



# *El Cerrito Democratic Club*

## *Newsletter – July 2020*

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July 28, 2020 @ 6:30 PM

Online @ Zoom:

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

Meeting ID: 843 0378 5299

Password: 111652

Meeting Location: Telephone:

+16699006833,,84303785299# US (San Jose)

+14086380968,,84303785299# US (San Jose)

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ECDC

P.O. Box 192

El Cerrito, CA 94530

## 1. Meeting Agenda June 23, 2020 @ 6:30PM via Zoom.

Board Members:

Janet Abelson, President

Kathy Fleming, Vice President Treasurer

Peter Chau, Immediate Past President (on leave)

Margaret Kavanaugh-Lynch, Vice

President-Programs

Champagne Brown, Executive Vice President

Greg Lyman, Vice President-Membership

Madeline Kronenberg, Vice President-Media

Carolyn Wysinger, Vice President-

Publications (Newsletters)

Glen Nethercut, Vice President-Records

- 6:30 Call to Order
- 6:32 Treasurer's Report
- 6:34 Membership Report
- 6:36 Report from Club Representative to Central Committee
- 6:40 Other Officer Reports
- 6:45 Discussion of formation of a Diversity and Equity Subcommittee
- 7:00 Program – Consideration and possible Endorsement of State Propositions
- 8:30 Schedule of Upcoming Meetings
  - August 15 or 16 (tentative) ECDC Endorsement of Candidates on November 2020 Ballot
  - September 22 To be determine
  - October ? Annual Dinner - Mark DeSaulnier invited
  - November ? To be determined
  - December ? Holiday Party at President Janet Abelson's House
- 8:35 Announcements and Good of the Order
- 8:40 Adjourn

## 2. July 28 Meeting Preview

We will discuss the ballot measures. The Executive Board is prepared to present the pro and con arguments of the Statewide ballot measures. If there are any representatives or members that are invested in a Proposition, they will be afforded time to speak. If there is a contested proposition, up to three speakers for and three speakers against will be allowed time to speak. The ballot for the propositions will be distributed August 15, 2020, along with the Candidates ballot. Presentation and discussion will include Propositions 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26.

The Executive board proposes a "Yes" vote on Propositions 15-18. Propositions 15-18 will not subject to debate, instead they will listed on the consent calendar of the July meeting. A brief summary is offered below:

**Proposition 15:** California Proposition 15, Tax on Commercial and Industrial Properties for Education and Local Government Funding Initiative (2020)

A "yes" vote supports this constitutional amendment to require commercial and industrial properties, except those zoned as commercial agriculture, to be taxed based on their market value, rather than their purchase price.

The ballot initiative would amend the California State Constitution to require commercial and industrial properties, except those zoned as commercial agriculture, to be taxed based on their market value. In California, the proposal to assess taxes on commercial and industrial properties at market value, while continuing to assess taxes on residential properties based on the purchase price, is known as split roll. The change from the purchase price to market value would be phased-in beginning in fiscal year 2022-2023. Properties, such as retail centers, whose occupants are 50 percent or more small businesses would be taxed based on market value beginning in fiscal year 2025-2026 (or at a later date that the legislature decides on).

The ballot initiative would make an exception for properties whose business owners have \$3.00 million or less in holdings in California; these properties would continue to be taxed based on their purchase price. The ballot initiative would exempt a small business's tangible personal property from taxes and \$500,000 in value for a non-small business's tangible personal property. The state fiscal analyst estimated that, upon full implementation, the ballot initiative would generate between \$8 billion and \$12.5 billion in revenue per year.

**California Proposition 16, Repeal Proposition 209 Affirmative Action Amendment (2020)**

A "yes" vote supports this constitutional amendment to repeal Proposition 209 (1996), which prohibited the state from discriminating against or granting preferential treatment to persons on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in public employment, public education, and public contracting.

The ballot measure would repeal Proposition 209 (1996), which added the following provision to the California Constitution: "The State shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting."

**California Proposition 17, Voting Rights Restoration for Persons on Parole Amendment (2020)**

A "yes" vote supports this constitutional amendment to allow people on parole for felony convictions to vote. As of 2020, the California Constitution disqualifies people with felonies from voting until their imprisonment and parole are completed. The ballot measure would amend the state constitution to allow people with felonies who are on parole to vote; therefore, the ballot measure would keep imprisonment as a disqualification for voting but remove parole status.

**California Proposition 18, Primary Voting for 17-Year-Olds Amendment (2020)**

A "yes" vote supports this constitutional amendment to allow 17-year-olds who will be 18 at the time of the next general election to vote in primary elections and special elections. The ballot measure would allow 17-year-olds who will be 18 at the time of the next general election to vote in primary elections and special elections.

### **3. July 16 Special Meeting Summary**

The El Cerrito Democratic Club passed the George Floyd Resolution at the Special Meeting on July 16, 2020.

## 4. Diversity and Equity Subcommittee

Discuss the formation of a subcommittee to pursue the following items:

- Develop and Implement a plan to have an intentional outreach to attract diverse members to the club
- Host a bi-annual training around a particular political process, particularly targeting high school and college students. Working with their respective Political Science or Ethnic Studies Depts.
- As Executive Board seats and important seats within the club become available, make an intentional effort to reach out to those who have not served so we can cultivate diverse voices of leadership at the table
- Encourage each member, particularly leaders, to have a goal of bringing in at least 2 members a year who are diverse
- Develop a curriculum of speakers and newsletters on inclusion and diversity to maintain a dialogue around race in every ECDC meeting

## 5. Candidate Endorsement Date Changed by Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC) and ECDC Standing Rule

All year we have published the Candidate Endorsements will occur on Tuesday August 25 and Saturday August 29, and now we are changing the dates to Saturday August 15 and, possibly, Sunday August 16. Why? In this time of Shelter-in-Place (SIP), the distribution of printed materials is more important than ever. Two years ago, the DPCCC endorsements were in September and the printed materials arrived too late for ECDC to walk and drop on doorsteps. DPCCC is solving this problem by moving their endorsement process up, to Thursday August 20, 2020. They have a 72-hour notice requirement. For our club's endorsements to be considered by the DPCCC, we need to close our vote by Sunday, August 16, 2020. Please see the related online voting article in this newsletter.

Additionally, to make it easier on the candidates, ECDC, Lambda Dems, West County Dems, Hercules Dems and the DPCCC propose to have one Endorsement Forum. This Endorsement Forum will be Saturday August 15, and, possibly, Sunday August 16. The final list of candidates will be determined on Wednesday August 12.

We only learned of the dates of the Endorsement Forum on Saturday July 11. July 11 was the same date we published as the last day to join if you wanted to participate in the August candidate endorsements. July 11 is 45 days prior to Tuesday August 25, because our Standing Rules require you to be a member for 45 days in order to vote in an endorsement. Standing Rules: [https://ecdclub.org/wp-content/uploads/ecdc-Standing-Rules-2016\\_07\\_26\\_Final.pdf](https://ecdclub.org/wp-content/uploads/ecdc-Standing-Rules-2016_07_26_Final.pdf) This matters because we had members join after July 1. See related membership article in this newsletter. The Board is suggesting we waive the 45-day rule for this year because the date change was imposed upon us by the DPCCC. Honoring the published membership cut-off date of July 11 acknowledges the intent of the rules, as everyone that joined had no knowledge of

the endorsement date change. The discussion and vote to waive the 45-day rule (Rule A.3) will be held at the July 28, 2020 meeting. All members, including members who joined after July 1, can participate in the July 28 vote. The waiting period to participate in voting only applies to endorsement votes.

## 6. ECDC Embraces Online Voting

Members with registered emails will get an email from [noreply@opavote.com](mailto:noreply@opavote.com). This may show up as “OpaVote Voting Link” in your email. Please be sure to check your Junk folder, as your filter may block this from arriving in your inbox. Inside the email will be a blue button with the word “Vote” in it. It will be a graphic, so you may need to allow images to be loaded in order to see the button. Our election coordinator will be Scott Lyons and his contact information will be in the automated email from OpaVote and he will trouble shoot any issues. **PLEASE DO NOT FORWARD THIS EMAIL.** This ballot is linked to this email account and you should use it to vote. After you check off the boxes, you will be asked to review your ballot. When you click on the submit button at the bottom of the ballot, you will get a pop-up screen asking to confirm your vote. If you have your pop-up blocker turned on, this confirmation screen may not show up. Please turn off your pop-up blocker before proceeding with the vote. Once you click on the second submit button, you will not be able to change your vote.

Members who are the second person at a household and that do not have an email registered with the Vice President of Membership will need to rely on a link to the OpaVote website AND a unique code. The link and the code will be sent to the email that is registered with the VP of Membership for their partner at the single address. The email address that receives the website link and code may forward this email to the intended recipient. The voting experience will be similar to the description above. Scott Lyons will be your resource for any issues.

The number of members without emails leads us to propose a single ballot for both Propositions and Candidates. This Ballot will be made available for voting after the Candidate Filing Date of August 12 passes. We anticipate the Ballot will be made available by Saturday August 15, 2020. At this time, we are proposing a voting deadline of 4:00PM on Sunday August 16, 2020. **Please be sure to vote by the deadline of 4:00PM on Sunday August 16, 2020.**

The website for OpaVote is <https://www.opavote.com/>. All votes are anonymous. Scott is able to see who has voted and not how you have voted. This is important to assist you with your voting experience.

## 7. Election Year Attracts New Member

A third of our members are first time members. Every other year, as we enter the endorsement season, we see a spike in membership. And the spike in membership in presidential years is more profound. Here are membership counts going back to 2012 (the limit of our records).

2012: 237

2013: 152

2014: 195

2015: 151  
 2016: 323  
 2017: 179  
 2018: 203  
 2019: 171  
 2020: 256

The average membership for an odd year is 163, for mid term election years is 199 and presidential election years is 272. As you can see, 2020 is no exception.

And the timing of new membership is no mystery. Here are membership applications by month:

March 2020: 0  
 April 2020: 12  
 May 2020: 10  
 June 2020: 33  
 July 2020: 94

The cut off for endorsements was advertised as July 11, and 94 members joined or renewed in the first 11 days of July. The vast majority of the members who joined in July were from Kensington. The Standing Rules allows El Cerrito Democratic Club to take endorsement positions for jurisdictions when at least 15% of the membership are from that jurisdiction. Here are the current communities represented by ECDC members:

Albany: 5  
 Berkeley: 5  
 El Cerrito: 114  
 El Sobrante: 7  
 Emeryville: 1  
 Hercules: 2  
 Kensington: 89  
 Mountain View 2  
 Oakland: 1  
 Pinole: 1  
 Point Richmond: 1  
 Richmond: 22  
 San Pablo: 5  
 Vallejo: 1

Of our 256 members, 123 members were members in 2019. Of the 133 members who were not members in 2019, 5 were members in 2016 and 2018, 4 were last members in 2012, 15 were last members in 2016 and 11 were last members in 2018. That means 98 new members joined ECDC this year, representing 38% of our membership. Welcome to those first time members!

## **8. Upcoming Flip Michigan Event Sunday 7/19**

Sunday July 19 3PM Pacific / 6PM Eastern

# Flipping Michigan

A Dialogue Between Progressive Legislators



## Laurie Pohutsky (MI-HD19)

A rising star in the Michigan House, Representative Laurie Pohutsky is the voice of a new generation of Michiganders protecting the environment while fighting for living wages, affordable universal health care, and student debt relief. Laurie flipped her seat in 2018 by 224 votes.



## Nancy Skinner (CA-SD9)

Representing nearly 1 million of the most progressive people in the most progressive state, Senator Nancy Skinner is a legislative powerhouse. In her 3 decades of public service, her legislation has changed California and inspired a generation of East Bay activists.

**Moderated by Emmy Award winning documentary filmmaker Brad Marshland**

**Suggested donation:** \$20.20+ to benefit Pohutsky for Michigan

**RSVP:** <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/flipmich>

**Info:** [ebaevents@gmail.com](mailto:ebaevents@gmail.com)

Sponsored by East Bay Activist Alliance with the support of Michigan House Democrats and StateWide Indivisible Michigan.

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