



# El Cerrito Democratic Club

## Newsletter – March 2022

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ECDC  
PO Box 192  
El Cerrito CA 94530

Newsletter Editor: William Ktsanes

## 1. El Cerrito Democratic Club – General Information (General Membership Meetings – 4th Tuesday of the Month)

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.

In light of health and safety concerns around COVID-19, meetings are currently held via Zoom, with the agenda and Zoom link <http://tiny.cc/ECDCmemberMtg> published in each month's newsletter. While safety 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.

If you would like, you may download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to save the monthly ECDC Membership Meetings in your electronic calendar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/tZMocOmtgTMrEtSUk1uxwRjwEy1zJAfUcnOj/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGvqzwwqH9OdsRGHRpwEGY\\_Cc-wtlxcj7duqRS0FjhEUAnhE\\_sTKJheFu3T](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/tZMocOmtgTMrEtSUk1uxwRjwEy1zJAfUcnOj/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGvqzwwqH9OdsRGHRpwEGY_Cc-wtlxcj7duqRS0FjhEUAnhE_sTKJheFu3T)

The El Cerrito Democratic Club and its activities are supported by 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 for 2022.

Officer elections for the El Cerrito Democratic Club occur annually and were last held during the ECDC General Meeting on Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to the following volunteers:

### El Cerrito Democratic Club Officers (2022)

- President – Greg Lyman
- Past President – Janet Abelson
- Executive Vice President –  
Champagne Brown
- VP Membership – Neil Tsutsui
- VP Treasurer – Ed Crowley
- VP Publications – William Ktsanes
- VP Records – Jonee Grassi
- VP Programs – Carolyn Wysinger
- VP Media – Madeline Kronenberg

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/>. (For purposes of banking, the President, Past President and Treasurer have signatory authority.)

If you're interested in participating more actively in the ECDC, please consider volunteering with the Club. Tasks and projects arise throughout the year; help is always greatly appreciated.

- William Ktsanes, VP Publications

## 2. Agenda and NEW Zoom Link for the Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> ECDC General Membership Meeting

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

Zoom Meeting ID: 875 7057 8180; 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 above.

### Agenda

6:20 pm – Assemble and Mingle

6:30 pm – Call to Order

6:35 pm – Approve Minutes from the February 2022 Meeting (**Action Item**)

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

6:45 pm – DPCCC Report

6:50 pm – ECDC Diversity Committee Report

6:55 pm – Consider an ECDC Donation of \$1,000 towards the City of El Cerrito’s  
“worldOne 4th of July Festival” <https://www.el-cerrito.org/702/July-4th-Festival>  
(**Action Item**)

7:00 pm – March Program: ECDC Spring Primary Election Candidate Endorsement Forum  
(See Below; **Requires Registration** (here: <http://tiny.cc/2022ForumReg>) and  
a separate Zoom Link that comes with registration; **March 25<sup>th</sup> Voting Deadline**)

9:50 pm – Good of the Order

10:00 pm – Adjourn

- Please register in advance for the Spring Primary Candidate Endorsement Forum at <http://tiny.cc/2022ForumReg>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the forum with a separate Zoom link.
- Per ECDC rules and as previously announced, you must have been a paid member with dues paid for 2022 as of February 8<sup>th</sup> (45 days before the March 25<sup>th</sup> voting deadline) in order to vote in the Club’s March 22<sup>nd</sup> candidate endorsement forum.
- However, all are welcome – voting and non-voting participants – to register, join in and listen to the forum as an attendee.

- Greg Lyman, ECDC President

### 3. Minutes from the February 25, 2022 General Membership Meeting

6:30 pm – ECDC General Membership Meeting assembled and mingled

6:40 pm – President Greg Lyman called the meeting to Order

Present on Zoom: Attendees numbered fifteen at the start of the meeting and twenty others joined later. Quorum was confirmed.

#### Minutes

January 25, 2022 General Membership Meeting Minutes presented; motion to approve presented by Chris Peebles; seconded by Janet Abelson; motion passed with one abstention, no objections.

#### Officer Reports

Treasurer: Greg Lyman (ECDC President) indicated that he has received the records from the outgoing Treasurer and will give them to our new Treasurer Ed Crowley; going forward Ed will make the report.

Membership: Neil Tsutsui (VP Membership) reported a huge jump in membership with the total now at 119 members.

Events: Carolyn Wysinger announced that at tonight's meeting candidates will be introducing themselves; actual endorsement meeting will be in March. Dr. Hurst, Superintendent of West Contra Costa Unified School District, will be the speaker at the April meeting.

Publications: William Ktsanes (Newsletter Editor and VP Publications), who attended while in Thailand, got the newsletter out on time. He thanked Betty Brown for submitting an article on the Poor People's Campaign's March on Washington for the monthly ECDC Newsletter and extended an on-going invitation to all ECDC members to submit articles of local interest.

Website: Madeline Kronenberg (VP Media) was out of town and did not provide a report; Greg Lyman served as Zoom host as well as chair for the meeting.

Secretary: Jonee Grassi (ECDC Secretary and VP Records) was present but had nothing to report.

#### Democratic Party of Contra Costa County Report (DPCCC)

Champagne Brown reported that the highlight of the last DPCCC meeting was a candidates' forum. DPCCC is reviewing legislation on wrongful convictions.

## **ECDC Diversity Committee Report**

Y'Anad Burrell, Diversity Committee Chair, was not in attendance. Jonee Grassi reported that the book to be reviewed on Sunday, February 27th will be We Are Better Than This: My Fight for the Future of Democracy by Elijah Cummings. Cheryl Sudduth provided an acknowledgement of Black History month.

## **Passing of ECDC Member Vivian Jackson**

Greg Lyman shared the sad news that long-time ECDC member Vivian Jackson has died.

## **Good of the Order**

Janet Abelson raised the issue of the Zoom link which failed tonight. It will be replaced with a new link for the March meeting that will also be the permanent link for the club.

ECDC member Joan Kuenz invited ECDC members to join the "On Tyranny Democracy Circle Book Club." (See "7. On Tyranny Democracy Circle Book Club" in this newsletter for more information.)

## **Program - Candidate Introductions**

(Federal Candidates)

### Congressional District 8

Carolyn Wysinger introduced the candidates for Congressional District 8: (1) John Garamendi, currently a Congress Member, was in Brussels and sent regrets via Bradly Bottoms, his staff, who attended the meeting; (2) Demnlus Johnson, currently on the Richmond City Council; (3) Cheryl Sudduth, long-time ECDC member; scientist, and community activist and (4) Ed Rutsch, Director of Center for Building a Culture of Empathy.

(Contra Costa County and State Races)

County Board of Supervisors: District 1 Supervisor John Gioia thanked West County for inspiring him and being supportive in the past.

State Controller: Malia Cohen, Chair of the Board of Equalization and candidate for State Controller, explained that the Controller is the chief fiscal officer of the State and monitors

approximately \$80 billion in tax money, participates in over seventy boards and commissions, and works with local controllers.

County District Attorney: Diana Becton, the incumbent DA, is running for re-election.

County Sheriff: Ben Therriault, currently with the Richmond Police Department, is running for sheriff.

County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar: (1) Kristin Connelly, attorney, and (2) Devin Murphy, Mayor Pro Tem of Pinole, are running for county clerk-recorder-registrar.

County Assessor: Floy Andrews, attorney, is running for assessor.

## **2022 ECDC Calendar**

Greg Lyman asked members to prioritize topics for the meetings in May, June, September, and November. The topics raised as important included “building the bench” to train and develop candidates for elected office; protecting the planet/transforming the economy/community to renewable energy; reforming criminal justice/legal system; and voting rights.

## **Good of the Order (continued)**

Proposed: Based on the article written by Betty Brown in the ECDC newsletter, Jonee Grassi proposed that the ECDC donate \$500 to the **Poor People’s Campaign March on Washington**.

Action: Al Miller moved and Chris Peeples seconded a motion to waive the notice requirement because the item was not on the meeting agenda in advance; waiver motion passed unanimously.

Action: Jonee Grassi moved and Champagne Brown seconded a motion for the ECDC to donate \$500 to the Poor People’s Campaign March on Washington; motion passed unanimously.

Action: Champagne Brown moved and Ed Crowley seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion passed.

8:45 pm – Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

- Jonee Grassi, VP Records

## 4. March Program – ECDC Spring Candidate Endorsement Forum

For our General Membership Meeting Program, we will conduct a “Spring Candidate Endorsement Forum” from 7-10 pm on Tuesday March 22, 2022. The endorsement forum schedule is provided in the “Candidate Interview Times” chart on page 8.

There are 20 offices on the June 7, 2022 ballot. Many of these offices have a single Democratic candidate running. The Executive Board is recommending the El Cerrito Democratic Club consider endorsing the single Democratic candidate for state level races that were endorsed by the California Democratic Party (CADEM) at the recent convention. This proposed slate is indicated in italic text in the comprehensive list on page 9.

There are two races at the State level and one race at the County level where there are more than one Democratic candidate and no candidate has requested endorsement at this time. There are two races at the County level where the incumbent is the only candidate.

There are five contested races for which one or more candidates have requested we consider endorsement. There are two contested races where there is only one Democratic candidate in the race. These seven races are also indicated in “Candidate Interview Times” chart on page 8 and in bold text in the comprehensive “Offices and Candidates for the June 7, 2022 Primary Election” list the follows on page 9.

Only ECDC members in good standing as of February 8, 2022 are eligible to cast a vote. At our January meeting, we discussed and enacted Standing Rule changes that only members that register for the Candidate Forum will receive ballots.

All members can watch the interviews as attendees. Your camera and microphone will be muted by the moderator. Please be sure to be in the virtual waiting room several minutes before the races you want to watch.

Your vote is very important.

- Please register in advance for the ECDC Spring Candidate Endorsement Forum at <http://tiny.cc/2022ForumReg>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the forum with a separate Zoom link.
- Per ECDC rules and as previously announced, you must have been a paid member with dues paid for 2022 as of February 8<sup>th</sup> (45 days before the March 25<sup>th</sup> voting deadline) in order to vote in the Club’s March 22<sup>nd</sup> candidate endorsement forum.
- However, all are welcome – voting and non-voting participants – to register, join in and listen to the forum as an attendee.

<b>ECDC Spring Candidate Endorsement Forum</b> <b>Candidate Interview Times – Tuesday, March 23, 2022</b> <i>(All times subject to change)</i>			
<b>Times</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Candidates</b>
7:00 PM to 7:50 PM	United States Congress 8 <sup>th</sup> District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-minute intro (10 minutes)</li> <li>• 90-second response to 3 questions (23 minutes)</li> <li>• 2-minute close (10 minutes)</li> </ul>	Cheryl Sudduth
			Christopher Riley
			Demnlus Johnson III
			Edwin Rutsch
			John Garamendi
7:50 PM to 8:10 PM	CA Controller	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-minute intro (4 minutes)</li> <li>• 90-second response to 3 questions (9 minutes)</li> <li>• 2-minute close (4 minutes)</li> </ul> <i>(Only 2 candidates expected)</i>	Malia Cohen
			Ron Galperin
			Steve Glazer
			Yvonne Yiu
8:10 PM to 8:30 PM	Contra Costa District Attorney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-minute intro (4 minutes)</li> <li>• 90-second response to 3 questions (9 minutes)</li> <li>• 2-minute close (4 minutes)</li> </ul>	Diana Becton
			Mary Knox
8:30 PM to 9:10 PM	Contra Costa Clerk Recorder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-minute intro (8 minutes)</li> <li>• 90-second response to 3 questions (18 minutes)</li> <li>• 2-minute close (8 minutes)</li> </ul>	Devin Tre Murphy
			Kristin Braun-Connelly
			Nicholas Spinner
			Vicki Gordon
9:10 PM to 9:30 PM	AC Transit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-minute intro (4 minutes)</li> <li>• 90-second response to 3 questions (9 minutes)</li> <li>• 2-minute close (4 minutes)</li> </ul>	Floy Elizabeth Andrews
			Gus Kramer
9:30 PM to 9:40 PM	Contra Costa Sheriff-Coroner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-minute intro (2 minutes)</li> <li>• 90-second response to 3 questions (5 minutes)</li> <li>• 2-minute close (2 minutes)</li> </ul>	Benjamin Therriault
9:40 PM to 9:50 PM	Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-minute intro (2 minutes)</li> <li>• 90-second response to 3 questions (5 minutes)</li> <li>• 2-minute close (2 minutes)</li> </ul>	Lynn Mackey



## 5. Offices and Candidates for the June 7, 2022 Primary Election

### List of Offices

(**Bold** recommended for March 22, 2022 Endorsement Forum = 7 offices and 19 candidates)

(*BLUE* recommended for Consent Calendar = 8 offices that align with CADEM)

1. *CA Governor*
2. *CA Lieutenant Governor*
3. *CA Secretary of State*
4. **CA Controller**
5. *CA Treasurer*
6. *CA Attorney General*
7. CA Insurance Commissioner
8. CA Board of Equalization, District 2
9. *CA State Superintendent of Public Instruction*
10. *United States Senator*
11. **United States Congress 8<sup>th</sup> District (shared with Solano County)**
12. *State Assembly 14<sup>th</sup> District (shared with Alameda County; formerly AD15)*
13. CoCo Board of Supervisors 1<sup>st</sup> District
14. **CoCo Assessor**
15. CoCo Auditor-Controller
16. **CoCo Clerk-Recorder**
17. **CoCo District Attorney – Public Administrator**
18. **CoCo Sheriff-Coroner**
19. CoCo Treasurer-Tax Collector
20. **CoCo County Superintendent of Schools**

### List of Democratic Candidates

(candidates followed by a “?” denotes party unknown at this time)

1. *CA Governor*
  - a. *Gavin Newsom* – incumbent – CADEM endorsed
2. *CA Lieutenant Governor*
  - a. *Eleni Kounalakis* – incumbent – CADEM endorsed
3. *CA Secretary of State*
  - a. *Shirley Weber* – appointed incumbent – CADEM endorsed
4. **CA Controller**
  - a. Malia Cohen – CADEM endorsed
  - b. Ron Galperin
  - c. Steve Glazer – CA State Senator
  - d. Yvonne Yiu
5. *CA Treasurer*
  - a. *Fiona Ma* - incumbent – CADEM endorsed

6. *CA Attorney General*
  - a. *Rob Bonta* – appointed incumbent – CADEM endorsed
7. CA Insurance Commissioner
  - a. Marc Levine
  - b. Ricardo Lara – incumbent – CADEM endorsed
8. CA Board of Equalization, District 2
  - a. Michela Alioto-Pier
  - b. Sally Lieber – CADEM endorsed
9. *CA State Superintendent of Public Instruction*
  - a. *Tony Thurmond* – CADEM endorsed
10. *United States Senator*
  - a. *Alex Padilla* - incumbent – CADEM endorsed
11. **United States Congress 8<sup>th</sup> District (shared with Solano County)**
  - a. Cheryl Sudduth
  - b. Christopher Riley
  - c. Clint Joseph Smith - ?
  - d. Demnlus Johnson III
  - e. Edwin Rutsch
  - f. John Garamendi – CADEM endorsed
12. *State Assembly 14<sup>th</sup> District (shared with Alameda County; formerly AD15)*
  - a. *Buffy Wicks* – incumbent – CADEM endorsed
13. CoCo Board of Supervisors 1<sup>st</sup> District
  - a. Hulan Barnett Jr.
  - b. John Gioia – incumbent
14. **CoCo Assessor**
  - a. Floy Elizabeth Andrews
  - b. Gus Kramer
15. CoCo Auditor-Controller
  - a. Robert Campbell - incumbent
16. **CoCo Clerk-Recorder**
  - a. Devin Tre Murphy
  - b. Kristin Braun Connelly
  - c. Nicholas Spinner
  - d. Vicki Gordon
17. **CoCo District Attorney – Public Administrator**
  - a. Diana Becton – incumbent
  - b. Mary Knox
18. **CoCo Sheriff-Coroner**
  - a. Benjamin Therriault
19. CoCo Treasurer-Tax Collector
  - a. Russel Watts - Incumbent
20. **CoCo County Superintendent of Schools**
  - a. Lynn Mackey

- Greg Lyman, ECDC President

## 6. ECDC Embraces Online Voting

Members in Good Standing as of February 8, 2022 **AND** who register for the Spring Primary Candidate Endorsement Forum (attendance not required) will receive a ballot.

- Please register in advance for the ECDC Spring Candidate Endorsement Forum at <http://tiny.cc/2022ForumReg>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the forum with a separate Zoom link.
- Per ECDC rules and as previously announced, you must have been a paid member with dues paid for 2022 as of February 8<sup>th</sup> (45 days before the March 25<sup>th</sup> voting deadline) in order to vote in the Club's March 22<sup>nd</sup> candidate endorsement forum.
- However, all are welcome – voting and non-voting participants – to register, join in and listen to the forum as an attendee.

If we have a valid email address, you will also 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. His contact information will be in the automated email from OpaVote and he has agreed to trouble shoot any issues.

**PLEASE DO NOT FORWARD YOUR OPAVOTE EMAIL.** This ballot is linked to your specific 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.

**Replacement ballots will not be issued if you accidentally submitted an incomplete ballot.**

We have no way of invalidating a ballot that was submitted, even inadvertently.

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 same 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.

There will be a single ballot for Candidates. This Ballot will be made available for voting on Wednesday, March 23, before 6:00PM. The voting deadline will be 10:00PM on Friday March 25, 2022. All technical support will end at 6:00PM on Friday, March 25, 2022.

**Please be sure to vote by the deadline of 10:00PM on Friday March 25, 2022.**

The website for OpaVote is <https://www.opavote.com/>. All votes are anonymous. To troubleshoot and assist you with your voting experience, ECDC President Greg Lyman will be able to see if you cast your ballot but will not be able to see how you voted.

- Greg Lyman, ECDC President

## 7. Endorsement Ballot Explained

Members in Good Standing who have registered for the Candidate Forum will have the option of casting a vote in each candidate race. Additionally, a “No Endorsement” option will be available in each race. It is possible to not select any options in each race. Only options selected on at least 60% of the ballots cast for a race will become the official position of the club.

One of the core missions of the El Cerrito Democratic Club is to get good democratic candidates elected. Our endorsement process is key to that mission. In recent years, we have expended much effort in the endorsement process and yielded few endorsements. We believe the “No Endorsement” option is important, however, that people do not always understand the significance of selecting “No Endorsement”.

A selection of “No Endorsement” means you believe the club should officially take a position that no candidate should receive the club’s endorsement. If you do not know enough about the candidates to have formed an opinion and you personally do not want your vote to influence the outcome, then simply leave all options unchecked on that race. A “No Endorsement” vote is used in the denominator to determine if a candidate reaches the 60% threshold.

On the following page are three example calculations:

Favorite Color	Votes	Favorite Day of the Week	Votes	Favorite Berry	Votes
Ballots Issued	110	Ballots Issued	110	Ballots Issued	110
Ballots Cast	90	Ballots Cast	80	Ballots Cast	100
Blue	54	Monday	1	Blueberry	37
Blue %	60%	Monday %	1.2%	Blueberry %	37%
Green	0	Wednesday	15	Raspberry	0
Green %	0%	Wednesday %	18.7%	Raspberry %	0%
Gold	46	Friday	41	Strawberry	0
Gold %	51.1%	Friday %	51.2%	Strawberry %	0%
No Endorsement	0	No Endorsement	20	No Endorsement	63
No Endorsement %	0%	No Endorsement %	25%	No Endorsement %	63%
<b>Outcome: Blue Endorsed</b>		<b>Outcome: No Result</b>		<b>Outcome: No Endorsement</b>	
Voter Turnout	81.8%	Voter Turnout	72.7%	Voter Turnout	90.9%

In the Favorite Color race, 20 people decided not to cast a vote, perhaps because they had little interest in the race or insufficient knowledge about candidates. The denominator for determining if any color received 60% is 90. Blue received 54 of the 90 votes cast and was 'endorsed'. Although Gold received 46 votes, Gold did not get 60% of the votes cast.

In the Favorite Day of the Week race, 30 people did not cast a vote. The denominator determining if any day received 60% is 80. Although Friday received the majority of the votes, no day nor No Endorsement received enough votes to reach the 60% threshold. The Club remains silent on Favorite Day of the Week.

In the Favorite Berry race, 10 people decided not to cast a vote. The denominator for determining if any color received 60% is 100. Blueberry received all of the votes cast for a berry, however, No Endorsement received 63 of the 100 votes cast. The club position would be published as "No Endorsement." In this case, "No Endorsement" would indicate that the club, based on the information available, does not like the choices, despite the fact that all votes for a berry were for Blueberry.

Here is how our Endorsement would be published:

Favorites Color: Blue Endorsed

Favorite Berry: No Endorsement

**A "No Endorsement" vote is a very powerful statement and should not be used to signal that you have no interest or knowledge about the candidates in a race. Instead, a "No Endorsement" vote should be cast when you have sufficient knowledge about the candidates but believe the ECDC should officially take a position that no candidate receive the Club's endorsement and support. If you are unsure about who to vote for because you have insufficient interest or knowledge about the candidates in a particular race to cast an informed vote, please leave the boxes unchecked (instead of voting "No Endorsement").**

- Greg Lyman, ECDC President

## 8. On Tyranny Democracy Circle Book Club

ECDC Members Edwin Rutsch (Director, Center for Building a Culture of Empathy) and Joan Kuenz (Health Education Consultant) invite us to join the “On Tyranny Democracy Circle Book Club” and forward the following:

Everyone and all points of view are welcome. Everyone will be heard to their satisfaction.

### Why

- We want to support democracy.
- Authoritarianism and tactics that undermine and destroy democracy are happening in the USA and around the world. At this critical time, voting, the foundation of democracy, is threatened.
- We will work to develop the Democracy Circle process as a reproducible practice and tool for democracy movements around the world.

### How

- We read and discuss two chapters a week from the book [On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century](#) by Timothy Snyder.
- We use a powerful dialogue process (Empathy Circle) that is based in and supports democracy to discuss the issues.
- We divide into “democracy circles” of 4 to 6 participants.

### When

- Saturday, March 19th and 26th, 2-4 pm PST (Last Two Meetings)

**RSVP:** <http://bit.ly/RSVP-OnTyranny>

**LinkedIn Event:** <https://i.mp/3oVmyER>

**Facebook Event:** <https://i.mp/3IQcfKc>

### More Information:

<http://CultureOfEmpathy.com>

<http://EmpathyCircle.com>

<http://EmpathyTent.com>

<http://BestEmpathyTraining.com/>

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

**ECDC March General Meeting** – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month);  
ECDC Spring Primary Election Candidate Endorsement Forum; remote via Zoom link  
<http://tiny.cc/ECDCmemberMtg>

**ECDC Candidate Endorsement Forum** – 7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>

- Please register in advance for the ECDC Spring Candidate Endorsement Forum at <http://tiny.cc/2022ForumReg>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the forum with a separate Zoom link.
- Per ECDC rules and as previously announced, you must have been a paid member with dues paid for 2022 as of February 8<sup>th</sup> (45 days before the March 25<sup>th</sup> voting deadline) in order to vote in the Club's March 22<sup>nd</sup> candidate endorsement forum.
- However, all are welcome – voting and non-voting participants – to register, join in and listen to the forum as an attendee.

**ECDC April General Meeting** – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month);  
special guest Dr. Kenneth "Chris" Hurst, Sr., Superintendent of the West Contra Costa Unified School District; remote via Zoom link <http://tiny.cc/ECDCmemberMtg>

### **ECDC Endorsement Forums:**

Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Primary Election

Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> – Ballot Measures

Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> – Run-Off and Local Elections

### **Election Days**

Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> – Statewide Primary with Contra Costa County and State Offices

Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> – Run-Off Races, Local Elections and Ballot Initiatives

### **On Tyranny Democracy Circle Book Club**

Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2-4 pm – On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century by Timothy Snyder; Contacts - Edwin Rutsch and Joan Kuenz;  
RSVP: <http://bit.ly/RSVP-OnTyranny>

### **ECDC Diversity Committee Book Club**

The February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ECDC Diversity Committee Book Club was postponed and has yet to be rescheduled. The Book Club is reading and discussing We Are Better Than This: My Fight for the Future of Democracy by former Congressman and civil rights icon Elijah Cummings (1951-2019). Contact - ECDC Diversity Committee Chair Y'Anad Burrell.

## 10. Membership Renewal Reminder and Instructions

Huge thanks to the dozens of you who renewed your ECDC membership in the past few months – and *WELCOME* to our first-time members! If you would like to join or renew, dues are still just \$5 for students, \$20 for single members, and \$30 for two adults at the same address.

You can renew 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.

Memberships follow the calendar year, so your renewal now is good through December 31, 2022. If you have questions, please email Neil Tsutsui, ECDC’s Vice President for Membership, at [membership.ecdc@gmail.com](mailto:membership.ecdc@gmail.com).

Thank you!

- Neil Tsutsui, VP Membership

## 11. Call for Newsletter Submissions

The El Cerrito Democratic Club Newsletter is published monthly in advance of the membership meetings. ECDC members, friends and supporters are invited to submit articles and announcements regarding local issues and events of interest to members. Submissions should be emailed to William Ktsanes, ECDC’s Vice President for Publications, at [wktsanes@gmail.com](mailto:wktsanes@gmail.com) for review and editing.

- William Ktsanes, VP Publications

## 12. 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/>.