



# El Cerrito Democratic Club

## Newsletter – July 2023

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ECDC  
PO Box 192  
El Cerrito CA 94530

Newsletter Editor: William Ktsanes

# 1. El Cerrito Democratic Club General Information

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. 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.

Our monthly General Membership Meetings are in a hybrid format generally accessible both in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments (10860 San Pablo Ave, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remotely via Zoom. 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.

We encourage you to join the Zoom call 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 its 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.

Officer elections for the El Cerrito Democratic Club occur annually and were last held during the General Membership Meeting in January. Special thanks to our volunteer officers:

## El Cerrito Democratic Club Officers (2023)

- President – Champagne Brown
- Past President – Greg Lyman
- Executive Vice President – Carolyn Wysinger
- VP Media – Madeline Kronenberg
- VP Membership – Neil Tsutsui
- VP Programs – **vacant**
- VP Publications – William Ktsanes
- 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. **The ECDC Executive Board has an opening for a Vice President of Programs who will help arrange guest presentations for our monthly membership meetings.** Please reach out to Champagne Brown or Carolyn Wysinger if you’re interested in joining.

*Help is always greatly appreciated!*

- William Ktsanes, VP Publications

## 2. Information and Zoom Link for the General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>

Our General Membership Meetings are generally held in a hybrid format, accessible both in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments (10860 San Pablo Ave, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and via Zoom.

Zoom Link to Join the ECDC Meeting: <http://tiny.cc/ECDCmemberMtg>

(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87570578180?pwd=MWN0T2hVY0VXeEhubHN0aE9xZGpKUT09>)

Zoom Meeting ID: 875 7057 8180; Zoom Passcode: c5fQKR

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

Meeting ID: 875 7057 8180; Phone Passcode: 468602

Please note that the Passcode is different if you dial in by phone rather than join the meeting through the Zoom link.

### Agenda (Tentative)

6:20 pm – Assemble and Mingle

6:30 pm – Call to Order

6:35 pm – Approve Minutes from the June 2023 General Membership Meeting (**Action Item**)

6:39 pm – Officer Reports: Treasurer, Membership, Programs, Publications, Media, and Records

6:45 pm – Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC) Report

6:50 pm – Election of Pre-Conference Delegates (**Action Item**)

Nominees: Paul Fadelli, Madeline Kronenberg, William Ktsanes, Greg Lyman, Dwight Merrill, Gloria Merrill, Al Miller, and Leslie Reckler

7:00 pm – Program: “Making El Cerrito Affordable and Livable,” Lisa Motoyama; Affordable Housing Expert and Mayor of El Cerrito (20-Minute Presentation Followed by a 15-minute Q&A Session)

7:35 pm – Democratic Party of Contra Costa County Roosevelt Dinner; Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>; ten seats available from sponsorship (**Action Item**)

7:45 pm – Announcements (Please Limit Announcements to Two Minutes Each)

7:50 pm – Good of the Order

7:55 pm – Adjourn

*\* Please send calendar events to the Executive Board in advance for possible discussion at the General Membership Meeting and publication in the newsletter.*

- Champagne Brown, ECDC President

### 3. Minutes from the June 27<sup>th</sup> ECDC General Membership Meeting

El Cerrito Democratic Club  
General Membership Meeting Minutes  
June 27, 2023  
(via Zoom Only this Month)

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**President Brown Called the Meeting to Order at 6:30 p.m.**

**Approve Minutes from the May 2023 General Membership Meeting (Action Item)**

The minutes were approved.

**Officer Reports: Treasurer, Membership, Programs, Publications, Media, Records, President Report**

- Membership - 155 members in good standing.
- Programs - Working on speakers for the July "Housing" presentation.
- President - Thoughts of adding a social ½ hour prior to the meeting to keep and grow relationships. Will take this to the Eboard and will come back to the general membership in July.

**Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC) Report (Brown)**

- Presentation by Ken Carlson, New Board Supervisors member (Area 4). Willing to engage in discussion on the formation of an oversight commission over sheriff operations. Interested in the type of oversight body that can provide guidance.
- **Bylaw Change** Whenever a member arrives, they will be eligible to vote on an action item. It used to be that you needed to be there from when quorum was established to vote. The change was initiated to refrain from silencing anyone's voice. It is expected that members will show up on time, however.
- **District 1 Update (Nye)**
  - Clubs are doing outreach - ECDC will be at El Cerrito's July 4th celebration. West County Dems have been at Cinco De Mayo, Richmond Pride, Juneteenth. Visibility interests new members.
  - Mister Phillips gave his resignation to District 1. There will be an election to take over the remaining time on the seat. Any voters/candidates for the seat needs to be a paid member of District 1. The election is only to fill the remaining time in the seat. Then, the person will need to run again in a public election. NOTE: Getting publicly elected does not automatically make you a delegate to the state party.

**Program: "The American Way: Gun Violence in America." Vanessa Smart, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America**

- Moms Demand Action was started by Shannon Watts after Sandy Hook. There is now a chapter in every state.

- Grassroots movement fighting for public safety measures that can protect people from gun violence in America.
- **What do they do:**
  - Support Gun Laws, Support Local Partners and Strategies, Elect Gun Sense Candidates, Secure Gun Storage, Train and Support Volunteers, Create Awareness
- **Firearms are the #1 leading cause of death for American children and teens beating out motor vehicle accidents, poisoning, cancer and suffocation**
- Gun violence is preventable. Work in communities to encourage a culture of responsible gun ownership. Pass stronger gun laws and close loopholes.
- Evertown's School Safety Report  
<https://everytownresearch.org/search/school%20safety%20report>
- Suicide Prevention Hotline Call 988 across the country. Very new... not even a year old.

### Legislation at the CA State Level

- AB 28 (Gabriel) Modest excise tax on guns and ammunition will fund programs to prevent gun violence.
- SB 2 (Portantino) Strengthening laws around those that carry firearms in public.

### At the National Level

- Working to reinstate the ban on the sale of assault weapons.

### How to get involved

Download the Demand Action App

MOMS DEMAND ACTION  
FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA

TEXT "APP" TO 644-33

**Actions**

- NY State Virtual New Year Open House  
Jan 21, 10:00 am
- National School Safety Workshop @ 1:00 PM CST  
Jan 19
- UC January Evening Member Meeting  
Jan 26, 7:00 pm
- UC January Morning Member Meeting  
Jan 21, 10:00 am

Apple

Android

15

- The research proves that states with stricter gun control laws have fewer gun violence deaths. <https://everytownresearch.org/rankings/>
- **BE SMART** [BeSMARTforkids.org](http://BeSMARTforkids.org)
  - S -Secure all guns in home and vehicle
  - M - Model responsible behavior
  - A - Ask if there are unsecured guns in other homes
  - R - Recognize the roles guns play in suicide
  - T- Tell your peers to be SMART

### **Democratic Party of Contra Costa County Roosevelt Dinner on Thursday, August 24th**

- Major DPCCC Fundraiser and the dollars are used to support candidates in running for office. Fiona Ma to be honored at the Roosevelt Dinner. VIP invites are out. Katie Porter, Barbara Lee, Newsom. Speakers Confirmed: Shannon Watts. Working on Justin Jones.
- ECDC to Sponsor at the \$600 “Advocate” level.
- Additional private club members donate \$400 (Miller, Brown, Quinto, Reckler)
- This brings ECDC to the \$1,000 level.

### **ECDC Budget Allocation and Sponsorship Proposals (Action Items)**

- On the motion of Tsutsui and the second of Crowley, a contribution of \$600 was unanimously approved for the DPCC’s Roosevelt dinner with no abstentions nor nays.
- Along with private matching funds from Club members, the ECDC is at the \$1,000 level with 10 seats available.
- President Brown will reach out to the West County Dems and Kensington club to find out about pooling additional funds.
- At the July meeting, there will be a discussion of who will attend.

### **Call to Action: City of El Cerrito’s “WorldOne 4th of July Festival” (Volunteers Needed)**

#### **Volunteer Shifts: 10 am-12 pm (Setup); 12-2 pm, 2-4 pm, 4-6 pm (Tear Down)**

- All members are free to come at any time and are encouraged to stop by and cover shift time at the booth.
- Neil to e-blast the membership to find volunteers to cover the booth.

### **Announcements**

- Labor to Labor Dinner (Nye)
- Bank Signers Complete in the ECDC Bank Account (Reckler)
- El Cerrito has 40% Reserves (Quinto)

### **Adjourn**

President Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m

– Leslie Reckler, VP Records

#### **4. July Program: “Making El Cerrito Affordable and Livable,” Lisa Motoyama; Affordable Housing Expert and Mayor of El Cerrito**

Please join us in welcoming Lisa Motoyama as our guest and program speaker at the July 25<sup>th</sup> El Cerrito Democratic Club General Membership Meeting.

Lisa is a Senior Affordable Housing Finance Consultant at Community Economics, a firm that provides technical expertise in the field of nonprofit, community-based affordable housing finance and development. In 2020, Lisa was elected to the El Cerrito City Council and, since 2022, has served as Mayor.



- William Ktsanes, VP Publications

##### Lisa Motoyama

Lisa joined Community Economics in 2018, bringing together her experience and expertise from work across the public, nonprofit and for profit affordable housing development sectors, and through the lifecycle of development from feasibility to refinance and recapitalization. With over 25 years of housing development experience, Lisa brings her passion and expertise to improving the lives of low income people.

Prior to Community Economics, she served as a program director at the San Francisco Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development where she was primarily responsible for the infrastructure and real estate aspects of the nation’s first large-scale public housing transformation and reparations effort. During her tenure, 643 units were completed or started construction, and entitlements and development agreements approved for 3,300 units.

Before her transition to the public sector, Lisa was an affordable housing developer and advocate in the nonprofit sector. In her previous position as Housing Development Director at Resources for Community Development, she was responsible for the development of over 1100 units serving over 3,000 low income adults and children, many with special needs.

In addition to her work experience, she has served in volunteer positions ranging from the Contra Costa County Affordable Housing Finance Committee, and the EBHO Board of Directors, to the El Cerrito Planning Commission and the Oversight Board of the San Francisco Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure. She earned her master’s degree in City and Regional Planning at UC Berkeley.

Source: <https://communityeconomics.org/lisa-motoyama/>

## 5. 2023 Pre-Endorsement Conference Delegates Election

El Cerrito Democratic Club will participate in the California Democratic Party's (CADEM) Pre-Endorsement Conference on October 21-22. Pre-Endorsement Conference allows CADEM Regions to participate in endorsement recommendations for US House (CD), State Senate (SD), and State Assembly (AD) elections. ECDC participation ensures our voices are heard during the endorsement process for candidates.

Although CADEM still has to finalize the numbers, ECDC is on track to be awarded five delegates with the potential of 7 if our roster holds stable after member verification. ECDC will elect five delegates with two alternates. If ECDC is awarded six delegates, the alternate with the highest vote will become a voting delegate. If ECDC is awarded seven delegates, then both alternates will become voting delegates for Pre-Endorsement.

The election for Pre-Endorsement will be held via the poll function for members who will participate electronically on Zoom. Paper ballots will be provided for members who participate in person. The vote total from the paper ballots and electronic polling will be combined to determine the candidates with the highest vote and our alternates.

The following members have been nominated to represent ECDC:

- Paul Fadelli
- Madeline Kronenberg
- William Ktsanes
- Greg Lyman
- Dwight Merill
- Gloria Merrill
- Al Miller
- Leslie Reckler

- Champagne Brown, ECDC President

## 6. El Cerrito Democratic Club Monthly Programs

Below are programs tentatively scheduled for the El Cerrito Democratic Club's remaining 2023 general membership meetings. Thank you to everyone who provided input and suggestions. *We've had an exciting year with many interesting and informative programs still to come!*

July: Affordable Housing in El Cerrito

August: Development and the Proposed Library at the El Cerrito Plaza BART Station

September: Business Roundtable (with discussion of an expected 2024 ballot measure sponsored by various Chambers of Commerce and corporations seeking to make it more difficult for California cities and school districts to pass bond measures)

October: Annual ECDC Dinner

November: Election Outlook (in advance of the March 2024 Primary)

December: Annual ECDC Holiday Celebration



## 7. Future Events – *Mark Your Calendar!*

### *El Cerrito Democratic Club General Membership Meetings and Events*

**ECDC July General Membership Meeting** – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>

(4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments (10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link

<http://tiny.cc/ECDCmemberMtg>

**ECDC August General Membership Meeting** – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>

(4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments (10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link

<http://tiny.cc/ECDCmemberMtg>

**ECDC September General Membership Meeting** – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>

(4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments (10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link

<http://tiny.cc/ECDCmemberMtg>

**ECDC Annual Dinner** – Date, time and guest speaker TBD; most likely October 14<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> with an in-person catered dinner at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments (10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and a non-dinner Zoom option for those unable to attend in-person but still wanting to hear the guest speaker’s presentation; no General Membership Meeting in October

**ECDC Holiday Party** – in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments (10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall); date and time TBD; no General Membership Meeting in December

### *Other Community Events*

**Workforce Housing Forum** – 6:30-8:00 pm, Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup>; hosted by Contra Costa County School Board President Consuelo Lara; see informational flier on page 11;

Zoom registration here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAldu2spz0iEtGr8sf-Zddg8EYXvPLbBW1j#/registration>

**California Democratic Party Executive Board Meeting** – Friday-Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>;

Visalia Marriott at the Convention Center

**Democratic Party of Contra Costa County Roosevelt Dinner Annual Fundraiser –**

6:00 pm, Thursday, August 24th; <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/roosevelt2023>

**Democratic Party of Contra Costa County Annual Summer BBQ –** October 2023;

<https://contracostadems.com/>; *Exact date and more information coming soon!*

**Contra Costa County Labor Council's 25th Annual "Labor-to-Labor" Fundraising Dinner –**

5:30-8:30 pm, Friday, October 6th; St. Mary's College, Chapel Lawn, Morago; tickets and registration through Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/25th-annual-labor-to-labor-dinner-unionize-contra-co-sta-tickets-616124062657>



**California Democratic Party Region 3 Pre-Convention Meetings –** 10 am-2 pm,

Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

**California Democratic Party Pre-Endorsement Conference –** Saturday and Sunday,

October 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>; actual date TBD; Solano County; in-person and remote (hybrid option)

**California Democratic Party State Endorsing Convention, Northern California –**

Friday-Sunday, November 17th-19th; Sacramento Convention Center

**2024 California Presidential Primary –** Tuesday, March 5, 2024

- William Ktsanes, VP Publications

# Education Workforce Housing Forum

July 27  
2023

6:30 PM - 8 PM

On  
Zoom

Our Host: Contra Costa County School Board President Consuelo Lara



## Panelists



**John Sasaki**  
Moderator



**Tim Grayson**  
Assemblymember  
15th District



**Maureen Toms**  
CoCo County  
Deputy Dir. Policy Planning  
Pinole City  
Councilmember



**Martin Leung**  
Bridge Housing  
*financing, development  
& management*



**Troy Flint**  
California School  
Boards Assn.  
*overview & resources*



**Preston Lam**  
UC Berkeley  
*sample project*



**Ruchi Bindal**  
UC Berkeley  
*sample project*

**Education Workforce Housing:**  
Improves teacher recruitment & retention  
Addresses the County housing shortage  
Provides an additional steady & predictable revenue stream

**REGISTER TODAY**  
Click [HERE](#)

DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
of CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

# SUMMER BARBECUE

*Lift Up, Lift Off*

**MUSIC  
FOOD  
DRINKS**

October 2023

*Tickets and Sponsorships coming soon!*

*Let's enjoy it together*

CONTRA LOMA REGIONAL  
1200 Frederickson Lane  
Antioch, CA 94509

contracostadems.com

Democratic Party of Contra Costa  
**2023 Roosevelt Dinner**

*Lift Up. Lift Off*

Thursday, Aug 24  
Dinner: 7 p.m.  
Rossmoor Event Center  
RSVP: [bit.ly/LiftUpLiftOff](https://bit.ly/LiftUpLiftOff)

DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
of CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

**SAVE THE DATE**  
Lift Off, Lift Up

# THUR AUG 24

**Roosevelt Dinner  
Annual Fundraiser**

Event starts at 6:00 PM  
[contracostadems.com](https://contracostadems.com)

Please join  
Contra Costa Labor Council, AFL-CIO and Contra Costa  
Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO

for our

**25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**  
**Labor to Labor  
Fundraiser**

**UNIONIZE  
CONTRA COSTA.**

Friday, October 6, 2023 | 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm  
St. Mary's College | Chapel Lawn | Moraga, CA

**Honoring**  
Hon. Nancy Skinner | Frances Perkins Award  
Debra Grabelle, IFPTE Local 21 | Labor Leader of the Year  
Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union No. 104 | Union of the Year  
Contra Costa Immigrant Rights Alliance | Community Ally of the Year

**Become a Sponsor! Purchase a Tribute Ad!  
Buy your Ticket(s) to Attend!**

Details available: [cclabor.net/labor2labor](https://cclabor.net/labor2labor)  
For more information, please contact 510-839-3100  
or [events@earpevents.com](mailto:events@earpevents.com)

