



El Cerrito Democratic Club

Newsletter – May 2020

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Meeting Location: Telephone:

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Online @ Zoom:

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

Meeting ID: 843 0378 5299

Password: 111652

ECDC

P.O. Box 192

El Cerrito, CA 94530

1. Message from the Board

The Board hopes everyone is doing well during this shelter in place. We were very distracted by everyday life during the month of March. We met in early April and look forward to the challenges that lay ahead in the Presidential Election year. First and foremost, we need to increase our membership by June 1. We hope you will ask a friend to join the club before that date. We will be resuming meetings – virtually. We look forward to hearing from you and possibly seeing you on Tuesday, May 26, 2020. Please stay safe.

2. Meeting Agenda April 28, 2020 @ 6:30PM.

- 6:30 Call to Order
- 6:31 Approve April 28, 2020 Minutes
- 6:35 Treasurer’s Report
- 6:38 Membership Report
- 6:42 Other Officer Reports
- 6:46 Election of Replacement for Club Representative to Central Committee
- 6:50 Report from Club Representative to Central Committee
- 6:55 Upcoming ECDC Meetings and Events: Next General Meeting June 23, 2020
- 7:00 Program
 - Speaker John Gioia, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, District 1
 - Topic: COVID 19 – What has happened, what is happening and the future.
- 7:45 Announcements and Good of the Order
- 8:00 Adjourn

3. May Program Overview

John Gioia is a member of the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors. First elected in 1998, John has been overwhelmingly re-elected five times and represents 210,000 residents in the western most urban and diverse area of the county. He previously served for 10 years on the East Bay Municipal Utility District Board, serving as President in 1995 and 1996.

John is a recognized leader in Bay Area regional government and on air quality and climate change issues. He was appointed by Governor Brown in 2013 to the California Air Resources Board and has served on the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board since 2006, serving as Chair in 2012.

John has served as President of the California State Association of Counties and the California Cities Counties Schools Partnership. He has been a leader on environmental issues and serves on the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) and as Vice-Chair of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority where he helped lead an effort to pass an historic measure to raise \$500 million for S.F. Bay. John is also Co-Chair of Rise Together, a regional effort to reduce poverty in the Bay Area.

John grew up in Richmond, graduated from El Cerrito High School and the University of California, Berkeley with a B.A. in Political Science and also earned his law degree at U.C. Berkeley. He completed the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government. John practiced law until his election to the Board of Supervisors.

4. Membership Renewal

ECDC membership runs from January 1st to December 31st of each calendar year. 2019 members can renew any time before June 1st, and must be renewed to participate in any club votes – like endorsement of ballot measures candidates. After June 1st, members from 2019 are treated like new members, and must wait the minimum waiting time to participate in Club endorsement votes. New members who join after September 1st, 2020 are members for the balance of 2020 and all of 2021 before they need to renew in January 2022. Membership is \$20 for one person at an address, \$30 for two at the same address, and \$5 for students. If you do not remember if you have renewed for 2020, please mail membership.ecdc@gmail.com. Renew 1) online at www.ecdclub.org, or 2) mailing a check (made out to El Cerrito Democratic Club) to ECDC, P.O. Box 192, El Cerrito, CA 94530. If you mail in your dues payment, please provide us with your name(s), address and, especially email addresses for every member!

5. April 28, 2020 General Membership Meeting Minutes

ECDC Membership General Meeting – April 28, 2020

Board members attending: President Janet Abelson, Executive VP Champagne Brown, VP Media (Website) Madeline Kronenberg, VP Programs Margaret Kavanaugh-Lynch, VP Membership Greg Lyman, VP Publications (Newsletters) Carolyn Wysinger, VP Records (Secretary) Glen Nethercut

1. Call to Order

The meeting was conducted online via Zoom. President Janet Abelson began the meeting at 6.35pm.

2. Meeting recorded

A motion to record the meeting using Zoom was made, seconded and approved.

3. Minutes

A motion to approve minutes of the February 25, 2019 meeting was seconded, and unanimously approved with the provision that a footnote be included to correct item 6. “Report from Club Representative to the DPCCC”, third bullet, noting that Kensington is unincorporated and located in Contra Costa County.

4. Treasurer’s Report

There was no report in Treasurer Kathy Fleming’s absence.

5. Membership

Vice President Membership Greg Lyman reported paid memberships holding steady at 100. This time last year the Club had 145 memberships. Janet asked if \$10 memberships for additional family members over two were allowed, which Greg confirmed.

6. Other Reports

None

7. Report from Club Representative to the DPCCC

Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto said she is unable to continue to serve as Club Representative to the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC) due to work, family, El Cerrito City Council, and other commitments. The position requires attending DPCCC meetings in Martinez on the third Thursday of the month starting at 7pm. During the COVID-10 pandemic, meetings are being conducted via Zoom. **Who offered to do this?**

Rochelle reported that a \$30 fee to interview candidates seeking endorsements was approved at the April meeting.

8. Program

U.S. 2020 Census: Darlene Rios Drapkin, Partnership Specialist, Contra Costa County with the U.S. Census Bureau, discussed progress and challenges facing the 2020 U.S. Census. As of yesterday, El Cerrito had a 70.9% completion rate, California 55.1%, and the United States 53.4%. The Census is being conducted through the Internet for the first time. Due to the pandemic, in-home visits by Census enumerators have been pushed out from May until June, and completion of the Census has been delayed from year-end to April 30, 2021. This means the California Citizens Redistricting Commission might not receive demographic information needed to draw new lines for state Assembly, Senate and congressional districts until July 31, 2021, making it highly unlikely that the Commission would complete the new district maps by the August 15, 2021 constitutional deadline.

Following the presentation, Gabriel Quinto raised the need to reach out to communities of color, noting the roughly 50% completion rates in San Pablo and Richmond. Darlene said grants have been obtained for this, and that pre-pandemic plans are now being reconsidered.

Point Molate: Norman La Force, attorney and bay area parks activist, discussed a proposal to make Point Molate into a regional park and oppose the development of housing there. The city of Richmond had recently entered into a settlement with developers who alleged Richmond had unlawfully rejected their casino proposal. Under that agreement, Richmond agreed to approve development within a fixed time frame of 670 housing units at Point Molate, subject to financial penalties should Richmond fail to meet those goals. Norman did not address the impact his proposal would have upon that settlement, which he described as “secret and illegal,” and the costs to Richmond. The latest proposals were for 1,200 to 2,000 units of housing, which he believed would cause traffic congestion, and adding that infrastructure costs to Richmond would exceed tax revenues generated.

Glen Nethercut asked Norman why he felt El Cerrito should be telling Richmond how to manage its affairs. Norman said he believes parks are a “regional issue”. He characterized housing proposed for the area as “unaffordable”, and said he did not agree, as Glen suggested, that “housing is housing”.

Cheryl Sudduth said she agreed with Glen, and was concerned that no one was asking what the people of Richmond want. “Don’t go to court to dictate,” she said. She also supported housing for all income levels.

Michael Nye, a Richmond resident, agreed it was inappropriate to tell Richmond what to do. Responding to Norman's assertion that the Richmond Progressive Alliance (RPA) supported his proposal, Michael said that group did not speak for Richmond, and noted their opposition to housing development "of any kind".

Champagne Brown agreed that the RPA "is not Richmond", adding "leave Richmond to Richmond".

A motion by Michael to table the question until the Club has heard from "the other side" was seconded, and approved with three opposed, and Gabriel Quinto abstaining.

9. Adjourn

The Club adjourned at 8.00pm.

6. 2020 Officers

- President: Janet Abelson
- Executive Vice President: Champagne Brown
- Immediate Past President: Peter Chow
- Vice President Membership: Greg Lyman
- Vice President Treasurer: Kathy Fleming
- Vice President Communications (Newsletters): Carolyn Wysinger
- Vice President Records (Secretary): Glen Nethercut
- Vice President Programs: Margaret Kavanaugh-Lynch
- Vice President Social Media (Website): Madeline Kronenberg

7. 2020 Programs

The Club discussed several topics and ways to get input on their importance. In light of COVID 19, these topics may need to be revisited, virtually.

ECDC discussion of program topics for 2020

- To be distributed via:
 - Esurvey (SurveyMonkey, Google Forms) of membership
 - Mail to those on newsletter mailing list
- **Upcoming meetings:**
 - **Mar:** Get-out-the-vote:
 - **Apr:** Census?
 - **May:** Covid-19 response
 - **Jun:**
 - **Jul:** Endorsements
 - **Aug:** Endorsements
 - **Sep:**
 - **Oct:** Dinner
 - **Nov:** Recap
 - **Dec:** Party
- 1. Get-out-the-vote (GOV):
 - Education possibilities
 - Learn about, volunteer with, support:
 - Sister Districts
 - Red to Blue
 - Together We will
 - Albany Democratic Club featured a recent speaker
 - Indivisible
- 2. Census
- 3. Phone banks
 - Real estate office an ideal space
- 4. Activate & educate Club and non-club members
 - Outreach to high school students (future voters)
- 5. Climate change
- 6. Young Democrats presentation
 - Generational challenges/ideals
 - Campaign experiences
- 7. Uniting blue voters – overcoming differences that divide & defeat Democrats
- 8. Proposition 13 reform presentation
 - Evolve has a speaker (Gabe said)
- 9. Healthcare
 - Save Alta Bates Hospital
 - Healthcare for all
- 10. Misc. presentations:
 - Transit issues
 - El Cerrito Life Long Learning locations
 - Housing & RHNA & homelessness
- 11. Forums to attract public:
 - Elected officials
 - Progressive issues
 - Local issues