



El Cerrito Democratic Club Newsletter – April 2021

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ECDC
P.O. Box 192
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Newsletter Editor: William Ktsanes

1. Agenda for the April 27, 2021 Meeting

April 2021 ECDC Agenda

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84303785299?pwd=bUFyY3VHVXFYTEZaR3YvSIN4dUpQQT09>

ZOOM Meeting ID: 843 0378 5299

Passcode: 111652

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,84303785299# US (San Jose)

+14086380968,,84303785299# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 843 0378 5299

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbSLJabijj>

- 6:20 Assemble and Mingle
- 6:30 Call to Order
- 6:35 Approve Minutes from February Meeting
- 6:40 Officer Reports: Treasurer, Membership, Events, Newsletter, Website, Secretary
- 6:45 ECDC Diversity Subcommittee Report
- 6:55 DPCCC Report
- 7:00 Program: Katie Ricklefs, DPCCC Chair
- 7:40 Stop the Recall Resolution: **Club Action Required**, please review article
- 7:45 AB 1400 (Kalra) The California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act
Resolution of Support: **Club Action Required**, please review article
- 8:00 Adjourn

2. Preview of the April 27, 2021 Program – DPCCC Chair Katie Ricklefs and Stop the Recall... *Again!*

Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC) Chair Katie Ricklefs will be joining us at our April meeting to discuss what we can do to defeat the campaign to recall Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom.

Ms. Ricklefs' professional career has spanned almost three decades working as an administrator with Kaiser Permanente (KP) in Northern California. As an executive in four different medical centers and a director in KP's regional offices, she was devoted to working closely with labor and management to improve and expand quality health care in communities throughout Northern California. Her twenty-year volunteer career has focused on reproductive rights and access to quality health care for all vulnerable populations, especially women and their families. Ms. Ricklefs has served on the board of Planned Parenthood Northern California and the PPNorCal Action fund.

Ms. Ricklefs has also been very active in local and statewide Democratic groups. She served as President of the Lamorinda Democratic Club for 6 years. Katie is a 2008 EmergeCa graduate. She was elected to the Democratic Party Central Committee from District 2 and served as 1st Vice-Chair from 2018 through 2020. She currently serves as Chair of the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County, serving over 370,000 Democrats.

We are called upon to Stop the Recall... Again!

We need our Governor and not a distraction. Conservative forces are calling for a recall to distract Gavin Newsom and cause him to take more moderate stands on issues, like fracking (aka SB 467). How Gavin handled the pandemic will be the smokescreen, the topic on everyone's mind. The real issue is economic prosperity of the few, which is why the recall campaign is funded by a few wealthy individuals and many organizations outside of California.

Here is how this got Arnold elected – everyone was unhappy with Governor Grey Davis' handling of rolling black outs and they said "yes" to recall (55.4%) and then there were so many Democratic hopefuls (154 candidates in all from many parties), that Arnold won with a minority of the vote, 48.6%. If this happens again, the recall distraction could place a Republican governor in office as the economy booms. And they will take the credit.

We need to stop the recall. We need to make sure more Californians vote "No" to the recall question and keep Gavin as Governor until the Governor election of 2022. Let the majority speak in a regular election.

Katie Ricklefs will speak to the Club on Tuesday April 27th about what you and our club can do to thwart this attempt to place a Republican in office. After her presentation, the club will be asked to pass the following Resolution:

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Stop the Republican Recall of Governor Gavin Newsom

Whereas, Governor Gavin Newsom was elected by an historic margin of victory by the citizens of the State of California, has enjoyed strong, majority approval ratings prior to the latest recall

effort against him, and has worked tirelessly against the pandemic to save lives, provide a safety net for struggling Californians, preserve small businesses and protect the state's economic engine; and

Whereas, the recall is the sixth launched against the governor since his election, is designed to overturn the will of the voters of California, will cost pandemic-fighting California taxpayers up to \$100 million, and is powered mainly by a partisan, Republican coalition of national and state Republicans, Anti-vaxxers, QAnon conspiracy theorists, anti-immigrant activists, Trump supporters and domestic terrorist groups who hope to distract from or deter progress on Covid-19 recovery, climate change deceleration, environmental protection and justice, and fair voting laws;

Whereas, by uniting, Democrats will prevent the Republican Party from taking over the California government and stand united against any candidate of any party who seeks the office of Governor and thereby helps Republicans overturn the governor's free and fair election;

Therefore, be it Resolved, that the El Cerrito Democratic Club support Governor Newsom and oppose his recall.

3. Recap of the March 23, 2021 Meeting

ECDC General Meeting Notes March 23, 2021

President Lyman Called the meeting to Order at 6:32 PM

Minutes: Grassi/Brown moved and seconded the March minutes as noticed and the motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Membership – no report

Treasurer – Chair Lyman noted that there is \$12,000 in the Club's account.

Events – no report

Newsletter – no report

Website – Board member Kronenburg noted that many clubs are not having websites now, instead using Facebook pages and other social media.

Diversity Sub-Committee – Y'Anad Burrell stated the four groups listed below are eligible to receive \$700 each. A final action will be taken at the May Diversity Sub- Committee meeting. Click the hyperlinks that follow to learn more about each group:

1. Urban Tilth - <https://www.urbantilth.org/>
2. Building Blocks - <https://www.bbk-richmond.org/>
3. CCC Racial Justice Coalition - <https://ccrjc.wordpress.com/>
4. Self-eSTEM - <https://selfestem.org/>

Democratic Party of Contra Costa County

Board member Brown, Michael Nye and Joey Smith reported out on the latest meeting. Register by April 21, 2021 to attend state convention!

MOTION: Brown/Kronenburg, Vote > 60 % of those present - Waive noticing rules of the Club regarding agendaing a specific action, listed below.

MOTION: Grassi/Brown Vote, Passed unanimously - Up to five scholarships to Club members; Total fiscal impact to budget of up to \$500

* 4/22/2021 Editor's Note: Regretfully, the ECDC was unable to publicize the availability of scholarships before April 11th deadline for registering as an Democratic State Party Convention observer.)

Speaker

Board member Wysinger introduced BART Board Director and El Cerrito resident Saltzman. Highlights included the improvements at the del Norte station, discussions about the future of the El Cerrito Plaza station and progressive policing and Community Engagement Bureau.

Introduction of Candidate

Uche Uwahemu introduced Benjamin Therriault – Candidate for Contra Costa County Sherriff.

Seamless Transit Initiative

[Ian Griffiths](#), Policy Director of [Seamless Bay Area](#) introduced the non-profit group. After a robust discussion, the Club voted to pass the resolution included in the newsletter Grassi/Nye with the minor typographical amendments as noted at the meeting: Vote: 11 – yes, 6 – no, 2 abstentions.

Announcements

Grassi requested to have AB 1400 (California Guaranteed Medicare For All) endorsement added to the April Club Agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm

4. Request for Nominations for Central Committee Alternate

Are you interested in participating in party politics on the County level? El Cerrito Democratic Club is seeking an alternative voting representative to the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (Central Committee).

The Central Committee meets the 3rd Thursday of the month via ZOOM at 7:00 pm. As an Alternate, you will become an Associate Member (\$24.00 yearly membership fee required) and be eligible to participate with one of our many committees such as Endorsements and Elections.

Please send an email to Executive Vice President Champagne Brown (cbrownecdc@gmail.com) with the subject line ECDC Alt. Voting Rep if you are interested. An alternate will be elected at our next general meeting.

5. Resolution in Support of AB 1400 (KALRA) – The California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act

The El Cerrito Democratic Club has been asked to bring up for discussion and a vote the resolution below in support of Assembly Bill 1400 (California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act; authored by State Assembly member Ash Kalra):

EL CERRITO DEMOCRATIC CLUB
(LETTERHEAD)

April 27, 2021

Assembly Member Jim Wood
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
Capitol Office, Room 6005
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0002

RE: AB 1400 (KALRA) THE CALIFORNIA GUARANTEED HEALTH CARE FOR ALL ACT – SUPPORT

Whereas every resident of the State of California should have a right to health care; and

Whereas the number of Californians before the Covid-19 pandemic without health insurance was 2.7 million, with 12 million Californians underinsured, despite important gains made since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA); and

Whereas the Covid-19 pandemic further exposed the dangers of our fragmented, profit-driven health care system, which leads to inequities and disparities in access to care and leads many Californians to delay seeking needed health care due to an inability to pay, leading to a sicker and poorer population in the long run; and

Whereas Californians, as individuals, employers and taxpayers have experienced a rise in the cost of health care and health care coverage in recent years, including rising premiums, deductibles, and copays, as well as restricted provider networks and high out-of-network charges; and

Whereas businesses have also experienced increases in the costs of health care benefits for their employees, and many employers are shifting a larger share of the cost of coverage to their employees or dropping coverage entirely; and

Whereas the ever-increasing costs of health care, which are further elevated due to the pandemic, challenge our already strapped State and municipal budgets; and

Whereas Assembly Bill 1400 (AB 1400) would establish a state-wide comprehensive universal single payer health care cost control system for the benefit of all residents of the State; and

Whereas AB 1400 would guarantee health care for every resident in California for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs; hospital, surgical and outpatient services; primary and preventive care; emergency services; reproductive care; dental and vision care; and long-term care; and

Whereas AB 1400 would eliminate co-pays and high deductibles, and reduce costs by slashing bureaucracy, cutting out insurance company waste and duplication; and give patients the freedom to choose their doctor; and

Whereas in order to equitably and effectively address the health care burden of the Covid-19 crisis, we must urge the California legislature to provide comprehensive health care to every resident of California; and

Whereas the El Cerrito Democratic Club's endorsement of AB 1400 is consistent with past support for other single payer and universal health care bills, most recently in 2017 support of SB 562, The Healthy California Act.

Now, therefore be it resolved that the El Cerrito Democratic Club supports single payer and universal health care for all Californians through AB 1400 (Kalra), the California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act, and urges our legislative representatives to work for passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

President, El Cerrito Democratic Club

6. Recommendation that the ECDC Endorse Congressman Mark DeSaulnier for Reelection

In our April meeting, the Club will vote on a resolution to endorse the candidacy of Congressman Mark DeSaulnier in his bid for reelection. Democratic Congressman DeSaulnier has served in Congress since 2015, representing the 11th Congressional District which includes El Cerrito and most of Contra Costa County.

7. Membership Renewal Reminder and Instructions

Please remember to renew your Club membership – and many thanks to all who have renewed already! Dues are still \$5 for students, \$20 for single members, and \$30 for two adults at same address.

You can renew online at: <https://ecdclub.org/join/> or you can mail your check to PO Box 192, El Cerrito, CA 94530. Please make checks payable to El Cerrito Democratic Club and provide an email address for all members.

Memberships follow the calendar year, so your renewal now is good through December 31, 2021. If you have questions, please email Neil Tsutsui, ECDC's VP for Membership, at: membership.ecdc@gmail.com. Thank you!

8. Link to 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 ECDC meeting.

The ECDC Bylaws are posted on the ECDC website: <https://ecdclub.org/>