



El Cerrito Democratic Club

Newsletter – July 2021

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ECDC
PO Box 192
El Cerrito CA 94530

Newsletter Editor: William Ktsanes

1. Agenda for the Tuesday, July 27th Meeting

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#

+14086380968,,84303785299#

Dial in by phone:

+1 669 900 6833 or +1 408 638 0968

Meeting ID: 843 0378 5299

Agenda

6:20	Assemble and Mingle
6:30	Call to Order
6:35	Approve Minutes from the June Meeting (Action Item)
6:39	Officer Reports – Treasurer, Membership, Events, Newsletter, Website, Secretary
6:45	DPCCC Report
6:50	ECDC Diversity Committee Presentation
7:00	Program: Discussion of Stop The Recall activities
7:50	Good of the Order
8:00	Adjourn

2. July Meeting Preview: Stop the Recall – We Can Help!

The recall election will be on Tuesday September 14, 2021. Your absentee ballot will be mailed on August 14, 2021. Be sure to vote early and vote “NO” on the first question; should the Governor be recalled.

That is not enough. We need to get the word out to all voters and educate them on why their vote matters. This election is a matter of numbers – if the simple majority selects “YES” to recall, then the highest vote getter is Governor – even if the candidate receives way less than the majority of the votes cast in the election. On Tuesday, we will be exploring all the ways the club, and individuals, can stop the recall. We will be looking for volunteers to distribute palm cards, post signs, carry banners on corners or overpasses, table farmer markets, phone and

text bank and any other activity you would like to consider. Here is a link to the flyer attached:

[Stop the Recall - Activist Work](#)

CADEM prepared toolkit with some great Stop the Recall info that might be helpful – [Stop the Recall - CADEM Phone Bank Resources](#)

Labor prepared terrific resources in support of Governor Newsom, against the Recall

- <https://governornewsomstandswithworkers.com/resources/>

Please feel free to use the following printable materials:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16ZZjUcz9bvY1qhdptm9R1oqOLlmi8oYn?usp=sharing>

This one-pager covers basic voter information like key dates and how to vote. Volunteers can reference this sheet to direct voters on how/when/where to vote.

[Voter Education One-Pager](#)

This doc covers some of the great things that Governor Newsom has done for the state of California. Volunteers can use this to familiarize themselves with the Governor's record which can help with talking points.

[Governor Newsom's Record](#)

I am looking forward to discussing what we all can do, as a group and as individuals.

- Greg Lyman

3. August Meeting Preview: Transit Oriented Development at BART El Cerrito Plaza Station

The ECDC May Meeting started at 6:00 PM with a presentation by Holliday Development around their proposal for housing at the BART El Cerrito Plaza Station. Following the presentation, there was more than 90 minutes of comments. Members were split between staying with the Holiday meeting and our Club's business meeting. At the business meeting, members expressed general support for the project. At the June meeting, I reported that the Executive Board would like to make supporting a good transit-oriented project at the El Cerrito Plaza BART station an ECDC focus. We reached out to Holliday Development and they have agreed to provide a brief presentation and receive our comments at the August 24 General Membership Meeting. This will be an opportunity to shape the project and learn how we can, as individuals and as a club, move this important development forward.

- Greg Lyman

4. Democratic Party of Contra Costa County Barbeque – October 2nd Save the Date and Mark Your Calendar!

If public health and COVID-19 safety protocols allow, the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC) will host a barbeque and gathering on October 2nd. It should be a great opportunity to strengthen our community as we connect and reconnect “in person” – *and lots of fun!*

Date/Time: Saturday, October 2, 11 am - 5 pm

Where: Pleasant Hill Park
147 Gregory Lane
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Directions: [Google Map Link to Pleasant Hill Park](#)

As we get closer to the date, updates will be available from Cody Keller (DPCCC Recruitment Committee Chair and BBQ organizer) and posted on the DPCCC website:
<https://contracostadems.com/>



- William Ktsanes

5. Appeal to Support DA Diana Becton – June 7, 2022 Election

Our District Attorney Diana Becton has been working hard to bring change to the DA’s office; and it has not been an easy road. With attacks from inside the house to being labeled the Contra Costa County Republican Party’s number 1 target in 2022, DA Becton can use all of our support—including that of the El Cerrito Democratic Club.

Below are a few of District Attorney Diana Becton’s accomplishments over the last three years:

2018

Announced partnership with The Vera Institute of Justice (VERA). The partnership will allow the DA’s office to take a critical look at its own decision-making by joining an exclusive aimed at ending racial and implicit bias in the justice system. This specific program focuses on using data to inform and implement progressive policies and decision making within the DA office. A new policy for the DA’s Office investigations into fatal incidents involving members of law enforcement. At the conclusion of the criminal investigation, DA Becton will publicly release a report in all law enforcement involved fatal incidents if no charges are filed. The reports will be

posted on the office's website. This is the first time the DA's Office will consistently release reports to the public if no charges are filed against an officer.

2019

Awarded \$1 million to establish a county-wide juvenile diversion pre-filing program. This diversion program is the first county-wide program for Contra Costa County. We partnered with RYSE Youth Center and Impact Justice to initiate a restorative justice program that will redirect youth from the juvenile and criminal justice system, reduce the pipeline into the criminal justice system, lower recidivism, and reduce disparities in the criminal justice system. Joined Code For America's initiative, to dismiss thousands of old marijuana convictions. Roughly 2400 individuals received relief and will longer have felony and/or misdemeanor convictions on their record.

2020

Formed a Reimagine Youth Justice Task Force that will study and make recommendations on the most effective ways to invest in our justice involved youth through restorative, community-based solutions instead of investing in youth prisons which have proven to result in worse outcomes for our children and families.

Created a new process to improve investigations by the DA's Office for officer-involved shootings. Held the first-ever training for the Investigative Unit on officer-involved shootings.

Please support District Attorney Diana Becton's campaign for re-election by visiting <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/diana-becton-for-district-attorney-2022-1>.

- Champagne Brown

6. Discussion with Patricia Durham (El Cerrito Historical Society Board Member) – “From Back Streets to Major Civic Event, The Story of El Cerrito's Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration”

The El Cerrito Historical Society invites you to attend a Zoom discussion with Patricia Durham, a founder of the 32-year-old El Cerrito Martin Luther King Jr. Parade and Rally who will discuss how the event came to be. “Back then Martin Luther King Day was not a holiday in El Cerrito. Back then, we were only allowed to walk the back streets of the city,” she recalls. Founders of the event, which was originally not sanctioned by the city, came from St. Peter Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and the El Cerrito branch of the NAACP. Today, Durham, adds: “Not only is Dr. King and the Dream recognized as a holiday in El Cerrito, we now walk/drive down San Pablo Avenue.” Durham is a historical society board member.

Date/Time: 4 pm, Saturday, August 21st

Link to Join the Zoom Discussion:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88900253478?pwd=TE05eitjV0N5akFwZDlNZHdiV0trZz09>

Dial in by phone:

+1 669 900 6833 or +1 408 638 0968

Meeting ID: 889 0025 3478 Passcode: 143031

For more information, please contact Dave Weinstein by phone at 510-524-1737 or email at davidsweinstein@yahoo.com.

7. Appear from Healthy California, Now!

(Below is a fundraising message we received from Healthy California Now, <https://healthyca.org>)

We are very excited to give you an update on [how you can help ensure that our movement to guarantee healthcare for all in California continues to grow](#). But first let's look at how far we have come this year!

Thousands of Californians from around the state signed our petition, calling on Governor Newsom to lead the way on Medicare for All in the Golden State by engaging at the federal level to move forward on necessary funding waivers. We delivered these petitions at our HUGE action on June 15th, where the Governor's staff announced that Gov. Newsom has written to the Biden Administration regarding waivers and in support of legislation that would remove some potential hurdles for California to transition to Medicare for All. "California has the structures and the will to supply health care for all," the Governor's representative said during the rally. "We just need federal support and waivers allowing us to move to universal health care." This victory and vital step forward would not have happened without pressure from you and this campaign over the last few months. But while this is significant progress, it is not enough. We must keep pushing the Governor to use the tools he already has to engage the federal government and to build a Medicare for All system for California. [Our next opportunity to #KeepThePromise will be virtual and in-person events on July 31st.](#)

As Healthy California Now (HCN) has moved forward, we also brought some hard facts to the debate. First we released a [poll showing that 84% of democrats support Medicare for All](#), and only 11% (yes, just 11%) oppose it. Then, through our work to move the Healthy California for All Commission to lead on a path to guarantee healthcare - we then released a [report showing California saves \\$223 billion with single payer](#).

Our movement is shifting the tides in Sacramento. Recently, leadership of the Healthy California for All Commission made clear that it's not "if" but "when and how" we move to guaranteed healthcare. With their report coming out in early 2022, now is the time to ramp up our organizing to win! To continue this important work, we need your support!

Please [become a member now](#) to receive a Healthy California Now facemask for your contribution of \$5.00 or more! And please consider a [monthly donation](#) to sustain our important work and finally win healthcare justice in California.

- Healthy California Now, <https://healthyca.org>

8. 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!

- Neil Tsutsui

9. 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/>



STOP THE RECALL - ACTIVIST WORK

Do you know of other Stop the Recall activities?

Email info to Cecilia at volunteer@contracostadems.com or call 510-693-4259

PHONE BANKS

- Contra Costa Dems has joined a multi-county coalition for Zoom phone banks, starting August 7. Our initial phone banks are Saturdays 10 am - 12 noon & Wednesdays 6 - 8 pm ... *Mobilize links are under construction!*
 - We are looking for phone bank leaders (Zoom tech leads, breakout room trainers, or one-on-one support) ... contact Cecilia volunteer@contracostadems.com or call 510-693-4259
- In-person phone banks at Rossmoor on Tuesdays & Wednesdays, starting August 17
- Interested in setting up your own phone banks ... here are [CADEM Resources](#) to get you started
- *More phone banks will continue to be added*

TEXTS

- Send Stop the Recall texts with Democrats of Rossmoor ... email DemsofRossmoorTexters@gmail.com
- *More texting opportunities will continue to be added*

NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP TOOLS

- Does your club or group want to launch a neighborhood leadership team?
- Contra Costa Dems will provide the tools and training to access Political Data Inc (PDI) ... develop your local grassroots organizing team, meet your neighbors, and make a difference
- Contact Cecilia at volunteer@contracostadems.com or call 510-693-4259 and we'll get you started

FARMERS' MARKETS

- Conversations matter! Talk to your neighbors at the local farmers' markets
 - Brentwood director3@contracostadems.com
 - Danville president@srvdems.org
 - Martinez <https://www.mobilize.us/cadems/event/398593/>
 - Moraga <https://www.mobilize.us/cadems/event/400396/>
 - Walnut Creek <https://www.mobilize.us/cadems/event/398358/>

OVERPASS BANNERS

- San Ramon Valley Democrats prepared two Vote NO Recall banners for highway overpasses ... connect with Brodie Hilp (btiford@pacbell.net) to help get out the word

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Share images and info on your social media links
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1y7IXPfaqVHuM89oQhSgalbECh7NsQeqM?usp=sharing>