



# El Cerrito Democratic Club

## Newsletter – September 2022

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ECDC

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## 1. El Cerrito Democratic Club General Information – *and Great News!*

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 next meeting will be on at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.

***Great news! We’re back in person!*** Our next monthly meeting will be in hybrid format, accessible both in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments (10860 San Pablo Ave, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and via Zoom. We’re excited to take this step back to “normal,” be in community and once again gather in person. We encourage you to come to Hana Gardens or join the Zoom call a few minutes early to mix-and-mingle with fellow ECDC members. No food or drink will be offered this Tuesday but please feel free to bring a snack.

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

[ECDC Monthly General Membership Meetings Calendar](#)

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.

Officer elections for the El Cerrito Democratic Club occur annually and were last held during the General Membership Meeting in January 2022. Special thanks to our volunteer officers:

### **El Cerrito Democratic Club Officers (2022)**

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| • President – Greg Lyman                        | • VP Membership – Neil Tsutsui      |
| • Past President – Janet Abelson                | • VP Programs – Carolyn Wysinger    |
| • Executive Vice President –<br>Champagne Brown | • VP Publications – William Ktsanes |
| • VP Media – Madeline Kronenberg                | • VP Records – Jonee Grassi         |
|   | • 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. There will be Board openings in January. Tasks and projects arise throughout the year.

Help is always greatly appreciated!

- William Ktsanes, VP Publications

## 2. Agenda and Zoom Link for the Next ECDC General Membership Meeting – Tuesday, September 27th – In-Person and on Zoom!

Our September monthly meeting will be in 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 above.

### Agenda

6:20 pm – Assemble and Mingle

6:30 pm – Call to Order

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

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

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

6:50 pm – ECDC Diversity Committee Report

7:00 pm – Program: Dr. Kenneth "Chris" Hurst, Sr.'s WCCUSD Presentation

7:45 pm – ECDC Members Targeting Close State and National Races (**Action Item**)

7:50 pm – Good of the Order .

8:00 pm – Adjourn

*\* Please send calendar events to the Executive Board in advance of the meeting*

- Greg Lyman, ECDC President

## 3. Minutes from the August 23, 2022 General Membership Meeting

6:20 pm – Assemble and Mingle.

6:30 pm – President Greg Lyman called the meeting to order. Recording of the meeting began.

Present on Zoom: Attendees numbered twelve at the start of the meeting. Greg declared a quorum.

## **Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2022 ballot endorsement meeting was made by William Ktsanes and seconded by Neil Tsutsui. Motion passed with one abstention and no nays.

## **Officer Reports**

Treasurer: Ed Crowley reported \$12,672.87 in the bank account. Twenty dollars was spent on OpaVote.

Membership: Neil Tsutsui reported the Club has a total of 181 members. Approximately ten members' dues will carry them through 2023.

Programs: Carolyn Wysinger announced that Dr. Hurst, WCCUSD Superintendent of Schools, is slated to be the speaker for the September meeting. Carolyn is working on getting Congressman Mark DeSaulnier as the guest speaker for the October dinner. Consensus was to focus on the availability of the speaker as the priority rather than the cost of the venue.

Publications: William Ktsanes requested that the members keep sending articles for the newsletter. No further updates.

Media: Madeline Kronenberg reported that all went well with the candidate forum on Zoom. Champagne Brown moved and Neil Tsutsui seconded a motion to waive notice to consider a motion to remove the password accessing the Zoom recording. The motion to waive notice passed unanimously. Then Champagne moved and Neil seconded a separate motion to remove the password from endorsement forums. The motion was also approved unanimously.

Records: Jonee Grassi had nothing to report.

## **DPCCC Report**

Champagne Brown reported that the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC) met on August 18<sup>th</sup> with most of the meeting time devoted to a presentation and discussion of reproductive freedom and current related bills. She congratulated ECDC on the candidate forum and expressed hope that others learn from it. Michael Nye announced that ECDC is leading the way in coordinating with other clubs and the DPCCC. Greg thanked the entire team who worked on making the candidate forum a success. Michael reminded everyone about the DPCCC annual barbecue on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Champagne moved and Ed Crowley seconded a motion to waive notice requirements in order to entertain a motion for the Club to spend \$200 sponsoring the barbecue. Both the motion to waive notice and the motion to sponsor the barbecue passed unanimously.

## **Diversity Committee**

No report. Greg reminded the Club of the importance of recognizing and removing implicit bias in all ways. The Club needs to continue to focus on diversity, equity and inclusion.

## **Bylaws Discussion Regarding Hybrid Meetings and Changing the Membership Term**

The Executive Board proposed changes to **Section V. Meetings** of the ECDC Bylaws to allow the Executive Board to determine the format of the member meetings (in-person, hybrid or electronic); to specify that in-person meetings shall be held in accessible facilities in El Cerrito when available and fiscally feasible; that hybrid meetings shall be in similar facilities and provide electronic participation equipment when available and fiscally feasible; and that those participating electronically shall have the right to participate in the meeting and will be counted towards the quorum. Committee meetings also may be held electronically with the format at the discretion of the Committee Chair. Discussion about proposed changes included substitution of “handicapped-accessible” with the word “accessible” and replacing references to “fiscally feasible” with “unless deemed an unreasonable hardship.” Ed Crowley and Champagne Brown moved and Joey Smith seconded a motion to adopt Section V of the Bylaws as proposed by the Executive Board with the suggested changes. The motion passed unanimously.

The Executive Board also recommended changes to **Section IV. Annual Dues** in which the “membership year” would be defined as starting on October 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Annual dues paid after August 1<sup>st</sup> would cover the remainder of the current membership year and the following membership year. Ed Crowley moved and Neil Tsutsui seconded a motion to accept the Bylaws as published in the newsletter. The motion passed unanimously. There was also a discussion about annual membership dues. Ed Crowley moved and Madeline Kronenberg seconded a motion to set dues of \$5 for a student, \$15 for a single person and \$23 for two people at the same address, with an additional \$18 for anyone who wants to receive a postal mailed paper copy (as opposed to an emailed electronic copy) of the monthly newsletter. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Good of the Order**

The DPCCC Annual Barbecue scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup> was discussed earlier in the meeting (by Michael Nye in the DPCCC Report).

8:37 pm – Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Jonee Grassi, VP Records

#### **4. *RESCHEDULED*: September Program – Dr. Kenneth “Chris” Hurst, Sr.; Superintendent of the West Contra Costa Unified School District**

For our program at the September 27<sup>th</sup> monthly ECDC General Membership Meeting, our guest will be Dr. Kenneth "Chris" Hurst, Sr., the first permanent African-American Superintendent of the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD). The program is rescheduled after scheduling conflicts in the spring. As we enter the new school year, please join us in conversation with Dr. Hurst.

##### **Dr. Kenneth "Chris" Hurst, Sr.**



Dr. Kenneth "Chris" Hurst, Sr. is the West Contra Costa Unified School District's (WCCUSD) 10th permanent superintendent. WCCUSD's Board of Education hired Dr. Hurst in April 2021, making him the School District's first permanent African American superintendent. (Mr. Sylvester Greenwood and Dr. Cynthia LeBlanc previously served one-year terms as interim superintendents.)

Dr. Hurst was appointed Superintendent of the WCCUSD after spending the prior five years as Superintendent of the Othello School District in Othello, Washington, a 4,500-student district 180 miles southeast of Seattle. He successfully led Othello through a transition to distance

learning at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and from distance learning to a hybrid model this year. With a student population that was 91% Latinx, 32% English language learners and 75% low-income free and reduced-price lunch qualified, Dr. Hurst increased Othello's graduation rates by 16% from 71% to 87% and reduced absences by 33%. He tripled the number of children enrolled in preschool and increased the percent of preschool students prepared for kindergarten from 30% to more than 98%. He also successfully implemented Othello's K-12 pathway, the District's social-emotional learning standards.

Before leading the Othello School District, Dr. Hurst served as Associate Superintendent of Educational Services for the Oceanside Unified School District, a 19,000-student district 40 miles northwest of San Diego. While serving as the Associate Superintendent of Educational Services, he established the nonprofit Oceanside Promise Foundation and supervised the implementation of programs striving to ensure Oceanside students graduated ready for college and fulfilling careers.

In Oceanside, Dr. Hurst collaborated with ConnectEd California, implementing Linked Learning to establish K-12 industry-aligned pathways to prepare students to succeed in college and career. He also helped implement a “Future Ready” technology initiative designed to create a shared vision of preparing students for success in college, career and citizenship and led the development of the District’s Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).

Dr. Hurst has 23 years of experience teaching and leading equity in urban, suburban and rural K-12 school districts. He spent 6 years as a principal and assistant principal in Oceanside, including as “turnaround” principal for Jefferson Middle and Oceanside High schools.

At Oceanside, Dr. Hurst led double-digit growth in the school’s academic performance and facilitated instructional rounds in which groups of educators visit classrooms to observe and provide constructive feedback on what is taking place in classroom learning and interactions between students and teachers.

Dr. Hurst also served as an administrator in the San Diego Unified and Poway Unified school districts. He started his educational career in Poway as a math, computer programming and computer science teacher.

Before his career in education, Dr. Hurst served 12 years in the Marines. His military service includes Maintenance Supervisor at Camp Pendleton (1991–1993), Combat Duty in Desert Storm and Saudi Arabia (1990–1991), Communications Instructor/Supervisor at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton (1988–1990), Drill Instructor in San Diego (1986–1988), and Communications Specialist at Camp Pendleton (1982–1986).

Dr. Hurst earned his Doctorate in Education (K-12 Leadership, Magna Cum Laude) from the University of Southern California in 2011; his Master of Arts in Educational Administration (Magna Cum Laude) from California State University, San Marcos in 2008; and his Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from California State University, San Marcos in 1997. He also holds an Associate of Arts degree from National University, San Diego.

Dr. Hurst and his wife Crystal have two grown children, a daughter who is a 6th-grade teacher and a son who is a computer scientist.

- William Ktsanes, VP Publications  
(adapted from <https://www.wccusd.net/superintendent>)

## 5. ECDC Vote Totals and Endorsements – Local Races

On Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, the El Cerrito Democratic Club held panel interviews for seven upcoming local races. An endorsement ballot was sent to all members who were in good standing as of July 10<sup>th</sup> and had registered for the forum. Our process requires that a candidate received at least 60% of the total ballots cast in their race to be endorsed, inclusive of any “No Endorsement” votes. The number of member ballots cast for the seven races ranged from 58 to 74.

Congratulations to the four candidates who met the 60% threshold and earned ECDC endorsements: **Alfred Twu, Andy Katz, John Marquez and Juliet Christian-Smith.** Very special thanks to all the candidates that participated in the forum and the ECDC members who voted.

Below are the full results with the number of ballots cast, vote totals and percentages.  
“No Consensus” indicates that none of the candidates in the race met the 60% threshold.

### AC Transit At-Large (64 Ballots)

#### **Alfred Twu (46 Votes, 72% – ENDORSED)**

Joel B. Young (6 Votes, 9%)

No Endorsement (12 Votes, 19%)

### East Bay Municipal Utilities District

#### Board of Directors - Ward 4 (66 Ballots)

#### **Andy Katz (44 Votes, 67% – ENDORSED)**

No Endorsement (22 Votes, 33%)

### Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder (67 Ballots)

#### **NO CONSENSUS**

Kristin Braun Connelly (38 Votes, 57%)

Vicki Gordon (13 Votes, 19%)

No Endorsement (16 Votes, 24%)

### Contra County Community College District Board of Trustees - Ward 1 (58 Ballots)

#### **John Marquez (45 Votes, 78% – ENDORSED)**

No Endorsement (13 Vote, 22%)

### Stege Sanitary District (61 Ballots, Two Openings)

#### **Juliet Christian-Smith (46 Votes, 75% – ENDORSED)**

Dwight E. Merrill (30 Votes, 49%)

Tessa Eve Beach (32, 52%)

No Endorsement (9, 15%)

### West Contra Costa Unified School District

#### School Board - Trustee Area 5 (68 Ballots)

#### **NO CONSENSUS**

Leslie Reckler (39 Votes, 57%)

Patricio Dujan (16 Votes, 24%)

No Endorsement (13 Votes, 19%)

### El Cerrito City Council (74 Ballots, Two Openings)

#### **NO CONSENSUS**

Carolyn Wysinger (38 Votes, 51%)

Gabriel Quinto (42 Votes, 57%)

Vanessa Warheit (42 Votes, 57%)

No Endorsement (6 Votes, 8%)

(Please see the Appendix for profiles submitted by the three El Cerrito City Council candidates.)

- Greg Lyman, ECDC President; William Ktsanes, VP Publications



## 6. ECDC Endorsements – Complete List

I remember as a young child the excitement of voting with my mom, pulling the levers, and having the voting booth curtain open and close around us. I remember in 5<sup>th</sup> grade betting a classmate 25 cents that George McGovern would defeat Richard Nixon—and later, as Watergate unfolded, demanding my money back. I remember, when I was 18 and old enough to vote (without my mom), taking marked-up endorsement pamphlets with me into the booth.

Although I now vote by mail and am annoyed by the waste generated by the gazillion pamphlets stuffed in my mailbox, I still put together a marked-up list before voting. For those of you who, like me, want it all in one place, below is a complete list of ECDC endorsements for the November 8<sup>th</sup> general election.

El Cerrito Democratic Club Endorsements – November 8 <sup>th</sup> General Election	
<b>Voter Initiatives</b>	
Proposition 1 – Constitutional Right to Reproductive Freedom	<b>Yes</b>
Proposition 26 – Allows In-Person Roulette, Dice Games, Sports Wagering on Tribal Lands	<i>No Consensus</i>
Proposition 27 – Allows Online and Mobile Sports Wagering Outside Tribal Lands	<b>No</b>
Proposition 28 – Provides Additional Funding for Arts and Music Education in Public Schools	<b>Yes</b>
Proposition 29 – Requires On-Site Licensed Medical Professional at Kidney Dialysis Clinics and Establishes Other State Requirements	<b>Yes</b>
Proposition 30 – Provides Funding for Programs to Reduce Air Pollution and Prevent Wildfires by Increasing Tax on Personal Income Over \$2 Million	<b>Yes</b>
Proposition 31 – Referendum on 2020 Law that Would Prohibit the Retail Sale of Certain Flavored Tobacco Products	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Statewide Races</b>	
United States Senator	<b>Alex Padilla</b>
United States House of Representatives Newly-Formed California Congressional District 8 (Currently District 3)	<b>John Garamendi</b>
California Governor	<b>Gavin Newsom</b>
California Lieutenant Governor	<b>Eleni Kounalakis</b>
California Secretary of State	<b>Shirley Weber</b>
California State Controller	<b>Malia Cohen</b>
California State Treasurer	<b>Fiona Ma</b>
California Attorney General	<b>Ron Bonta</b>
Insurance Commissioner	<b>Ricardo Lara</b>
California Superintendent of Public Instruction	<b>Tony Thurmond</b>

<b>Local Races</b>	
State Assembly - Newly-Formed District 14 (Currently District 15)	<b>Buffy Wicks</b>
AC Transit At-Large	<b>Alfred Twu</b>
East Bay Municipal Utility District Board of Directors - Ward 4	<b>Andy Katz</b>
Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder	<i>No Consensus</i>
Contra Costa County Community College Board of Trustees - Ward 1	<b>John Marquez</b>
Stege Sanitary District (Two Openings)	<b>Juliet Christian-Smith</b>
West Contra Costa United School District School Board - Trustee Area 5	<i>No Consensus</i>
El Cerrito City Council (Two Openings)	<i>No Consensus</i>

- William Ktsanes, VP Publications

## 7. Time to Step Out - *The Time to Walk Is Upon Us!*

One of the missions of the ECDC is to elect democratic candidates. We need volunteers to help count, bundle and walk literature to El Cerrito houses to inform residents who we support. We are waiting for flyers being printing and will send a separate email once we have them ready to be counted, bundled and walked. *Please consider volunteering!*

**Literature Counters/Bundlers:** *Starting Soon through Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.* These volunteers will bundle literature into groups of 10, 20 and 50 and then combine quantities into the number needed for each walk. This may be completed at your home – *entirely remotely!* We will have the literature and rubber bands available soon for pick-up.

**Walkers:** *Starting with a Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> “Kickoff Rally” through Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.* Get your steps in as you walk around various neighborhoods in El Cerrito. We will bundle 50 to 75 flyers for each walk targeting specific households within a six to eight block area. Each walk is designed to take about 60 to 90 minutes to complete. We are looking for 30 to 40 volunteers to each do one to three walks. Of course, you can do more than three walks; however, if you can only do one walk, that’s totally fine. Every little bit helps—and *is greatly appreciated!*



Carl Mason has volunteered to create the walk lists. We hope to have lists and maps by September 28th.

To volunteer, please email Greg Lyman at [gblyman@comcast.net](mailto:gblyman@comcast.net).


- Greg Lyman, ECDC President

## 8. WELL (“Water Education for Latino Leaders”) Policy Workshop


**Registration:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-color-of-water-a-policy-discussion-on-bay-areas-water-system-tickets-412362857407>



# UNTAPPED LEGISLATIVE WATER WORKSHOP




**Moderated by**  
**Cheryl Sudduth**  
Vice President,  
West County  
Wastewater District  
and UnTapped  
graduate class of 2022



**Co-Hosted by**  
**Assemblymember  
Buffy Wicks,**  
District 15





A POLICY DISCUSSION on one of our community's most vital needs: **WATER**. Join WELL UnTapped graduate class of 2022, Cheryl Sudduth, Vice President, West County Wastewater District, and Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, District 15, for an important discussion with other local elected officials, policymakers, community-based organizations, researchers, and water industry experts about the equitable distribution and use of our region's water system, the impact on our communities, and moving towards solutions. [Click here](#) to register.

**Saturday, September 24, 2022**  
Registration & Networking:  
9:00 am – 9:50 am  
Program: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Location: De Anza High School,  
5000 Valley View Rd, Richmond, CA 94803



**Speakers include:**  
Rep. Mark DeSaulnier, CA-11; Supervisor John M. Gioia, D-1; Lesa McIntosh, Director, East Bay Municipal Utility District; Jamela Smith-Folds, Trustee, West Contra Costa Unified School District; State Water Resources Control Board, Urban Tilth, the Sierra Club, Public Policy Institute of California, San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association, Berkeley Lab, WCCUSD, and more.

**In Partnership with:**



## 9. Support California House Candidates in Close Races!



Josh Harder



Rudy Salas



Christy Smith



Adam Gray

Those of you who are following the polls have no doubt seen that the prospects for Democrats to hold the US Senate are looking hopeful. In this light, the ECDC E-Board thought that it would be good to shine some light on the other chamber of Congress – the US House of Representatives – which is also trending towards Democrats. Although chances of Democrats holding the House are slimmer than for the Senate, the consequences of losing the House to Republicans would be severe, including years of ugly, unwarranted investigations of Merrick Garland, Joe Biden, and who knows what else. Although our ability to spend ECDC funds on campaigns is limited, we wanted to highlight some close House races in California that are worth your attention and money. The Democratic candidates here are running in districts that are currently polling competitively, but are low profile, and could therefore use a boost in donations. Even just \$10 or \$25 would be helpful! We present this information as a starting point for your own exploration of races and candidates that you might be interested in supporting.

**Josh Harder**, CA-09. Cook Political Report currently lists this as “Lean Dem”, and the district has a +5 Dem PVI (partisan voting index).

<https://harderforcongress.com>

**Rudy Salas**, CA-22. This November, Salas is taking on vulnerable Republican incumbent, David Valadao, in a district with +5 Dem PVI. Cook rates this race as “Toss-up Republican”.

<https://rudysalas.com>

**Christy Smith**, CA-27. Similar to the Salas race above, Dem Christy Smith is taking on a vulnerable Republican incumbent in a race rated “Toss-up Republican”, in a +4 Dem district.

<https://www.christyforcongress.org>

**Adam Gray**, CA-13. This race is for an open seat in a district rated “Toss-up Democrat”, with a +4 Dem PVI.

<https://www.adamgrayforcongress.com>

- Neil Tsutsui, VP Membership

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

**WELL (“Water Education for Latino Leaders”) Policy Workshop** – 9 am – 3 pm, Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>; Registration and Networking from 9 – 9:50 am; in-person at De Anza High School, 5000 Valley View Road, Richmond; registration at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-color-of-water-a-policy-discussion-on-bay-areas-water-system-tickets-412362857407>; moderated by ECDC member and West County Wastewater District Vice President Cheryl Sudduth; see item “8. WELL (“Water Education for Latino Leaders”) Policy Workshop” for more information

**ECDC September General Membership Meeting** – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month); remote via Zoom link <http://tiny.cc/ECDCmemberMtg>

**ECDC Annual Dinner** – Tentatively planned for Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>; exact time and date to be determined and subject to the availability of potential guest speakers; no General Membership Meeting in October and December

**Volunteer to Count, Bundle and Walk Literature** – Now through October 10<sup>th</sup>; “Kickoff Rally” at 10 am on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>; see item “7. Time to Step Out - *The Time to Walk Is Upon Us!*” for more information

**Election Day** – Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>; General Election; October 11<sup>th</sup> through November 8<sup>th</sup> early by-mail voting; run-off races, local elections and ballot initiatives

**ECDC November General Membership Meeting** – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month); remote via Zoom link <http://tiny.cc/ECDCmemberMtg>

- William Ktsanes, VP Publications

## 11. Membership Renewal Reminder and Instructions

Big thanks to all who have renewed their membership! Following our newly approved membership period, if you renew now you will be a member in good standing through September 30, 2023. If you have not yet renewed, 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

Please note that our new dues are \$5 for students, \$15 for individual members, and \$23 for two adults at the same address. The cost for a printed hard-copy newsletter has increased to \$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

## **12. 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 me, William Ktsanes, at [wktsanes@gmail.com](mailto:wktsanes@gmail.com) for review and editing.

- William Ktsanes, VP Publications

## **13. 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 and August 2022 ECDC meetings. The ECDC Bylaws are posted on the ECDC website at <https://ecdclub.org/>.

## **14. El Cerrito City Council Candidate Profiles**

None of the three candidates for El Cerrito City Council – Carolyn Wysinger, Vanessa Warheit and Gabriel Quinto – received the 60% of member votes necessary for an endorsement from the El Cerrito Democratic Club. The three candidates are vying for two positions to be filled with the November 8<sup>th</sup> election. Although the ECDC did not make endorsements, we did invite all three to submit a one-page flyer that introduces themselves and their campaign to voters.

Attached are the profiles they submitted.





Dear Voter,

My name is Carolyn Wysinger and it would be my honor to serve as your next City Council Member for El Cerrito. I bring over 25 years of leadership experience on the local, regional, and statewide level. I am currently serving a 3<sup>rd</sup> term as SF Pride President and was appointed by Supervisor John Gioia to serve on the Contra Costa County Library Commission. I am an active Democratic leader both on the local and state level serving in many roles. I am a proud Gacho and alum of El Cerrito High School, Class of 1997. I have earned Bachelors from California State University, Long Beach and Masters from Antioch University.

I am running to serve you and our community by bringing innovative policy solutions to City Hall. Join Fire Fighters, Laborers and Elected Officials in voting for me as YOUR next El Cerrito City Council member.

I look forward to meeting you on the campaign trail and invite you to reach out with your questions to [info@carolynwysinger.com](mailto:info@carolynwysinger.com).

Thanks for your consideration,

*Carolyn*

### Leadership. Experience. Wysinger

Support housing for ALL	A Safe El Cerrito	Economic Growth and Recovery	Equitable and transparent budgeting process
Just as El Cerrito is a place that you call home today, I will fight to ensure that it can be a home for our future generations. I will partner with my colleagues on the Council to ensure that we center evidence-based approaches to housing production, preservation of naturally affordable housing, and protection of homeowners and renters alike. I will work to produce housing at all income levels and of all types, especially along corridors and transit hubs like El Cerrito's BART stations while preserving El Cerrito's unique character and charm.	I will approach public safety with a pragmatic approach inspired by my grandfather and cousin's experiences as police officers. Our Police Department is tasked with addressing crime and public safety concerns in our city, but we also have to find ways to incorporate our community and innovative solutions for non-criminal activity. Given our budget, we must work to find ways to support our police officers while also accessing available alternative tools at the county level to address non-criminal activity such as mental health and lack of housing.	Too many of our residents and local businesses are suffering due to the financial impacts from the pandemic. Many businesses have shuttered and some are barely hanging on. El Cerrito's fiscal success and recovery is about the success of our local business community and our working families. I will be a proponent of new small businesses and entrepreneurial opportunities to help address commercial vacancies while bringing jobs to El Cerrito.	I will work to ensure we are meeting our budget goals while prioritizing safety and growing our local economy. My leadership experiences serving on different boards and organizations have prepared me to make tough decisions while balancing our City's interests. I will support the appointed Financial Advisory Board and the current Financial Transparency Portal. I will champion an equitable budget process and prioritize fiscal accountability.

For more information on the campaign and to see all of my endorsements; please visit [www.carolynwysinger.com](http://www.carolynwysinger.com)

# Vanessa FOR El Cerrito

**Advocate. Organizer. Strategist.**

**Vanessa Warheit is a proven and effective leader in the fight for social & environmental justice.** A lifelong Democrat, Vanessa is a champion of democratic participation. From protecting teachers' pension funds, to registering voters and protecting the right to vote, Vanessa consistently works to ensure that everyone's voice is heard and that policies consider the real needs of working families.

**Vanessa has been at the forefront of progressive climate action for over a decade.** She currently runs Plug-in America's equity-focused EV Charging for All program. Vanessa helped set up the non-profit partnership program for Atmos Financial - the nation's leading climate-positive bank - and she was the first Executive Director of Fossil Free California.

**Vanessa is the *only* clean money, corporate-free candidate in the City Council campaign, and the only candidate to sign the No Fossil Fuel Money pledge.** That means she is relying on people power to reach El Cerrito voters with her message of transparent government, citizen engagement, and progressive action.



**Vanessa brings 30 years of policy, outreach and advocacy experience to the citizens of El Cerrito. She will fight for:**

- ◆ **Fiscal responsibility** to address our city's ongoing financial crisis
- ◆ Government **transparency** and greater community engagement
- ◆ More affordable and inclusionary **housing**
- ◆ **Electric transportation** and micro-mobility to solve the 'last mile problem'
- ◆ **Safer streets** for walking and biking, and a vibrant San Pablo Avenue
- ◆ Local **small business development**
- ◆ A regional Green/Blue New Deal to create **local jobs** and build **resilience**.

**[VanessaforElCerrito.com](http://VanessaforElCerrito.com)**





Mayor Gabriel "Gabe" Quinto became El Cerrito's first Filipino-American, the second Asian-American and first LGBTQ Councilmember in the history of the city of El Cerrito. Born in Berkeley, he grew up in El Cerrito, where he attended public schools. Mayor Quinto knows the history, needs, opportunities and challenges we have faced and must meet today. He has been active in neighborhood, local and

regional organizations and issues, seeking to build a healthy community and celebrating our diverse population. Gabe currently serves as Mayor for our city and completing his second 4-year term on the El Cerrito City Council. He serves on the Board of Marin Clean Energy, Boardmember for League of California Cities and also serves on League of California Cities API & LGBTQ Caucus Executive Boards and Environmental Committee. Mayor Quinto began his first term on the El Cerrito City Council on December 2014. His second four-year term began in December 2018 when he was instrumental in the passage of Measure V which established El Cerrito as a Charter City and implemented a property transfer tax. Measure H was also passed to fund parks and city's pool.



Prior to his election to the El Cerrito City Council, he served as a member of El Cerrito's Committee on Aging and as Chair of the Human Relations Commission. For many years, Gabe was an elected member of the Sierra Club Bay Chapter's Executive and Political committees, and Chair of the West Contra Costa County Group.

### **Gabe's Priorities**

- Continue to build transit-oriented development and a 21st Century Library at the El Cerrito Plaza BART Station
- Grow our revenues and tax base to ensure a sustainable future for our residents and small businesses
- Ensure public safety, recreation and senior services meet the needs and expectations of residents
- Work collaboratively with our state and regional partners to build affordable housing and solve our homelessness crisis

Mayor Quinto is endorsed by dozens of regional leaders, elected officials and neighbors in El Cerrito.

For more information, please visit [quintoforelcerrito.com](http://quintoforelcerrito.com)