



El Cerrito Democratic Club

Newsletter – December 2021

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ECDC
PO Box 192
El Cerrito CA 94530

Newsletter Editor: William Ktsanes



*Happy Holidays and
Best Wishes for the New Year
from the El Cerrito Democratic Club!*



1. ECDC Membership Meetings and Discussion Topics

The El Cerrito Democratic Club (ECDC) provides a forum for area residents to discuss and take action on issues and campaigns of local, national, and international importance. For example, in 2021 we joined efforts to defeat the recall of Governor Gavin Newsom, hosted a presentation about redistricting brought about by the 2020 Census, and took part in community forums related to housing development plans for the El Cerrito Plaza BART Station.

As we move into the New Year, we ask you to think about topics of interest and action items that can be brought up for discussion in 2022. Please share your ideas. *When we get together for our membership meeting in January, let us know what you would like on the agenda for the year to come.*

Our general membership meetings are open to all and held on the fourth Tuesday of each month except October and December, when we typically have our annual dinner and holiday party. In light of health and safety concerns around COVID-19, meetings are currently held via Zoom. The meeting agenda and regular Zoom link are published in each month's newsletter. (Our October 2021 annual dinner was held virtually via Zoom and our December 2021 holiday party was cancelled.)

- William Ktsanes

2. Call for Newsletter Submissions

The El Cerrito Democratic Club Newsletter is published monthly in advance of the membership meetings. ECDC members are invited and encouraged to submit articles and announcements regarding local issues and events likely of interest to the general membership. Submissions should be emailed to William Ktsanes, ECDC's Vice President for Publications, at wktsanes@gmail.com for review, editing and possible inclusion.

3. Membership Renewal Reminder and Instructions

The ECDC and its activities are supported by the annual dues of its members—still just \$5 for students, \$20 for single members, and \$30 for two adults at same address.

Membership is based on the calendar year. Please remember to renew your Club membership for 2022 – and many thanks to all who have renewed already!

You may join or renew either online at <https://ecdclub.org/join/> or by mailing a check to

ECDC Membership
PO Box 192
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Please make checks payable to “El Cerrito Democratic Club” and provide an email address for all individual members.

If you have questions, please email Neil Tsutsui, ECDC’s Vice President for Membership, at membership.ecdc@gmail.com.

Thank you!

- Neil Tsutsui

4. Agenda and Zoom Link for the Tuesday, January 25th ECDC General Meeting

The ECDC will not meet in December. The next general membership meeting will be on Tuesday, January 25th.

Link to Join the ECDC Zoom Meeting:

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

ZOOM Meeting ID: 843 0378 5299

Passcode: 111652

One tap mobile: +16699006833,,84303785299# or +14086380968,,84303785299#

Dial in by phone: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 408 638 0968

Meeting ID: 843 0378 5299

Tentative Agenda

6:20 pm – Assemble and Mingle

6:30 pm – Call to Order

6:35 pm – Approve Minutes from the November Meeting (**Action Item**)

6:39 pm – Officer Reports – Treasurer, Membership, Events, Newsletter, Website, Secretary

6:45 pm – Selection of ECDC Officers for 2022 (**Action Item**)

7:00 pm – DPCCC Report

7:05 pm – ECDC Diversity Committee Report

7:10 pm – Program: *To be Announced in the January Newsletter*

7:50 pm – Good of the Order

8:00 pm – Adjourn

The ECDC General Meeting is regularly scheduled from 6:30-8:00 pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month (with no meeting in October or December). While Covid-19 precautions prevent us from meeting in person, we encourage you join the Zoom call a few minutes early to mix-and-mingle with fellow ECDC members.

5. Upcoming ECDC Officer Elections and Request for Volunteers

Officer elections for the El Cerrito Democratic Club occur annually and are scheduled for the ECDC General Meeting on Tuesday, January 25th. *Member participation is highly encouraged!*

If you're interested in playing a more active role in the ECDC, please consider volunteering for one of the Club's officer positions. We are particularly in need of a new treasurer and records keeper as Kathy Fleming and Margaret Kavanaugh-Lynch have expressed their intent not to seek reelection in 2022.

Current Officers (2021)

- President - Greg Lyman
- Past President - Janet Abelson
- Executive Vice President -
Champagne Brown
- VP Membership - Neil Tsutsui
- VP Treasurer - Kathy Fleming
- VP Publications - William Ktsanes
- VP Records - Margaret Kavanaugh-Lynch
- VP Programs - Carolyn Wysinger
- VP Media - Madeline Kronenberg

Kathy and Margaret – *We greatly appreciate your work and thank you so much for your service to the ECDC. We will miss you both dearly!*

- William Ktsanes

6. Legislative and Congressional Redistricting Update

At our November general meeting last month, political consultant and attorney Latressa Alford spoke with the ECDC about the statewide redistricting process prompted by the national decennial census. She gave an excellent presentation to the Club which provided clarity on the redistricting process underway, an overview of tentative maps under consideration, and information about what community members could do to have their voices heard. This week the California Citizens Redistricting Commission (CCRC) posted their final draft maps online for public view at www.wedrawthelinesca.org/map_viewer. The CCRC is expected to provide final approval and submit the maps to the Secretary of State within a few days.

Unlike in most other states where the redistricting process is heavily partisan and results in absurdly gerrymandered districts, the process in California is relatively independent and sensible. The CCRC—a 14-person Commission comprised of five Democrat, five Republican and four unaffiliated members—applied a “Communities of Interest” model focused on keeping together neighborhoods and communities with common policy concerns. In mapping out new legislative and congressional districts, they seemingly ignored existing congressional lines and the home addresses of incumbent politicians.

As a result of population shifts captured by the 2020 census, California is poised to have one fewer Congressional district, dropping from 53 to 52 seats (each of which will initially represent approximately 761,000 residents). The CCRC’s final map effectively eliminates the Los Angeles-area seat held by Democratic Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, with much of her district folding into that of Long Beach. (Roybal-Allard, the first Mexican American woman elected to Congress, announced this week that she won’t seek re-election.)

Early indications are that the CCRC’s less partisan approach will result in California having more electorally-competitive Congressional districts and more Latino-majority districts than before. Latinos, who account for approximately 40% of California’s population, will make up a majority of the voting-age population in sixteen of the State’s 52 newly-drawn Congressional districts, up from just seven before. Democrats will have more registered voters in 43 of the districts, which, of course, is no guarantee of electoral victory.

- William Ktsanes

7. Future Events – *Mark Your Calendar!*

ECDC December General Meeting – No meeting in December; *Happy Holidays to everyone!*

ECDC January General Meeting – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, January 25th (4th Tuesday of the month);

ECDC annual officer elections; remote via Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87280246407>

ECDC February General Meeting – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, February 22nd (4th Tuesday of the month); remote via Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87280246407>

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