cerrito Democratic Club” and provide an email address for all individual members.

If you have membership questions, please email Greg Lyman at [membership.ecdc@gmail.com](mailto:membership.ecdc@gmail.com).

Thank you!

- Greg Lyman, VP Membership

## **7. Call for Newsletter Submissions**

The El Cerrito Democratic Club Newsletter is published eleven months a year (each month with the exception of a combined December-January issue) in advance of the General Membership meetings. ECDC members, friends and supporters are invited to submit articles and announcements regarding local issues and events of interest. Submissions should be emailed to [ecdc.pubs@gmail.com](mailto:ecdc.pubs@gmail.com) for review and editing.

- Courtney Helion, VP Publications

## **8. Link to the ECDC Website and Bylaws**

Periodically the Club updates our Bylaws. The bylaws were changed in October 2018 to meet DPCCC requirements; revisions were proposed and adopted during the January 2021, August 2022 and March 2023 ECDC meetings. The ECDC Bylaws are posted on the ECDC website at <https://ecdclub.org/club-documents/>.