



El Cerrito Democratic Club

February 2026 Newsletter

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ECDC
PO Box 192
El Cerrito CA 94530

Newsletter Editor: Courtney Helion

1. El Cerrito Democratic Club General Information

Since 1952, the El Cerrito Democratic Club (ECDC)—one of the oldest Democratic clubs in the state—has provided 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 usually 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 generally in a hybrid format accessible both in person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments (10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remotely via Zoom.

For monthly meeting and calendar reminders, you are invited to download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) invites to your computer:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZUpcOCvqDkpEtH10GiVZ7NcegZqDI_tJeMI/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGpqjwjHdKXsxGCRpwcBo_CXe3wpnpej7d1zU_CChZpNS31M-V4I5ZWL8z6

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, we 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 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. El Cerrito Democratic Club executive board officer elections occur annually each January.

Special thanks to our 2025 volunteer officers:

El Cerrito Democratic Club Officers (2025)

- President – Neil Tsutsui
- Past President – Champagne Brown
- Executive Vice President – William Ktsanes
- VP Media – Madeline Kronenberg
- VP Membership – Greg Lyman
- VP Programs – Ruthie Abelson Olivas
- VP Publications – Courtney Helion
- 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 and/or joining the Executive Board.

Help is always greatly appreciated!

Courtney Helion, VP Public

2. Call for Candidates: VP of Membership – El Cerrito Democratic Club

The El Cerrito Democratic Club is seeking volunteers to run for Vice President of Membership in our upcoming officer elections. This is a key leadership role for anyone who enjoys outreach, organization, and helping strengthen our local Democratic community.

The VP of Membership's responsibilities include:

- Managing and maintaining accurate membership lists
- Accessing online voter information to support club activities
- Leading membership development and recruitment efforts
- Facilitating affiliation with other Democratic organizations
- Assist with the annual re-chartering of ECDC

To support your success, you will receive hands-on training during your first three months in the role, ensuring you feel confident and prepared.

This position is a wonderful opportunity to help grow and energize the club, connect with fellow Democrats, and make a meaningful impact at the local level. No prior board experience is required...just a commitment to our shared values and a desire to get involved.

If you're interested or would like to learn more, please reach out to Immediate Past President Champagne Brown (cbrownecdc@gmail.com) to submit your nomination.

Your participation keeps our club strong and thriving!

3. Information and Zoom Link for the Tuesday, February 24, El Cerrito Democratic Club General Membership Meeting

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

To join the monthly ECDC General Membership Meetings via Zoom, please use this link: <http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting>

Zoom Meeting ID: 814 7976 2385; Zoom Passcode: c5fQKR

Dial In by Phone: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 408 638 0968;
Meeting ID: 814 7976 2385; Phone Passcode: 920761

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

February Meeting Agenda

- 6:20 pm – Assemble and Mingle, Zoom Logins
- 6:30 pm – Call to Order
- 6:31 pm – Review and Approve the February 2026 Meeting Agenda **(Action Item)**
- 6:31 pm – Review and Approve the January 2026 Meeting minutes **(Action Item)**
- 6:35 pm – Officer reports
 - President (Neil Tsutsui)
 - Executive VP (William Ktsanes)
 - Membership (Greg Lyman)
 - Media (Madeline Kronenberg)
 - Publications (Courtney Helion)
 - Treasurer (Ed Crowley)
 - Records (Leslie Reckler)
 - Programs (Ruthie Abelson Olivas)
- 6:50 pm – DPCCC report (Champagne Brown)
- 6:55 pm – Review and approval of ECDC budget for 2026 (Neil) **(Action Item)**
- 7:05 pm – Review and vote on program topics for 2026 (Neil) **(Action Item)**
- 7:45 pm – Announcements (2 minutes each)
- 7:55 pm – Good of the Order
- 8:00 pm – Adjourn

Next Membership Meeting: March 24, 2026

4. January Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

VP Ktsanes called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Review and Approve the January 2026 Meeting Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Officer reports

- President (Neil Tsutsui) Absent
- Executive VP (William Ktsanes) No Report
- Membership (Greg Lyman) 20 memberships were added up in the last month. 117 members. On pace to exceed last year's membership number of 122.
- Media (Madeline Kronenberg) Absent
- Publications (Courtney Helion) No Report

- Treasurer (Ed Crowley) \$3100 cash balance. Below \$3000 there is a \$10 charge per mo. from Mechanics Bank. The room is prepaid through June. Year End Highlights: \$112 on Paypal fees. A little ahead on dues, a little below on contributions. No newsletter expenditures this year because the paper newsletter was discontinued.
- Records (Leslie Reckler) No Report
- Programs (Ruthie Abelson Olivas) Absent
- DPCCC report (Champagne Brown) Heard from local candidates that are running for reelection. Assemblywoman Anamarie Avila Farias (AD 15). Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (AD16) Mark Desalnier.

Ktsanes recognizes the horrific events that happened in Minneapolis and to take a moment of silence to reflect in a manner that you see appropriate. Ktsanes is writing a resolution to come before the El Cerrito City Council and the Democratic club.

Election of ECDC Officers for 2026

Past President Brown called for nominations from the floor. None were nominated. The slate was unanimously approved with no nays nor abstentions.

President Neil Tsutsui
 Immediate Past President Champagne Brown
 Vice President William Ktsanes
 Membership OPEN
 Secretary Leslie Reckler
 Media Madeline Kronenberg
 Treasurer Ed Crowley
 Programs Ruthie Abelson

Solicitation of Topics for Programs in 2026

- El Cerrito Library Pros and Cons
- How to ensure Democratic candidates are elected in the midterms everywhere, but especially to US House of Representatives - Leslie
- Appropriate response if ICE comes to our neighborhood and how do we safely protest and demonstrate in an increasingly unsafe space? - Linda/William
- Plan to stabilize staffing and finances in the WCCUSD. Include district, union and nonpartisan outsider to speak - Betsy
- BART update on the Plaza Bard development - 743 apartments - funding /approvals/timelines, etc. - Betsy (recommends Melanie Mintz)
- Governor's proposal on stopping the purchase of single family homes by corporate entities/investors - Betsy
- Limit the use of AI in Medicaid and Medicare - Betsy
- Healthcare for All - PMP and League Ruby sent in a presentation for consideration
- Elected Officials coming in to speak Arreguin, Gioia, Mayor of El Cerrito, etc. - Leslie/William
- Recruiting Young Voices- Betsy

- Wildfire Prevention and Coastal Commission Grant/Hazard Reduction for Albany and El Cerrito/Hillside Nature Area Update (Karineh Samkain) - Betsy
- What plans does El Cerrito have if ICE were to deluge our area? Include with Willam's Item.
- Presentation on school district parcel tax which expires in 2027 - Betsy
- Bike lanes along with affordable housing on Central Avenue and San Diego Street - Betsy
- Rising cost of living for Seniors - Linda

If you have other ideas, please do not hesitate to send them in.

Everyone who recommended a topic is to write one paragraph pitching your topic. Please submit your paragraph by Sunday February 15th to:

Ecdc.pubs@gmail.com

Announcements

- Seminar on Friday if you register, you'll have access to the recording.
- <https://californiaalliance.org/>
- Thank you from our district attorney for your help. It seems both attempts are not moving forward. But stay steadfast and vigilant.

Good of the Order

- East Bay Times article. Retirees' rising cost of living is increasing. Critical to our county, and deep concerns about how retirees living on fixed incomes can live.
- Rebecca and Charles, new attendees introduced themselves.
- Ktsanes to put together our own ECDC statement and send it to Minneapolis and St. Paul Democratic Clubs.

Adjourn

VP Ktsanes adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.



5. ECDC 2026 Budget

El Cerrito Democratic Club Budget For the Year 2026

Revenue	Budget
Capital Account	-
Member Dues Revenue	3,000.00
Newsletter Revenue	-
Annual Dinner Other Revenue	400.00
Meeting Pizza Revenue	-
Contribution Revenue	200.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	-
Total Revenue	3,600.00
Expenses	Budget
Meeting Expense - Room Rental	750.00
Meeting Expense - Voting Service	40.00
Meeting Expense - Speaker Honoraria	-
Meeting Expense - Equipment	-
Total Meeting Expense	790.00
Campaign Expense - Printing	1,500.00
Campaign Expense - Political Contributions	-
Campaign Expense - Miscellaneous	-
Total Campaign Expense	1,500.00
General Expense - Office Supplies	50.00
General Expense - Insurance	700.00
General Expense - Affiliations and Memberships	-
Total Operating Expense	750.00
Communications Expense - Website & E-mail	-
Communication Expense - Online Membership Web Service	-
Communication Expense - Newsletter Printing	-
Communication Expense - Newsletter Postage	-
Communication Expense - Post Office Box	248.00
Total Communication Expense	248.00
Membership Outreach Expense	100.00
Printing Expense - Recruitment	50.00
Total Recruitment Expense	150.00
Charitable Contributions - General	-
Total Charitable Contributions Expense	-
Financial Expense - Mechanics Bank Fees	-
Financial Expense - Dues & Contributions PayPal Fees	150.00
Financial Expense - Annual Dinner PayPal Fees	-
Financial Expense - Dues & Contribution Square Fees	10.00
Financial Expense - Annual Dinner Square Fees	-
Total Financial Expense	160.00
Total Expenses	3,598.00
Net Income	\$2.00

6. Program Topics for Consideration and Ballot

At last month's ECDC Monthly General Membership Meeting, participants put forth ideas for potential program topics for 2026's monthly meetings. Attendees at this month's February meeting will be asked to **select up to eight (8) preferred topics** for discussion at our 2026 General Membership Meetings by checking the square boxes to the left. There is no need to number or rank your choices. With ECDC's 74th Annual Dinner in October and the ECDC Annual Holiday Party in December, there are up to eight remaining monthly programs to be decided upon: March, April, May, June, July, August, September and November.

In addition to choosing up to eight topics, everyone please vote on the last question. If we choose

"Library Tax" as a meeting topic, would you prefer it be covered "debate style" with both sides splitting time

in one meeting or, if scheduling allows, provide more time for each side in two separate meetings?

POTENTIAL PROGRAM TOPICS - 2026

1. *El Cerrito Library Tax Initiative – Pros and Cons*

Perhaps the most important and contentious issue facing El Cerrito in 2026 is the proposed property tax to fund a new or renovated library. In 2025, the tax's author ECDC Past President and El Cerrito former Mayor/Councilmember Greg Lyman spoke to the Club about it but the opponents did not. In fairness, the ECDC should hear from both sides—the tax opponents as well its proponents—before the initiative goes before El Cerrito voters. On February 19th, the El Cerrito City Council voted 4-to-1 to place the measure on the June 2, 2026 ballot. (Councilmember William Ktsanes voted instead to place the tax on the November 3rd ballot as it would have saved the city and its residents \$80,000 in election fees.)

Suggested speakers: Anti-Tax: Wally Nowinski and Barbara Chan; Pro-Tax: Greg Lyman and Charles Taylor

2. *WCCUSD Parcel Tax Renewal and Plans to Stabilize Finances*

After the December 2025 teachers' strike, the West Contra Costa Unified School District approved a contract giving teachers and district employees – including administrators – significant wage increases, added benefits and improved working conditions (including 100% district-paid family health care by June 30, 2027). The district recently announced plans to cut \$127 million in spending over three years.

A districtwide parcel tax that brings in about \$10 million annually will expire on June 30, 2027. School board members indicated that a tax renewal would be placed on either the June 2, 2026 primary or November 3, 2026 general election ballot. What is the plan to stabilize finances and

perhaps change budget priorities so that receivership can be avoided, teachers can be retained and similar contract disputes can be avoided? To generate revenue and help retain district employees, given the cost of Bay Area housing, has the district considered developing workforce housing on surplus properties? What information came from Godbe Research's survey of likely voters? What plans are in place if the parcel tax renewal fails and/or budget cuts are insufficient?

Suggested speakers: Leslie Reckler, WCCUSD Trustee and ECDC Board Officer; Natalie Tavani-Walchuk, Chief Impact Officer for GO Public Schools, an Oakland-based public education advocacy nonprofit that tracks data and offers resources for parents; or Francisco Ortiz, President, United Teachers of Richmond

3. *Electing Democrats in the 2026 Midterm Election*

What can we do to ensure Democratic candidates in the 2026 midterms are elected to Congress as well to other offices both locally and across the country? Which Republican-held Congressional districts have the highest probability of being flipped to a Democrat? Who will run for the remaining term of Doug LaMalfa, and how much does winning the special election matter? How will the passage of Proposition 50 redistricting affect Congressman Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) and does he need our help? What's the status of the Political Action Committee (PAC) that ECDC President Neil Tsutsui planned to launch?

Suggested speakers: Jared Huffman or Neil Tsutsui

4. *Update on the Plaza BART Housing/Transit-Oriented Development Plan*

The City Council has approved a plan to build 743 apartments in six apartment buildings on what are now parking lots at the El Cerrito Plaza BART Station. Construction is underway on one 70-unit affordable housing building, which will provide 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom apartments for low, very low, and extremely-low income households. What are the ramifications of the six-building, transit-oriented development (TOD) being behind schedule, with the other five approved apartment buildings not yet fully funded. Is there an updated plan and timeline? Since at least 2019, a majority of City Council members have pushed for construction of a new library on the ground floor of one of the unfunded affordable housing buildings. How is it impacted by the construction delays and uncertainties? Is the plan being changed to allow more affordable housing and less market-rate housing? What's the updated status of the Parking Management District proposed to facilitate library users and others parking on city streets when BART parking is reduced to just 145 spaces? (This topic would broadly address the development of the El Cerrito Plaza BART Station parcels and not specifically focus on the proposed library.)

Suggested speakers: Melanie Mintz, Community Development Director; Matt Lewis, Principal Property Developer at BART; and/or a representative from developer Related Companies

5. *Proposals to Stop Investors from Buying Up Single-Family Homes*

Recently politicians ranging from Gov. Gavin Newsom to gubernatorial candidate Tom Steyer to President Trump have said institutional investors should be stopped from buying single-family residential homes, which they argue makes home ownership for families even less affordable. The same week that Governor Newsom announced a plan to stop investors from buying up homes, President Trump issued an Executive Order titled "Stopping Wall Street from Competing with Main Street Homebuyers." (January 20, 2026) In his televised campaign ads, Tom Steyer promises to stop Wall Street investors from buying up homes. California bill AB 1240, authored by State Assembly Member Alex Lee (D-Milpitas), would prohibit institutional investors that already own more than 1,000 single-family homes from purchasing any additional properties to convert into rentals. The bill has already passed the full Assembly and now awaits approval from the state Senate. What's the significance and status of these efforts?

Suggested speakers: Rep. Alex Lee or Nicholas Chan, Communications Director for Alex Lee (nicholas.chan@asm.ca.gov); another possibility is to invite gubernatorial candidate Tom Steyer or one of his campaign surrogates

6. *Protecting Immigrants / "Know your Rights" Seminar*

President Trump's federal police, including ICE and Customs and Border agents, have been operating in ways many of us find bullying and illegal. As we all know, they recently shot two U.S. citizens,

Renee Good and Alex Pretti. An immigration expert could be invited to discuss President Trump's effort to deport undocumented immigrants, El Cerrito's sanctuary city status, the use of Flock surveillance technology, potentially conflicting pressures on the El Cerrito Police Department, and best practices to ensure human rights are protected. What can we do proactively to ensure an appropriate and effective response if ICE comes to our neighborhoods? How do we safely protest, demonstrate and push back against these policies in authoritarian measures in an increasingly unsafe space – without being injured or detained?

Suggested speakers: Martha Escobar, Supervising Attorney and policy expert at the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC); Jennie Pasquarella, Directing Attorney and civil liberties and ICE enforcement challenges expert at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Northern California; Miriam Pérez, immigration Attorney and advocate focused on community legal defense strategies; or possibility a representative from the nationwide, grassroots, anti-authoritarian nonprofit organizing group Indivisible

7. *Securing the 2026 Election*

President Trump has sent federal agents to confiscate ballots and election information from

local election officials in Fulton County, Georgia and declared that elections should be “federalized.” What are Democrats and other organizations doing to prepare for challenges to polling and election results in 2026? What are the implications of “federalizing” local elections?

Suggested speakers: States United Program Director Sam Trepel, a former attorney for the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division who led the federal prosecution of the officers who murdered George Floyd or California Attorney General Rob Bonta (or a representative from his office)

8. *Elected Official Update*

We could invite one of our local elected officials to provide a legislative update or overview of issues facing El Cerrito and Contra Costa County. The specific focus and issues discussed would depend on who is available to speak.

Suggested speakers: Jesse Arreguín, 7th District, California State Senate; John Gioia, District 1, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors; or Gabe Quinto, Mayor of El Cerrito

9. *Contra Costa County Sales Tax Increase on the November Ballot*

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors recently voted to place a new, added, 0.626 percent ($\frac{5}{8}$ of a cent), five-year sales tax on the June 2, 2026 ballot. If passed, the tax is projected to generate roughly \$150 million per year for the county’s general fund and help backfill budget pressures — especially impacts from federal funding cuts — over the five-year period. What are the details?

Suggested speaker: John Gioia, District 1, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

10. *Bay Area Transit Tax on the November Ballot*

In response to huge budget deficits facing regional transit agencies — with declines in ridership post-pandemic and the expiration of temporary federal/state relief — California legislators passed Senate Bill 63. It authorizes a regional sales tax measure to appear on the November 2026 ballot for voters in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. The proposed measure, often called “Connect Bay Area,” would raise roughly \$980 million per year for 14 years if approved by voters. It calls for a $\frac{1}{2}$ -cent sales increase in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, and a 1-cent increase in San Francisco County (higher to also support Muni). Revenue would be dedicated to transit operations and improvements across the region.

Without new revenue, BART and AC Transit are warning of drastic cuts, including station closures, reduced service, and staff layoffs.

Suggested speaker: Harpreet Sandhu, Director, AC Transit Board; Ryan Luu, External Affairs Representative, AC Transit; could ask El Cerrito Councilmember and former BART Board

Director Rebecca Saltzman to recommend a current BART Board Director to speak

11. *Bike Lane Updates - Richmond Street and Beyond*

El Cerrito has sought grant funding for additional bike lanes throughout the city. In addition to the \$8 million federal grant from the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program earmarked for the \$11 million of work planned for Richmond Street (including a nine-block bike lane on Richmond between Hill Street to the north and Moeser Lane to the south), funding was also tentatively awarded for a “Class IV” protected bike lane on Central Avenue as well as “Class III” bike lanes on Lincoln Avenue and San Diego Avenue. What’s the current design, funding and time status for all these projects? Are there risks of any of the federal grants being rescinded by the Trump Administration? With Richmond Street, as of the summer there was a shortfall of about \$1 million that had not yet been at least tentatively funded by grants (for the Moeser Lane intersection). Has additional grant funding been secured for Richmond Street, as hoped by city officials? If not, will there be design changes to address the \$1 million budget shortfall?

Suggested speaker: Jarrett Mullen, Sustainable Transportation Program Manager

12. *El Cerrito Senior Services – An Update on Efforts to Bring Back the Senior Center*

Older adults who participate in senior center programs experience improved psychological and physical health through the resources, activities and social engagement they offer. El Cerrito permanently closed its Midtown Activity Center in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. Every city along the San Pablo Avenue corridor—from Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley and Albany to the south, up through Richmond, San Pablo, Pinole and Hercules to the north—has at least one senior center, except El Cerrito. Greatly reduced offerings are now scattered among various sites—the El Cerrito Community Center, Christ Lutheran Church and St. John’s Community Center. What is the status of the grassroots efforts underway to bring a senior center back to El Cerrito? What are the obstacles and opportunities?

Suggested speakers: ECDC Board Director and El Cerrito Councilmember William Ktsanes; El Cerrito Recreation Director Chris Jones; El Cerrito Senior Action Committee co-founder Lisa Martinengo

***My apologies if any suggested topics were inadvertently missed or omitted. –
William***



BALLOT – Please check up to eight (8)

Less than eight is fine, but please choose **no more than eight.**

	1. <i>El Cerrito Library Tax Initiative – Pros and Cons</i>
	2. <i>WCCUSD School District Plans to Stabilize Finances and Retain Teachers</i>
	3. <i>Electing Democrats in the 2026 Midterm Election</i>
	4. <i>Update on the Plaza BART Housing/Transit Oriented Development Plan (<u>Not</u> Library Specific)</i>
	5. <i>Proposals to Stop Investors from Buying Up Single-Family Homes</i>
	6. <i>Protecting Immigrants / “Know your Rights” Seminar</i>
	7. <i>Securing the 2026 Election</i>
	8. <i>Elected Official Update</i>
	9. <i>Contra Costa County Sales Tax Increase on November Ballot</i>
	10. <i>Bay Area Transit Tax on the November Ballot</i>
	11. <i>Bike Lane Updates - Richmond Street and Beyond</i>
	12. <i>El Cerrito Senior Services – An Update on Efforts to Bring Back the Senior Center</i>

EVERYONE – PLEASE CHOOSE:

If we choose “Library Tax” as a topic, would you prefer it be covered “debate style” with both sides splitting time in one meeting or, if scheduling allows, provide more time for each side by covering the topic in two separate monthly meetings? (Two separate meetings would leave one less month for other topics.)

Check the empty box below and to the right of your preference.

***Together in
One Meeting***

***Separate in
Two Meetings***

7. Future Events - *Mark Your Calendar!*

El Cerrito Democratic Club General Membership Meetings and Events

ECDC February Membership Meeting – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, February 24, 2026;
 (4th Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior
 Apartments (10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom
 link <http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting>
Preliminary Monthly Program: Program Topics for Consideration and Voting

ECDC Executive Board Calendar – The El Cerrito Democratic Club’s Executive Board
 (E-Board) meets monthly via Zoom for about an hour to handle routine club business,
 plan programs for the monthly General Membership Meetings and discuss newsletter
 content. As with the General Membership Meetings, the E-Board meetings are open to
 the public. The Zoom Link is
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89264608412?pwd=c2sySEI5ZEplL1IHVUM5bERCZGpEQT09>.

Below is the ECDC E-Board Calendar going into 2026:

2026 El Cerrito Democratic Club Executive-Board Calendar (E-Board)				
Monthly ECDC Executive Board Meeting (E-Board)	Deadline for Submitting the General Membership Meeting Agenda and Articles for the ECDC Newsletter	Monthly Newsletter Completed	Monthly ECDC Newsletter Emailed (by 6:00 pm)	General Membership Meeting Date
Thursday 2/5/2026	Sunday 2/15/2026	Wednesday 2/17/2026	Saturday 2/21/2026	Tuesday 2/24/2026
Thursday 3/5/2026	Sunday 3/15/2026	Tuesday 3/17/2026	Saturday 3/21/2026	Tuesday 3/24/2026
Thursday 4/2/2026	Wednesday 4/15/2026	Tuesday 4/21/2016	Saturday 4/25/2026	Tuesday 4/28/2026

Other Community Events

El Cerrito City Council Meetings – 6:00-9:00 pm, first and third Tuesday of most months; hybrid format; in the City Council Chambers at City Hall (10890 San Pablo Avenue) and via Zoom; agendas and recordings available; <https://www.el-cerrito.org/113/City-Council>

El Cerrito Farmers Market – 9:00 am-1:00 pm, every Tuesday and Saturday; El Cerrito Plaza, 9000 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530; southwest corner parking lot between Trader Joe's and Wells Fargo Bank; www.contracosta.ca.gov/7549/Contra-Costa-Certified-Farmers-Markets



DPCCC and West County Dem Events

<https://contracostadems.com/events/>

West County Dems Monthly meeting - 6:00 - 7:30 pm, second Tuesday of the month; This is a local Democratic club chartered by DPCCC. Meetings are via Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83146226722?pwd=CHRneSsxYkVnWWdTcTNQRnBBTmhzdz09>
For more info, contact the club. <https://www.westcountymunicipalclub.com>

DPCCC General Membership Meeting - 7:00 - 10:00 pm, If you are not a DPCCC member and wish to attend, please RSVP to the DPCCC Secretary at secretary@contracostadems.com.

If you are a DPCCC member, you should have received an email with details for the meeting about seven days in advance. If you did not, please email the DPCCC Secretary at secretary@contracostadems.com.

If you know of other community events that may be of interest to our members, please submit them to Courtney Helion at ecdclub.org for publication in future newsletters!

- Courtney Helion, VP Publications

8. Membership Renewal Reminder and Instructions

REMINDER! – ECDC annual memberships expire annually on **September 30th**. If you have not yet done so, please renew for 2026. **Now is the time!**

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, \$20 for individual members, and \$30 for two adults at the same address. The newsletter comes with membership and is delivered electronically by email. The added cost for a printed, hard-copy, postal mailed 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.

There have been some issues with double payingment on paypal, **Don't pay us twice! Wait a day or more if you suspect your payment hasn't gone through!**

If you have membership questions, please email Greg Lyman at membership.ecdc@gmail.com.

Thank you!

- Greg Lyman, VP Membership

9. Call for Newsletter Submissions

The El Cerrito Democratic Club Newsletter is published eleven months a year (each month with the exception of a combined December-January issue) 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 ecdc.pubs@gmail.com for review and editing.

- Courtney Helion, VP Publications

10. 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/>.