



El Cerrito Democratic Club

August 2024 Newsletter

Contents:

1. El Cerrito Democratic Club General Information
2. Information and Zoom Link for the 9:30 am, Saturday, August 17th El Cerrito Democratic Club (ECDC) Candidates Forum; Via Zoom Only
3. ECDC Endorsement Process for the November 5th Election (Overview)
4. OpaVote Ballots (Detailed Instructions)
5. ECDC Endorsement Thresholds and Calculations Explained
6. Minutes from the July 23rd El Cerrito Democratic Club General Membership Meeting
7. Announcement: Betty Brown's Celebration of Life
8. Future Events – *Mark Your Calendar!*
9. Membership Renewal Reminder and Instructions
10. Call for Newsletter Submissions
11. Link to the ECDC Website and Bylaws

Note the Saturday, August 17th Date;
Via Zoom Only; No Tuesday Meeting!

ECDC
PO Box 192
El Cerrito CA 94530

Newsletter Editor: William Ktsanes

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 – everyone! – and usually held on the fourth Tuesday of each month except October and December, when we typically have our annual dinner and holiday party. Meetings are also occasionally rescheduled to accommodate special events such as this month’s Candidates Forum.

In lieu of a General Membership Meeting on the 4th Tuesday, this month the ECDC will host a local candidates forum at 9:30 am on Saturday, August 17th (via Zoom only).

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/meeting/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, I 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 2024 volunteer officers:

El Cerrito Democratic Club Officers (2024)

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

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!

- William Ktsanes, VP Publications

2. Information and Zoom Link for the 9:30 am, Saturday, August 17th El Cerrito Democratic Club (ECDC) Candidates Forum; Via Zoom Only

In lieu of a General Membership Meeting on the 4th Tuesday, this month at 9:30 am on Saturday, August 17th the ECDC in conjunction with the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC) will host a question-and-answer Candidates Forum for Democrats competing for local elected offices on the November 5th ballot. While our General Membership Meetings are generally in a hybrid format (in-person and via Zoom), the August 17th Candidates Forum will be via Zoom only.

To join the August 17th ECDC Candidates Forum, please use the following Zoom 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.

August 17th ECDC Candidates Forum Tentative Agenda

9:15 am – Assemble and Mingle; Zoom Log In

9:30 am – Call to Order; OpaVote Ballots Emailed to Eligible Members; Approval of the Agenda; and Quick Overview of the Endorsement Voting Process

(For detailed instructions and explanations, please see pages 4-14 of this newsletter.)

9:35 am – ECDC Candidates Forum (Greg Lyman, Moderator)

Participating candidates in the ECDC Candidates Forum must be registered Democrats. Candidates for the elected offices below will be invited to participate only if their races are contested (with more candidates than open seats).

- El Cerrito City Council
- AC Transit Board of Directors, Ward 1
- East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) Board of Directors, Ward 1
- BART Board of Directors, District 3
- East Bay Regional Park Board of Directors, Ward 1
- Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District Board of Directors
- Kensington Fire Protection District Board of Directors
- Stege Sanitary District Board of Directors

11:00 am – End of the ECDC Candidates Forum

- William Ktsanes, VP Publications

3. ECDC Endorsement Process for the November 5th Election (Overview)

The El Cerrito Democratic Club (ECDC) hosts election year candidate forums and issues member-voted upon endorsements. While all ECDC General Membership Meetings and Candidate Forums are open to all, only eligible ECDC Members may cast endorsement votes. Per the ECDC Standing Rules for Endorsements, to vote in the ECDC endorsement process you must be a paid member in good standing 45 days before the endorsement vote.

Please read these instructions very carefully.

Between Saturday, August 17th - Monday, August 19th, eligible El Cerrito Democratic Club members will be able to vote on ECDC endorsements for state propositions, local ballot measures and Democratic candidates appearing on the November 5th ballot. ECDC members must be in Good Standing with their annual membership fee paid as of Friday, July 5th in order to be eligible to cast an endorsement vote.

Eligible ECDC members will receive an endorsement ballot by email on Saturday, August 17th from OpaVote (the software vendor we use for secure, anonymous, online voting). The deadline for submitting an endorsement ballot is 8:00 pm on Monday, August 19th.

Technical support for emailed ballots and OpaVote will be available through 7:00 pm, Monday, August 19th. For assistance, contact Greg Lyman at gblyman@comcast.net or (510) 303-8833.

ECDC Endorsement Dates and Deadlines	
Membership As-Of Date for Eligibility to Vote	Friday, July 5th
Endorsement Forum (via Zoom, Open to All)	9:30 am, Saturday, August 17th
Endorsement Ballots Emailed to Eligible Members (via OpaVote)	9:30 am, Saturday, August 17th
End Time for Technical Support for OpaVote	7:00 pm, Monday, August 19th
End Time for Eligible Members to Vote on Endorsements	8:00 pm, Monday, August 19th

Eligible members are not required to cast an endorsement vote for each and every state proposition, local ballot measure or elected office—and may endorse as many or as few as they like. They may choose not to vote for a particular measure or office, particularly if they feel they lack the information necessary to make an adequately informed choice. They also have the option of casting a “No Endorsement” vote if they would like the ECDC not to make an endorsement, perhaps because they are informed but don’t like any of the choices available.

Propositions, Ballot Measures and Candidates

Eligible El Cerrito Democratic Club members will have the opportunity to vote on ECDC endorsements for the following California state propositions:

Proposition	Name / Description / Links to More Information	Type
<p>Proposition 2 (School Facilities Bond)</p>	<p>K-12 Schools and Local Community College Public Education Facilities Modernization, Repair and Safety Bond Act</p> <p>This legislature placed measure authorizes the state to borrow \$10 billion through the issuance of state bonds (municipal debt) to fund the construction, renovation and modernization of education facilities across the state, with \$8.5 billion going toward K-12 public schools and \$1.5 billion towards community colleges. The money would help local school districts replace portable classrooms, retrofit existing buildings and construct additional classrooms for the state’s newly-mandated transitional kindergarten program.</p> <p>California Legislative Analyst’s Office Analysis: https://lao.ca.gov/ballot/2024/prop2-110524.pdf</p>	<p>BI</p>
<p>Proposition 3 (Affirmation of Marriage Equality through the Repeal of 2008’s Proposition 8)</p>	<p>Constitutional Right to Marriage</p> <p>This legislature placed constitutional amendment repeals Proposition 8 which was passed by voters in 2008 and banned same-sex marriage by defining marriage as a union between one man and one woman. This amendment officially removes language prohibiting same-sex marriage from the California state constitution, declares that a "right to marry is a fundamental right," and affirms the right to marry for same-sex couples. In practice, Proposition 8 was nullified in 2010 when US District Chief Judge Vaughn Walker declared it to be a violation of the Due Process and Equal Protection clauses of the US Constitution and in 2013 when the US Supreme Court left Walker's decision standing, overturning the federal Defense of Marriage Act and establishing a federal right for same-sex couples to wed. This proposition was placed on the ballot to formally signal the state’s shift on the issue and to protect against any future changes that might weaken federal protections for marriage equality.</p> <p>California Legislative Analyst’s Office Analysis: https://lao.ca.gov/ballot/2024/prop3-110524.pdf</p>	<p>LRCA</p>

<p>Proposition 4 (Climate Bonds)</p>	<p>Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024</p> <p>This legislature placed measure authorizes California to borrow \$10 billion through the issuance of bonds (municipal debt) to fund state and local parks; and environmental protection, water infrastructure, energy, and flood protection projects. The goal is to help California prepare and adapt for the impacts of climate change. \$3.8 billion would be directed towards drinking water and groundwater infrastructure projects, such as groundwater storage and reservoirs; \$1.5 billion would be directed towards wildfire prevention and forest programs, such as controlled burns and forest thinning; and \$1.2 billion would go towards mitigating the impact of rising sea levels.</p> <p>California Legislative Analyst’s Office Analysis: https://lao.ca.gov/ballot/2024/prop4-110524.pdf</p>	<p>BI</p>
<p>Proposition 5 (Reduces Voter Approval Threshold for Local Government Borrowing)</p>	<p>Affordable Housing and Public Infrastructure: Voter Approval</p> <p>This legislature placed constitutional amendment lowers the required voter approval threshold from the current 66.67% (“two-thirds supermajority”) to 55% for local jurisdictions seeking to issue municipal bonds (debt) to fund housing and infrastructure projects. The objective is to make it easier for local governments to borrow funds for affordable housing and public infrastructure projects.</p> <p>California Legislative Analyst’s Office Analysis: https://lao.ca.gov/ballot/2024/prop5-110524.pdf</p>	<p>LRCA</p>
<p>Proposition 6 (Prohibits Forced Labor in State Prisons)</p>	<p>Eliminates Constitutional Provision Allowing Involuntary Servitude for Incarcerated Persons</p> <p>This legislature placed constitutional amendment removes involuntary servitude as punishment for a crime. The California state constitution currently prohibits involuntary servitude <u>except</u> as a punishment for crime. This amendment prohibits involuntary servitude absolutely – <u>without exception</u> – and prohibits the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation from disciplining any incarcerated person for refusing a work assignment. Instead, it authorizes the Department to award credits to incarcerated persons who voluntarily participate in prison work assignments.</p> <p>California Legislative Analyst’s Office Analysis: https://lao.ca.gov/ballot/2024/prop6-110524.pdf</p>	<p>LRCA</p>

<p>Proposition 32 (Raises the State Minimum Wage to \$18 per Hour)</p>	<p>Raises Minimum Wage</p> <p>This citizens’ initiated state statute increases the state minimum wage to \$18 an hour over several years. Existing law required annual increases to California’s minimum wage until it reached \$15.00 per hour for all businesses on January 1, 2023. This measure extends these annual increases (\$1.00 per year) until the minimum wage —currently \$15.00 per hour for businesses with 26 or more employees and \$14.00 per hour for smaller businesses— reaches \$18.00 per hour. Thereafter, as existing law requires, the minimum wage will adjust annually for inflation. In periods of decreased economic activity or a General Fund deficit, the Governor may suspend the annual increase up to two times, effectively extending the timeline for reaching \$18.00 per hour.</p> <p>California Legislative Analyst’s Office Analysis: https://lao.ca.gov/ballot/2024/prop32-110524.pdf</p>	<p>CISS</p>
<p>Proposition 33 (Prohibits State Limitations on Local Rent Control)</p>	<p>Expands Local Governments’ Authority to Enact Rent Control on Residential Property</p> <p>This citizens’ initiated state statute repeals the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act enacted in 1995 and prohibits the state from limiting the right of cities and counties to maintain, enact or expand residential rent-control ordinances. Current state law under Costa-Hawkins generally prevents cities and counties from limiting the initial rental rate that landlords may charge to new tenants in all types of housing, and from limiting rent increases for existing tenants in (1) residential properties that were first occupied after February 1, 1995; (2) single-family homes; and (3) condominiums. This proposition removes those limitations and allows cities and counties to impose greater rent controls.</p> <p>California Legislative Analyst’s Office Analysis: https://lao.ca.gov/ballot/2024/prop33-110524.pdf</p>	<p>CISS</p>

<p>Proposition 34 (Requires Certain Providers to Use Prescription Drug Revenue for Patients)</p>	<p>Restricts Spending of Prescription Drug Revenues by Certain Health Care Providers</p> <p>This citizens’ initiated state statute requires certain health care providers to spend 98% of their revenues from federal discount prescription drug programs on direct patient care. Applies only to health care providers that spent over \$100,000,000 in any ten-year period on anything other than direct patient care and operated multifamily housing with over 500 high-severity health and safety violations. Penalizes noncompliance by revoking health care licenses and tax-exempt status. Permanently authorizes the state to negotiate Medi-Cal drug prices on a statewide basis.</p> <p>California Legislative Analyst’s Office Analysis: https://lao.ca.gov/ballot/2024/prop34-110524.pdf</p>	<p>CISS</p>
<p>Proposition 35 (Makes Permanent an Existing Tax on Managed Health Care Plans)</p>	<p>Provides Permanent Funding for Medi-Cal Health Care Services</p> <p>This citizens’ initiated state statute makes permanent the existing tax on managed health care insurance plans, currently set to expire in 2026, which the state uses to pay for health care services for low-income families with children, seniors, people with disabilities, and other groups covered by the Medi-Cal program. Requires revenues to be used only for specified Medi-Cal services, including primary and specialty care, emergency care, family planning, mental health, and prescription drugs. Prohibits revenues from being used to replace other existing Medi-Cal funding. Caps administrative expenses and requires independent audits of programs receiving funding.</p> <p>California Legislative Analyst’s Office Analysis: https://lao.ca.gov/ballot/2024/prop35-110524.pdf</p>	<p>CISS</p>

<p>Proposition 36 (Overhauls Proposition 47 by Increasing Penalties for Certain Drug and Theft Crimes)</p>	<p>Allows Felony Charges and Increases Sentences for Certain Drug and Theft Crimes</p> <p>This citizens’ initiated state statute rolls back parts of Proposition 47, a voter-approved initiative in 2014 that reduced punishments for some nonviolent crimes and turned some felonies into misdemeanors. Currently, the possession of fentanyl and thefts under \$950 are both chargeable only as misdemeanors. Amid rising concerns over retail theft, Proposition 36 allows prosecutors to charge people who have three convictions of drug possession or theft with a felony and seek prison time. With two prior drug or two prior theft convictions, certain drug and theft crimes may also be charged as felonies. Additional theft crimes could be charged as felonies regardless of the cost of the goods stolen. Fentanyl would be added to the list of drugs (currently cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine) that warrant a felony charge if an individual possessed one of them and a loaded firearm. Defendants who plead guilty to felony drug possession and complete treatment can have the charges dismissed.</p> <p>California Legislative Analyst’s Office Analysis: https://lao.ca.gov/ballot/2024/prop36-110524.pdf</p>	<p>CISS</p>
---	--	--------------------

Proposition Type Explanations:

Bond Issue (BI) – A bond issue is a ballot proposition or measure placed before voters asking them to approve or deny additional proposed spending and borrowing. More general information about bond financing is available here: https://ballotpedia.org/Bond_issue

Citizens Initiated State Statute (CISS) – An initiated state statute is a citizen-initiated ballot measure that amends state statute. Proponents of a ballot initiative collect petition signatures from a certain minimum number of registered voters in a state. More general information about citizen-initiated ballot measures is available here: https://ballotpedia.org/Initiated_state_statute

Legislatively Referred Constitutional Amendment (LRCA) – A legislatively referred constitutional amendment is a proposal put forth by the state legislature seeking voter approval to amend the state’s constitution. More general information about Legislatively Referred Constitutional Amendments is here: https://ballotpedia.org/Legislatively_referred_constitutional_amendment

Resources for Additional Information:

California Secretary of State -

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/qualified-ballot-measures>

Ballotpedia - https://ballotpedia.org/California_2024_ballot_propositions

Eligible members will have the opportunity to vote on ECDC endorsements for the following two local ballot measures:

Local Ballot Measure	Name / Brief Description / Links to More Information
<p>Contra Costa County Regional Measure 4</p> <p>(Funding to Address Housing Affordability and Homelessness; \$20 Billion Bay Area Regional Housing Bond Measure)</p>	<p>Authorization for Affordable Housing General Obligation Bond in the Amount of \$20 Billion for Up to 90,000 Affordable Housing Units for the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA)</p> <p>Initiated by the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA), this measure authorizes borrowing \$20 billion through the issuance of bonds (municipal debt) to address problems of housing affordability and homelessness in the nine Bay Area counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano and Sonoma. Funds would be used to pay for constructing or preserving approximately 70,000 affordable homes and apartments; converting vacant lots and blighted properties into affordable housing; and providing assistance to first-time homebuyers. The total cost of paying off the bonds is estimated to be \$48 billion and would be paid with a property tax increase of about \$190 per \$1,000,000 of assessed value.</p> <p>Metropolitan Transportation Commission: https://mtc.ca.gov/about-mtc/authorities/bay-area-housing-finance-authority/bay-area-affordable-housing-bond</p>
<p>City of El Cerrito Measure G</p> <p>(Local 1% Sales Tax; Continuance of Measure R)</p>	<p>1% Local Sales Tax Continuance</p> <p>Initiated by the City of El Cerrito, this measure indefinitely extends the twelve-year local sales tax add-on previously approved by voters with passage of Measure “R,” first approved as a 0.5% tax in 2010 and increased to 1.0% in 2014. California’s base state sales tax is 7.25% and highest in the country. An additional 2.0% district tax is distributed to counties and cities. Measure “R” was a local measure that added 1% specifically for the City of El Cerrito and brought the total to 10.25%, tied with 56 other cities for the 9th highest in the state. Sales taxes are one of the few major revenue sources available to cities. Proponents point out that the additional 1% provided El Cerrito nearly \$4 million in revenue last year, funds approximately 10% of the City’s operating budget and helps maintain vital services. Opponents argue that sales taxes are regressive in that they disproportionately impact the poor and that a “sunset” ending date would help foster fiscal responsibility by requiring voter approval for periodic extensions.</p> <p>City of El Cerrito: https://www.el-cerrito.org/1658/November-2024-Ballot-Measure</p>

Eligible members will have the opportunity to vote on ECDC endorsements for the following elected offices:

Elected Office	Positions Up for Election on November 5, 2024; Term Length
El Cerrito City Council	Three of five seats on the El Cerrito City Council are up for election in 2024; staggered four-year terms; candidates Lauren Dodge, David Hatton, Courtney Helion, William Ktsanes, Lisa Montayama and Rebecca Saltzman
Kensington Fire Protection District Board of Directors	Two of five seats on the Kensington Fire Protection District Board of Directors are up for election; staggered four-year terms; incumbents Rick Artis and Danielle Madugo are uncontested as of 8/13/2024
Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District Board of Directors	Two of five seats on the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District Board of Directors are up for election; staggered four-year terms; incumbents David P. Spath and Sylvia Hacaj are uncontested as of 8/13/2024
Stege Sanitary District Board of Directors	Two of five seats on the Stege Board of Directors are up for election; staggered four-year terms; incumbents Paul Gilbert-Snyder and Beatrice O'Keefe are uncontested as of 8/13/2024
AC Transit Board of Directors, Ward 1	One seat; four-year term; incumbent H. E. Christian (Chris) Peoples is uncontested as of 8/13/2024
BART Board of Directors, District 3	One seat; four-year term; candidate Barnali Ghosh is uncontested as of 8/13/2024
East Bay Regional Park Board of Directors, Ward 1	One seat; four-year term; incumbent Elizabeth Echols is uncontested as of 8/13/2024

Prior Endorsements


California State Assembly District 14	Run-off candidates are Margot Smith and Buffy Wicks; Buffy Wicks was previously endorsed by the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County; two-year term
California State Senate District 7	Run-off candidates are Jesse Arreguín and Jovanka Beckles; Jesse Arreguín was previously endorsed by eligible ECDC members after a March 26th Candidates Forum; four-year term
United States House of Representatives (District 8)	John Garamendi was previously endorsed by the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County and is the only Democratic candidate in the runoff; two-year term
United States Senate	Adam Schiff was previously endorsed by the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County and is the only Democratic candidate in the runoff
President	Joe Biden was previously endorse by the ECDC; updated after Biden's withdrawal with an endorsement for Kamala Harris

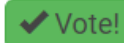

I certainly learned a lot in doing the research necessary to gather and present this information.
Hope it is helpful!

- William Ktsanes, VP Publications

4. OpaVote Ballots (Detailed Instructions)

If the email address you submitted with your membership registration is valid, on Saturday, August 17th you will get an email from noreply@opavote.com (which may appear as “OpaVote Voting Link” in your email). If you do not find it, please be sure to check your Junk or Spam folder, as filters may block “group” emails from arriving in your Inbox. If you need to update your email address, please contact Neil Tsutsui (VP, Membership) at membership.ecdc@gmail.com.

Inside the email from OpaVote there will be a small, dark blue button graphic image centered with the word “Vote.”  In order to see it, you may need to adjust your email settings to allow images to be uploaded. Clicking the button will open an online link to a combined ballot for the propositions, measures and candidates eligible for an ECDC endorsement.

After you check off the boxes for your recommended endorsements, you will be asked to review your ballot. When you click the green “Vote” button  at the bottom of the ballot, you will get a “Please confirm your ballot” pop-up screen. If you have a pop-up blocker turned on, this confirmation screen may not appear and you may need to turn off your pop-up blocker before proceeding. Once you have confirmed your vote by clicking the blue confirmation button , you will not be able to change your selections. Replacement ballots will not be issued if you accidentally submit an incomplete ballot as we have no way of invalidating a ballot that was submitted, even if done so inadvertently.

Please do not forward your OpaVote email. You will receive a single-use ballot linked to your specific email address that should only be used by you to vote.

Eligible members who are the second person in a household but do not have a separate email on file with ECDC will need to use a link to the OpaVote website and a unique code. This OpaVote link and code for the second household member’s use will be sent by Neil Tsutsui (VP Membership) to the email on file for the first household member. The “first household member” who receives the OpaVote link and code email may forward it to the intended recipient, the “second household member”. Once in OpaVote, the voting steps for the second member will be as described above.

Should you need additional technical assistance, our election coordinator will be Greg Lyman (ECDC Past President). Feel free to contact Greg at gblyman@comcast.net or (510) 303-8833 if you are having problems voting and need troubleshooting. His contact information will also be in the email from OpaVote.

Voting on OpaVote (<https://www.opavote.com>) is anonymous. To provide technical assistance should you need it, Greg will be able to see if you cast your ballot but not how you voted. The deadline for receiving assistance with the endorsement ballot is 7:00 pm, Monday, August 19th. The deadline to submit your endorsement votes is 8:00 pm Monday.

- Greg Lyman, ECDC Past President; William Ktsanes, VP Publications

5. ECDC Endorsement Thresholds and Calculations Explained

El Cerrito Democratic Club members in Good Standing as of July 5, 2024 have the option of casting endorsement votes. The Club will have an official position only if a candidate or the “No Endorsement” option is selected on at least 60% of the ballots cast.

“No Endorsement” Explained – A selection of “No Endorsement” means you want the Club to officially take a position that a ballot measure or none of the candidates for a specific office should receive the Club’s endorsement. A “No Endorsement” vote should not be cast by voters who simply have little interest in or knowledge about an issue or slate of candidates. Rather, an informed voter should cast a “No Endorsement” vote if they strongly feel the ECDC should not make an endorsement, perhaps because they do not like any of the choices available (or maybe like them all equally). If a voter does not know enough about an issue or candidates to have an informed opinion and does not want their vote to influence the endorsement outcome, they should simply leave all options unchecked for that proposition, ballot measure or race.

A “No Endorsement” vote increases the denominator used to determine if an issue or candidate reaches the 60% threshold; leaving all the choices unchecked does not.

Below are three example calculations with three different outcomes:

Favorite Color	Votes
Ballots Issued	110
Ballots Cast	90
Eligible Member Voter Turnout	(90/110) 81.8%
Blue	54
Blue %	60%
Green	0
Green %	0%
Gold	46
Gold %	51.1%
No Endorsement	0
No Endorsement %	0%
Blue Endorsed	

Favorite Day of the Week	Votes
Ballots Issued	110
Ballots Cast	80
Eligible Member Voter Turnout	(80/110) 72.7%
Monday	1
Monday %	1.2%
Wednesday	15
Wednesday %	18.7%
Friday	41
Friday %	51.2%
No Endorsement	20
No Endorsement %	25%
No Consensus	

Favorite Berry	Votes
Ballots Issued	110
Ballots Cast	100
Eligible Member Voter Turnout	(100/110) 90.9%
Blueberry	37
Blueberry %	37%
Raspberry	0
Raspberry %	0%
Strawberry	0
Strawberry %	0%
No Endorsement	63
No Endorsement %	63%
No Endorsement	

For all the three races – “Favorite Color,” “Favorite Day of the Week” and “Favorite Berry” – 110 eligible Club members were issued endorsement ballots.

In the Favorite Color race, 20 members did not cast a vote and left all choices blank. The denominator for determining if any color received 60% was therefore 90 (110 minus 20). Blue received 54 of the 90 votes cast, met the 60% threshold and was “endorsed” by the Club. Gold received 46 votes, which was only 51% of the votes cast and below the 60% threshold. Green received no votes. Neither Gold nor Green were endorsed.

In the Favorite Day of the Week race, 30 people did not cast a vote. The denominator determining if any day received 60% was 80 (110 minus 30). Although Friday received the majority of the votes, neither Friday, any other day nor “No Endorsement” received enough votes to reach the 60% threshold. As such, no endorsement was made and the Club took a “No Consensus” position.

In the Favorite Berry race, 10 people did not cast a vote. The denominator for determining if any berry received 60% was 100 (110 minus 10). Although Blueberry received all 37 of the votes cast for a specific berry, it did not meet the 60% threshold. The “No Endorsement” option received 63 of the 100 votes cast. With 63% percent of the votes cast, “No Endorsement” met the 60% threshold. Although Blueberry received all of the votes cast for a specific berry, at least 60% of the endorsement voters did not choose the “Blueberry,” “Raspberry” and “Strawberry” options. With 63% of the votes cast for “No Endorsement,” the consensus was “No Endorsement.”

Here is how the resulting endorsements would be published:

ECDC Endorsements	
Favorites Color	Blue Endorsed
Favorite Day of the Week	No Consensus
Favorite Berry	No Endorsement

Please note the distinction between “No Consensus” and “No Endorsement.”

With “No Consensus,” none of the options received at least 60% of the endorsement votes. Votes were split among several candidates with no clear agreement as to who the ECDC should endorse. With “No Endorsement,” at least 60% of the voters explicitly called upon the ECDC not to make an endorsement. This may be because members did not like or have preferences among the options available, or simply felt they did not have enough information to make an informed endorsement. “No Consensus” indicates none of the options received 60% of the vote; in contrast, “No Endorsement” means there was a consensus or agreement among at least 60% of the voters that the ECDC should not make an endorsement.

- Greg Lyman, ECDC Past President; William Ktsanes, VP Publications

6. Minutes from the July 23rd El Cerrito Democratic Club General Membership Meeting

El Cerrito Democratic Club
General Membership Meeting Minutes
July 23, 2024
(in person at Hana Gardens, 10860 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito; and via Zoom)

Call to Order

President Brown called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Membership Meeting Agenda

- Brown asks to table all officer reports to allow additional time for the ballot measure presentation.
- Upon the motion of Lyman, and the second of Ktsanes and J. Smith the members voted to waive the club's three day noticing rule on endorsements so that the club could add an item to the agenda to endorse Madame Vice President Kamala Harris for President of the United States in the November 2024 election. The motion was approved unanimously with no nays nor abstentions.
- Upon the Motion of Akacic and the second of Lyman the agenda was approved with the above additions and subtractions.

Approval of the June, 2024 minutes

Upon the motion of Ktsanes and the second of Tsutsui the minutes were unanimously approved as presented with no nays nor abstentions.

Endorsement: President of the United States, November 5, 2024 Election

Upon the motion of Lyman and the second of Salzman the club voted unanimously with no nays nor abstentions to vacate the endorsement of President Joe Biden for President of the United States and to endorse Madame Vice President Kamala Harris as the Democratic nominee for President of the United States.

Thank you Note to Joe Biden

- Upon the motion of Brown, and the second of Lyman the members voted to waive the club's three day noticing rule on action items so that the club could vote to send a letter to President Joe Biden thanking him for all of the work he has done on behalf of our country.

- Upon the motion of Cain and the second of Lyman members voted to send a letter to President Joe Biden thanking him for all of the work he has done on behalf of our country. The vote was unanimous with no nays and no abstentions.

Officer Reports

- Officer Reports were tabled in order to concentrate on ballot measures.

July Program: Discussion of and ECDC Member-Voted Endorsements for Statewide Propositions and Regional/Local Measures on the November 5th Ballot (Action Item)

STATEWIDE

- Proposition 2: Public Education Facilities Bond
- Proposition 3: Right to Marry and Repeal Prop 8
- Proposition 4: Parks, Environment, Energy, and Water Bond Measure
- Proposition 5: Lower Supermajority Requirement to 55% for Local Bond Measures to Fund and Housing and Public Infrastructure Amendment
- Proposition 6: Remove Involuntary Servitude as Punishment for Crime Amendment
- Proposition 32: \$18 Minimum Wage
- Proposition 33: Prohibit State Limitations on Local Rent Control
- Proposition 34: Require Certain Participants in Medi-Cal Rx Program to Spend 98% of Revenues on Patient Care
- Proposition 35: Managed Care Organization Tax Authorization
- Proposition 36: Drug and Theft Crime Penalties and Treatment Mandated Felonies

REGIONAL/COUNTY, CITY (EL CERRITO)

Bay Area Affordability Plan

- El Cerrito Continuation of Measure R

Please see the Powerpoint of the presentation [linked here](#) and available on the website. <https://ecdclub.org/>. A recording of the presentation is also available through the same links.

Good of the Order

- Betty Brown Celebration of Life Saturday, September 14, 2024, 11 am - 2 pm, Padre Picnic Area in Tilden. Pls RSVP.
- Memorial Service for former Mayor Jane Bartke on July 25, 2024, Berkeley Country Club, noon- 3:00 p.m.

Adjourn

President Brown adjourned the meeting.

- Leslie Reckler, VP Records

7. Announcement: Betty Brown's Celebration of Life

You are invited to a Celebration of Life for Betty Brown (1/3/2027-1/12/2024), a longtime member, past president, strong supporter and dear friend of the El Cerrito Democratic Club. A recipient of ECDC's Nancy Gans Award in recognition of her service to our community, Betty was compassionate, loving, caring and steadfastly committed to social justice and building a better world.

Please come and enjoy stories, songs and food as we celebrate Betty's remarkable life.

What: Betty Brown's Celebration of Life

When: 11 am to 2 pm, Saturday, September 14, 2024

Where: Padre Picnic Area, Tilden Park, Orinda, California 94563

https://maps.app.goo.gl/JdAoDFm14FibpVqL7?g_st=com.google.maps.preview.copy

Her daughters Paula Brown-Williams and Janice Brown-Silveira and ask that you RSVP by August 20th to bettybrowncol@gmail.com.

The El Cerrito Democratic Club extends our deepest sympathy to Janice, Paula, and all of Betty's friends and family. The obituary below was shared by her Paula and included in the April 2024 ECDC Newsletter. As I wrote in April, it was an honor to get to know and work with Betty. She is greatly missed.

- William Ktsanes, VP Publications

Elizabeth "Betty" Brown died peacefully in her home on Friday, January 12, 2024. She was 97 years old. Betty was born on January 3, 1927 to her parents Kate and Henry Blake on the family homestead in Firesteel, South Dakota, land that Betty would later in life recognize as stolen from the Cheyenne River Sioux.

The family left South Dakota during the dust bowl era and relocated to Oregon, then moved to Richmond, California to find work in the shipyards during World War II. Betty attended Richmond High School where she began her lifelong activism for peace, and social and environmental justice. Throughout her life, she carried on the humanist traditions of her parents, who were founding members of the Richmond NAACP.



Betty met her husband Wallace Donald Brown while attending Richmond High. They would marry upon his return from WWII. Betty graduated from the University of California, San Francisco with a degree in nursing, which was followed by a year-long course of study in public health at the University of California, Berkeley.

Betty worked as a school nurse for the Richmond Unified School District (West Contra Costa County Unified School District) for 30 years, identifying children with special needs and referring them to specialists who could help them achieve success as school students.

Wally and Betty had two children and enjoyed the out-of-doors in a variety of forms including building cabins, hiking, camping, and traveling throughout the western U.S.

Following Wally's death in 1972, Betty redoubled her devotion to a variety of progressive causes including peace through diplomacy and the intertwined causes of environmental and social justice. She continued as the co-Chairperson of East Bay Peace Action through 2023, living out her desire to remain an activist all her life. She was also a passionate advocate for health care for all people.

Betty is survived by daughters Janice Brown-Silveira and her husband Mitchell of Reno, Nevada; Paula Brown-Williams, and her husband Theodore Williams of Bishop; grandchildren Erin and Nathan Brown-Silveira of Reno, Nevada; and numerous cousins and their children and grandchildren.

A celebration of Betty's life will be held later in the year. In lieu of flowers, those who would like to remember her may make contributions to [Peace Action](#), [Healthcare for All](#) or the [Sierra Club](#), or simply speak out for a more just and peaceful world.

8. Future Events – *Mark Your Calendar!*

El Cerrito Democratic Club General Membership Meetings and Events

ECDC Candidates Forum – Remote via Zoom only (no in-person); 9:30 am; Saturday, August 17th; via Zoom link <http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting>

ECDC August General Membership Meeting – No Tuesday meeting this month; replaced by the Saturday, August 17th “ECDC Candidates Forum” above

ECDC September General Membership Meeting – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, September 23rd (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>

ECDC “Get Out the Vote” Neighborhood Walk –
Morning/Afternoon; Saturday, October 12th



ECDC Annual Dinner – 72nd Annual Dinner;
6:00 pm, Saturday, October 12th;
Hana Gardens Senior Apartments (10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall)

ECDC November General Membership Meeting – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, November 25th
(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>

ECDC Holiday Party – 6:00 pm, Friday, December 6th; Hana Gardens Senior Apartments
(10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall)

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

Other Community Events

Betty Brown’s Celebration of Life – 11:00 am-2:00 pm, Saturday, September 14, 2024;
Padre Picnic Area, Tilden Park, Orinda, California; for more information,
please see “Betty Brown’s Celebration of Life” on pages 17-18 of this newsletter



El Cerrito Farmers Market – 9:00 am-1:00 pm, every Tuesday and Saturday;
since 1994; El Cerrito Plaza, 9000 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530;
southwest corner parking lot between Trader Joe's and Wells Fargo Bank;
<https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/7549/Contra-Costa-Certified-Farmers-Markets>



Democratic National Convention – August 19-20; Chicago, Illinois; <https://demconvention.com/>

Ballots Mailed for November 5th Election – October 7, 2024; all eligible and registered California
voters will get a ballot mailed to them; make sure your voter information lists your current
mailing address; re-register at vote.ca.gov ([Elections and Voter Information :: California
Secretary of State](http://vote.ca.gov)) if you have moved since the last time you registered

Last Day to Register to Vote for the November 5th Election – October 21, 2024;
register to vote at vote.ca.gov ([Elections and Voter Information :: California Secretary of State](http://vote.ca.gov))

2024 General Election – Tuesday, November 5th; vote-by-mail ballots must be postmarked on or
before November 5th and received by November 12th

- William Ktsanes, VP Publication

9. 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 Neil Tsutsui at membership.ecdc@gmail.com.

Thank you!

- Neil Tsutsui, VP Membership

10. 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) and 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 William Ktsanes at wktsanes@gmail.com for review and editing.

11. 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/>.