



El Cerrito Democratic Club

December 2025 Newsletter

Contents:

1. El Cerrito Democratic Club General Information
2. December Meeting Cancelled! Let's Party Instead!
3. Call for Candidates: VP of Membership – El Cerrito Democratic Club
4. Volunteer at the 2026 California Democratic Party State Convention in San Francisco
5. Future Events – *Mark Your Calendar!*
6. Membership Renewal Reminder and Instructions
7. Call for Newsletter Submissions
8. Link to the ECDC Website and Bylaws

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/joining/tZUpOCvqDkpEtH10GiVZ7NcegZqDI_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
- Past President – Champagne Brown
- Executive Vice President – William Ktsanes
- VP Media – Madeline Kronenberg
- VP Membership – Greg Lyman
- VP Programs – Ruthie Abelson Olivas
- VP Publications – Courtney Helion
- 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!

Courtney Helion, VP Publica

2. December Meeting Cancelled! Let's Party Instead!

❄️❄️❄️ Just a reminder that our 🎉🍰 **HOLIDAY PARTY** 🍰🎉 is this
Friday, December 12, 6-8pm at Hana Gardens! ❄️❄️❄️

Please bring a sweet or snack and stop by for some casual conversation and pre-holiday hanging out!

I have heard that Champagne has been practicing some seasonal songs for us to enjoy and that Ed is going to come dressed as a reindeer!

See you all on Friday!

3. Call for Candidates: VP of Membership – El Cerrito Democratic Club

The El Cerrito Democratic Club is seeking volunteers to run for Vice President of Membership in our upcoming officer elections. This is a key leadership role for anyone who enjoys outreach, organization, and helping strengthen our local Democratic community.

The VP of Membership's responsibilities include:

- Managing and maintaining accurate membership lists
- Accessing online voter information to support club activities
- Leading membership development and recruitment efforts
- Facilitating affiliation with other Democratic organizations
- Assist with the annual re-chartering of ECDC

To support your success, you will receive hands-on training during your first three months in the role, ensuring you feel confident and prepared.

This position is a wonderful opportunity to help grow and energize the club, connect with fellow Democrats, and make a meaningful impact at the local level. No prior board experience is required....just a commitment to our shared values and a desire to get involved.

If you're interested or would like to learn more, please reach out to Immediate Past President Champagne Brown (cbrownecdc@gmail.com) to submit your nomination.

Your participation keeps our club strong and thriving!

4. Future Events - *Mark Your Calendar!*

El Cerrito Democratic Club General Membership Meetings and Events

ECDC Annual Holiday Party, Friday, December 12, 6-8pm. We will meet at Hana Gardens for some fun, casual socializing with your fellow ECDC members. Please bring a snack or dessert to share. Let's celebrate our recent wins and re-energize before the big year ahead!

** 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=c2sySEl5ZEplJl1HVUM5bERCZGpEQOT09>.

Below is the ECDC E-Board Calendar going into 2026:

2025 El Cerrito Democratic Club Executive-Board Calendar (E-Board)				
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 Emailed (by 6:00 pm)	General Membership Meeting Date
Thursday 12/4/2025	Friday 12/5/2025	Saturday 12/6/2025	Tuesday 12/9/2025	HOLIDAY PARTY
Thursday 1/1/2026	Thursday 1/15/2026	Wednesday 1/21/2026	Saturday 1/24/2026	Tuesday 1/27/2026
Thursday 2/5/2026	Thursday 2/15/2026	Wednesday 2/18/2026	Saturday 2/21/2026	Tuesday 2/24/2026

Other Community Events

Join Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia
and
El Cerrito Councilmember Gabe Quinto
for
Community and Conversation
with Candidate for
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
JOSH NEWMAN

Wednesday, December 10th, 5:30-7pm
Veterans Memorial Building
6401 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito

Please RSVP to Jennifer
Peck by emailing
jenniferpeck99@gmail.com

Contributions to Josh Newman for Superintendent of Public Instruction 2026 (FPPC ID# 1480296) are subject to state limits. Individuals, unions, PACs, corporations, and other entities may contribute up to \$9,800 per election (primary and general). Registered Small Contributor Committees may give up to \$10,600 per election.
Paid for by Josh Newman for Superintendent of Public Instruction 2026, FPPC ID#1480296.

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



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.westcountymemberclub.com>

DPCCC General Membership Meeting - 7:00 - 10:00 pm, If you are not a DPCCC member and wish to attend, please RSVP to the DPCCC Secretary at 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.

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 for publication in future newsletters!

- Courtney Helion, VP Publications

5. Membership Renewal Reminder and Instructions

REMINDER! – ECDC annual memberships expire annually on **September 30th**. If you have not yet done so, please renew for 2026. **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.

There have been some issues with double payingment on paypal, **Don't pay us twice! Wait a day or more if you suspect your payment hasn't gone through!**

If you have membership questions, please email Greg Lyman at membership.ecdc@gmail.com.

Thank you!

- Greg Lyman, VP Membership

6. 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 for review and editing.

- Courtney Helion, VP Publications

7. 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/>.