



# El Cerrito Democratic Club

## Newsletter – October 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. Whether you join us in person or by Zoom, I encourage you to come 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 each January. Special thanks to our 2023 volunteer officers:

### El Cerrito Democratic Club Officers (2023)

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| ● President – Champagne Brown                    | ● VP Membership – Neil Tsutsui       |
| ● Past President – Greg Lyman                    | ● VP Programs – <b><i>vacant</i></b> |
| ● Executive Vice President –<br>Carolyn Wysinger | ● VP Publications – William Ktsanes  |
| ● VP Media – Madeline Kronenberg                 | ● 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 still 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. No October General Membership Meeting -

***Please Join Us for the ECDC Annual Dinner on Saturday, October 14th!***

**Purchase ECDC Annual Dinner Tickets at <https://ecdclub.org/>**



## 3. NEXT MONTH - Information and Zoom Link for the General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>

**REMINDER: There is no ECDC Membership Meeting in October. Please join us at the ECDC Annual Dinner instead.**

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 November 28th ECDC Meeting: <http://tiny.cc/ECDCmemberMtg>

(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87570578180?pwd=MWN0T2hVY0VXeEhubHNoaE9xZGpKUT09>)

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.

#### November Meeting Agenda (Tentative)

6:20 pm – Assemble and Mingle

6:30 pm – Call to Order

6:32 pm – Approval of Agenda

6:35 pm – Approval of Minutes: September 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 – Update on ECDC Social Media

7:00 pm – November Program: TBD

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

7:50 pm – Good of the Order

7:55 pm – Adjournment

*\* 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

## **4. Minutes from the September 26<sup>th</sup> ECDC General Membership Meeting**

El Cerrito Democratic Club

General Membership Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2023

(in person at Hana Gardens, 10860 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito; and via Zoom)

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### **Call to Order**

President Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

### **Approval of Agenda**

On the motion of Ktsanes and the second of Tsutsui, the agenda was approved without any nays but with two abstentions.

**Approval of Minutes: August 2023 General Membership Meeting**

On the motion of Merrill and the second of Tsutsui, the minutes were approved without any nays but with two abstentions.

**Officer Reports:**

**Treasurer** - Reported cash balance at \$9,364.02. All accounts are up to date.

**Membership** - Currently 161 members. The membership year ends September 30, 2023.

Nineteen people have already renewed. President Brown reminds the E-Board to renew.

**Programs** - The program for October is the Annual Dinner, which is October 14, 2023. Nancy Skinner will be the guest.

**Publications** - It is \$30 for two members to join the club. There was an error in the newsletter. Will accept \$23 memberships until the next publication.

**Media** - Moderators on the Facebook page have been updated to current Board members.

There was a large amount of SPAM going up. Wysinger will bring suggestions for a Social Media policy to the Board/Membership. There should be better guidelines as to who is a moderator, and better guidelines as to what goes up on the Facebook site.

**Records** - No Report

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

Brown:

- Region 3 meeting 10/7 at 10 am. The meeting will be virtual.
- Pre-endorsement conference is 10/22. ECDC delegates are asked to leave 10/21 and 10/22 reserved for the conference. This will be a virtual meeting.
- Report out from DLI Committee - polling e board members first.
- Rule Changes - code of conduct. Will mirror CADEMS code of conduct.

Additional language for online and hybrid meetings. Club reps have to ID themselves as to what body they are representing.

- **The October BBQ has been canceled. All efforts will move to the holiday party in December.**
- Candidate Training 101. New candidates and maybe newly elected who want to run a better campaign. Might be a slight cost on the training.
- Candidate forum next month. The focus will be on offices that are State Senate and Assembly and above.

### **Nye District 1 Update:**

- Meeting with Democratic electeds. Other clubs are seeking to follow the ECDC model of nurturing candidates.
- Adhoc group of leadership including elected central committee members, activists, club presidents and selected electeds are going over and sharing who is running and what seats are available. Transportation, water and school districts.
- We can't ID any Republicans. There are two "No Party Preference" candidates in city councils.
- Continuing mentoring programs for Young Democrats. Encourage people to get involved with their clubs and Young Dems to mentor. They are getting referrals to mentors.
- Kath Delaney. New Kensington President. West County Dems at El Sobrante Stroll.
- ECDC Dinner 10/14 when can we buy tickets?

**September Program:** "Keep your hands off our funding: 2024 Business Roundtable Ballot Measure" with Carol Kocivar, Former President of the California State PTA. Please see slides from this presentation in the attached [PowerPoint](#).

### **President Report**

#### **Annual Dinner Updates**

- Greg is working on a Paypal button to pay for the dinner. Creating buttons in PayPal has become exceedingly difficult.
- Please send President Brown an email if you will be attending the dinner.. When the PayPal button is created, you will receive an email that will allow you to pay through PayPal. [**NOTE TO ALL READING. The button to purchase tickets is active. Please buy tickets via the ECDC Website, which can be accessed through this [link here](#).** - LR, Secy]
- The dinner will be catered by Larb Thai. Vegetarian and Vegan options will be available (no mushrooms or tomatoes).
- Dinner \$30. The charge covers the venue and food. A breakeven is planned.

### **Announcements**

Thanks to Ruby and Gloria for designing stickers for members to wear at various events. QR Code leads to the website.

– Leslie Reckler, VP Records

## 5. October Program: ECDC Annual Dinner with State Senator Nancy Skinner

Please join us in welcoming State Senator (District 9) Nancy Skinner as our guest speaker at the **El Cerrito Democratic Club General Membership Annual Dinner** from 6-8 pm on Saturday, October 14th at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments (10860 San Pablo Ave, next to El Cerrito City Hall).

The cost is \$30 per person. Please visit the ECDC website to purchase tickets and register: <https://ecdclub.org/>

A social justice advocate, clean energy and climate change trailblazer and accomplished legislator, Nancy Skinner was first elected to the state Senate in 2016 after

completing three terms in the state Assembly. Senator Skinner currently serves as chair of the Senate's Budget and Fiscal Review Committee and of the California Legislative Women's Caucus.

Skinner has authored groundbreaking laws including SB 206, the Fair Pay to Play Act, making California the first state to give college athletes the right to earn money from their name, image, and likeness; SB 1421, opening up police misconduct records for the first time in 40 years; and SB 1437, overhauling California's unjust felony murder rule. While in the Assembly, she authored AB 153, requiring Amazon and other internet retailers to collect sales tax; AB 1014, the first in the nation gun violence restraining order otherwise known as 'red flag' law; and AB 1930, giving college students access to federal food assistance, which has now been copied by most every state in the country. In 2021, Skinner led the successful campaign to make California the first state in the nation to make free school meals available to all public school children.

Skinner began her public service in 1984 as the first and only student elected to the Berkeley City Council. On the council, Skinner introduced the nation's first Styrofoam ban and





co-founded an international association, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, which now includes 2,500 local and regional governments in over 125 countries. Skinner's work at ICLEI led to the initiation of the Cities for Climate Protection program, which engaged hundreds of cities worldwide to take action to stop climate change.

Skinner is a past member of the East Bay Regional Park District board, a former small business owner, and an active advocate to increase the number of women in elected office. She served on the Board of the East Bay Women's Political Caucus and launched the Women in Power PAC to support Democratic women running for state office.

Skinner's Senate District includes the cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, Emeryville, El Sobrante, Hercules, Kensington, Oakland, Piedmont, Pinole, Richmond, Rodeo, San Leandro, and San Pablo. She is a graduate of UC Berkeley, earning both a BS and an MA.

(biography from <https://sd09.senate.ca.gov/biography>)

- William Ktsanes, VP Publications



The poster features a background image of a street scene in El Cerrito with a large, stylized 'CERRITO' sign. In the top left corner, there is a logo of a blue and white spotted bull. The text is centered and reads: 'El Cerrito Democratic Club 71st Annual Dinner' in large, bold letters. Below this, it says 'SATURDAY October 14' and '6PM -8pm'. The location is listed as 'Hana Gardens Senior Center, 10870 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530'. The ticket price is '\$30'. At the bottom, it says 'PURCHASE TICKETS AT <https://ecdclub.org/>'. On the right side, there is a portrait of Nancy Skinner, a woman with short brown hair, wearing a dark blue jacket and a gold necklace. To her right, the text reads: 'Keynote Speaker CA State Senator Nancy Skinner'.

**El Cerrito Democratic Club**  
**71st Annual Dinner**  
— — — — —  
**SATURDAY**  
**October 14**  
**6PM -8pm**  
**Hana Gardens Senior Center**  
**10870 San Pablo Ave**  
**El Cerrito, CA 94530**  
**TICKETS:**  
**\$30**  
**PURCHASE TICKETS AT <https://ecdclub.org/>**

*Keynote Speaker*  
**CA State Senator**  
**Nancy Skinner**



## 6. Join the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) for the West Contra Costa School District!

The West Contra Costa Unified School District's Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee provides independent oversight of the school district's construction bond program, which is used to rebuild and remodel schools. The Committee actively reviews and reports on the proper expenditure of taxpayers' money for school construction. The Committee publishes an annual report of its findings.



There are a couple of openings on the committee, but by law, a seat on the committee is reserved for someone who is a member of a local business organization, and filling this vacancy is the immediate priority for the committee.

The committee meets once a month, and is composed of a diverse group of shareholders - from beginner to extremely experienced. Talents related to construction, audits, accounting, project management, architecture and contracts are great, but are not required. What is required is to be open to learning. This is a great opportunity to meet others in the community and to learn something new.

### MEETINGS

Meetings are held in-person once a month for approximately two hours.

The 2023 Meeting Schedule: Mondays at 6:00 p.m. April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 16, November 13, and December 11.

Location: West Contra Costa Facilities Operations Center, 1400 Marina Way S, Richmond, CA 94804

The meetings are open to the public. You are welcome to observe either by Zoom or in-person.

### LEARN MORE

**Click on this link:** [www.wccusd.net](http://www.wccusd.net). You'll find information, resources, the application to join the committee and more!

**Please contact** Committee Chair, Lorraine Humes [lorraine.humes@wccusd.net](mailto:lorraine.humes@wccusd.net) for more information.

**Board of Education Liaison**

Leslie Reckler, Trustee, Area #5: [leslie.reckler@wccusd.net](mailto:leslie.reckler@wccusd.net)

We'd love to have you!

(submitted by Leslie Reckler, VP Records)

## 7. 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 of informative speakers, interesting programs and fun events—and a few more are still to come!*

October: Annual ECDC Dinner; **Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**

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

December: Annual ECDC Holiday Celebration

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

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

**ECDC Annual Dinner with State Senator Nancy Skinner** – 6:00-8:00 pm, **Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**; in-person dinner catered by El Cerrito's Larb Thai Food & Tapas restaurant; at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments (10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) with a non-dinner Zoom option for those unable to attend in-person but wanting to hear the guest speaker's presentation; no General Membership Meeting in October.

The number of in-person attendees will be limited to 48 (with up to eight people at each of six large tables). The cost is \$30 per person.

Please visit the ECDC website to purchase tickets and register: <https://ecdclub.org/>

**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**

**Democratic Party of Contra Costa County Annual Summer BBQ** – Saturday, October 14, 2023;  
Contra Loma Regional Park, 1200 Frederickson Lane, Antioch, CA 94509; more information  
may be available soon at <https://contracostadems.com/>

**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

## **9. Membership Renewal Reminder and Instructions**

**REMINDER!** – ECDC memberships expired on September 30, 2023. If you have not already  
renewed for 2024, **now is the time to renew!**

You can do so online at: <https://ecdclub.org/join/>

Or by mailing a check to: ECDC Membership  
PO Box 192  
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Dues are \$5 for students, \$15 for individual members, and \$23 for two adults at the same  
address. The added cost for a printed hard-copy newsletter is \$18 (in addition to dues).  
Please make checks payable to “El Cerrito Democratic Club” and provide an email address for  
all individual members.

If you have questions, please email Neil Tsutsui at [membership.ecdc@gmail.com](mailto:membership.ecdc@gmail.com).

Thank you!

- Neil Tsutsui, VP Membership

## **10. Call for Newsletter Submissions**

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

- William Ktsanes, VP Publications

## **11. 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, August 2022 and March 2023 ECDC meetings. The ECDC Bylaws are posted on the ECDC website at <https://ecdclub.org/club-documents/>.