



# El Cerrito Democratic Club

## July 2024 Newsletter

### Contents:

1. El Cerrito Democratic Club General Information
2. Information and Zoom Link for the Tuesday, July 23rd General Membership Meeting
3. Minutes from the June 25th General Membership Meeting
4. July Program: Discussion of and ECDC Member-Voted Endorsements for Statewide Propositions and Regional/Local Measures on the November 5th Ballot
5. Future Events – *Mark Your Calendar!*
6. Membership Renewal Reminder and Instructions
7. Call for Newsletter Submissions
8. Link to the ECDC Website and Bylaws
9. Joke of the Month - *Kittens!*

ECDC  
PO Box 192  
El Cerrito CA 94530

Newsletter Editor: William Ktsanes

# 1. El Cerrito Democratic Club General Information

Since 1952, the El Cerrito Democratic Club (“ECDC”) 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 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 (<http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting>). For monthly calendar invites and reminders for ECDC General Membership Meetings, you are invited to download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZUpcOCvqDkpEtH10GiVZ7NcegZqDI\\_tJeMI/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGpqjwjHdKXsxGCRpwcBo\\_CXe3wpnpej7d1zU\\_CChZpNS31M-V4I5ZWL8z6](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, 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 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 2024 volunteer officers:

## El Cerrito Democratic Club Officers (2024)

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

*Help is always greatly appreciated!*

- William Ktsanes, VP Publications

## 2. Information and Zoom Link for the Tuesday, July 23rd General Membership Meeting

Our 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 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.

### July Meeting Agenda (Tentative)

6:20 pm – Assemble and Mingle, Zoom Logins

6:30 pm – Call to Order

6:31 pm – Approve July 2024 Membership Meeting Agenda (**Action Item**)

6:33 pm – Approve Minutes from the June 2024 Membership Meeting (**Action Item**)

6:35 pm – Officer Reports: Membership (Neil Tsutsui), Finance (Ed Crowley), Website (Madeline Kronenberg), Publications (William Ktsanes) and Records (Lesie Reckler)

6:45 pm – July Program: Discussion of and ECDC Member-Voted Endorsements for Statewide Propositions and Regional/Local Measures on the November 5th Ballot (**Action Item**)

#### **STATEWIDE**

- Proposition 2: Public Education Facilities Bond
- Proposition 3: Right to Marry and Repeal Prop 8
- Proposition 4: Parks, Environment, Energy, and Water Bond Measure
- Proposition 5: Lower Supermajority Requirement to 55% for Local Bond Measures to Fund and Housing and Public Infrastructure Amendment
- Proposition 6: Remove Involuntary Servitude as Punishment for Crime Amendment
- Proposition 32: \$18 Minimum Wage
- Proposition 33: Prohibit State Limitations on Local Rent Control
- Proposition 34: Require Certain Participants in Medi-Cal Rx Program to Spend 98% of Revenues on Patient Care
- Proposition 35: Managed Care Organization Tax Authorization
- Proposition 36: Drug and Theft Crime Penalties and Treatment Mandated Felonies

#### **REGIONAL/COUNTY**

- Bay Area Affordability Plan

#### **CITY (EL CERRITO)**

- El Cerrito Continuation of Measure R

9:45 pm – Adjourn

- Champagne Brown, ECDC President

### 3. Minutes from the June 25th General Membership Meeting

El Cerrito Democratic Club  
General Membership Meeting Minutes  
June 25, 2024

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

---

#### **Call to Order**

Past President Lyman called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

#### **Approve June 2024 Agenda**

On the Motion of Crowley and the Second of Ktsanes the June 2024 Agenda was adopted with the monthly speaker removed, as there was no speaker. The motion was unanimously approved with no abstentions nor objections.

#### **Approve Minutes from the May 2024 Membership Meeting**

On the Motion of Akacic and the Second of Merrill, the minutes from the May 2024 Membership Meeting were approved with the following corrections:

- There are two dates for the Roosevelt dinner.
- August 7th is the reception for Barbara Lee. August 9th is the actual dinner.

The Roosevelt Dinners is the DPCCC's largest fundraiser.

#### **Officer Reports:**

##### **Membership (Neil Tsutsui)**

- The current number of members is 118. The club picked up seven members in the last month. There were a few renewals since the last meeting.
- July 5 is the last day to renew and be eligible to vote at our August endorsements meeting.

##### **Finance (Ed Crowley)**

- \$4,788.07 is the balance. \$3,000 spent on the charitable donations. A few new memberships were added.
- Ed requests a list of the meetings so that he may ensure Hana gardens is reserved and paid for the meeting dates.

##### **Media (Madeline Kronenberg)**

- No Report

##### **Publications (William Ktsanes)**

- Clarified that there is a DPCCC "VIP Reception" honoring Congresswoman Barbara Lee on Wednesday, August 7th which precedes the DPCCC's Annual Solidarity Gala on Friday, August 9th.

- The “Roosevelt Dinner” has been renamed and is now known as the “Annual Solidarity Gala.”
- Extended an open invitation to ECDC members, friends and supporters to submit potential newsletter articles and announcements regarding local issues and events of interest.

### **Records (Leslie Reckler)**

No Report

### **Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC) Report (Champagne Brown)**

- November is fast approaching and Alameda and Oakland November will have several recalls on their ballots. The ECDC needs to be steadfast about the kind of candidates that come before us. ECDC is the oldest club in the county and we set an example for other clubs. We need to ensure that we are interviewing and endorsing stellar candidates.
- The DPCCC will be doing DEI work this weekend at the Union Hall in Martinez. Reach out to President Brown for information if you are interested in attending.

### **District 1 Report (Michael Nye)**

- Usually all of the Democratic clubs get together and buy tables for the Roosevelt Dinner (now renamed Annual Solidarity Dinner). He is hoping the clubs will do that again this year.
- There is a reception for Barbara Lee on August 7th because she has another scheduled event on the 9th. A ticket to the dinner guarantees a reception ticket.
- DPCCC has a new affinity club called The Contra Costa Jewish Democrats The Club has started and already has 64 members. Contact Michael Nye if interested. You do not need to be Jewish to join.

### **City of El Cerrito WorldOne 4th of July Celebration ECDC Booth Signups**

At Least Two Volunteers Needed for Each Shift!

- 10 am-12 pm - Setup - (Filled; 0 of 2 Needed) Ruby, Crowley, Lyman, Brown
- 12-2 pm (2 of 2 Needed) Kitsanes, G.Merrill
- 2-4 pm (2 of 2 Needed) Wysinger, Bashor
- 4-6 pm - Teardown - (2 of 2 Needed) Crowley, Lyman

### **Announcements and Discussion**

There was a tour of the St. John’s Hall with John Gioia

Brief discussion about the proposed El Cerrito Library.

- Whether to rebuild the current site or move location.
- Availability of Car Share.

### **Good of the Order**

### **Adjourn**

President Brown adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.

- Leslie Reckler, VP Records

#### 4. July Program: Discussion of and ECDC Member-Voted Endorsements for Statewide Propositions and Regional/Local Measures on the November 5th Ballot

The El Cerrito Democratic Club hosts election year candidate forums and issues member-voted upon endorsements. Per the ECDC Standing Rules for Endorsements and as previously announced, to vote in the ECDC endorsement process you must be a paid member in good standing 45 days before the endorsement vote.

We will vote on endorsing statewide propositions and regional/local ballot measures at the upcoming Tuesday, July 23rd General Membership Meeting.

- To be eligible to vote on propositions and ballot measure endorsements in July, you must have been a member in good standing with your membership fees paid as of June 8, 2024.

We will vote on endorsing candidates between Saturday, August 17th-Monday, August 19th.

- To be eligible to vote on candidate endorsements in August, you must be a member in good standing as of July 5, 2024.

- William Ktsanes, VP Publications

STATE AND LOCAL PROPOSITIONS AND BALLOT MEASURES - NOVEMBER 5, 2024 GENERAL ELECTION			
Level	Proposition/ Measure	Title	Summary
State	2	Public Education Facilities Bond	<p>\$10 billion bond financing to pay for repairs and upgrades at thousands of K-12 school and community college buildings across California, some of which have languished for years with dry rot, mold, leaks and other hazards due to lack of funds.</p> <p>K-12 schools would get \$8.5 billion and \$1.5 billion would go to community colleges.</p>

State	3	Right to Marry and Repeal of Proposition 8	<p>Constitutional amendment to repeal Proposition 8 (2008), which defined marriage as a union between one man and one woman.</p> <p>Declares that a "right to marry is a fundamental right" in the California Constitution.</p>
State	4	Parks, Environment, Energy, and Water Bond Measure	<p>\$10 billion bond financing to pay for safe drinking water; drought, flood, and water resilience; wildfire and forest resilience; coastal resilience; extreme heat mitigation; biodiversity and nature-based climate solutions; climate-smart, sustainable and resilient farms, ranches, and working lands; park creation and outdoor access; and clean air programs.</p>
State	5	Lower Supermajority Requirement to 55% for Local Bond Measures to Fund Housing and Public Infrastructure Amendment	<p>Constitutional amendment lowering the supermajority vote requirement from two-thirds (66.67%) vote to 55% for local jurisdictions to issue bonds for affordable housing and public infrastructure projects.</p>
State	6	Remove Involuntary Servitude as Punishment for Crime Amendment	<p>Constitutional amendment repealing language prohibiting involuntary servitude except to punish crime and replace it with language prohibiting slavery and involuntary servitude absolutely.</p> <p>Prohibits the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation from disciplining any incarcerated person for refusing a work assignment but authorizes the department to award credits to incarcerated persons who voluntarily participate in work assignments.</p>

State	32	\$18 Minimum Wage	<p>Increases the state minimum wage to \$18 an hour over several years.</p> <p>For employers with 26 or more workers, the minimum wage would reach \$18 on January 1, 2025. For employers with 25 or less workers, the minimum wage would reach \$18 on January 1, 2026.</p> <p>After reaching \$18, the minimum wage will annually adjust for inflation.</p>
State	33	Prohibit State Limitations on Local Rent Control	<p>Repeals the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act enacted in 1995 which prohibits rent control on single-family homes and houses completed after February 1, 1995 and prohibits rent control laws that mandate what a landlord can charge a tenant when they first move in.</p>
State	34	Require Certain Participants in Medi-Cal Rx Program to Spend 98% of Revenues on Patient Care	<p>Requires health care providers that spent over \$100 million in any 10-year period on anything other than direct patient care and operated multifamily housing with over 500 high-severity health and safety violations to spend 98% of revenues from the federal discount prescription drug program on direct patient care.</p> <p>Penalizes violators of the initiative with loss of tax-exempt status and licenses to operate health insurance plans, pharmacies, and clinics.</p> <p>Permanently authorizes the Medi-Cal RX program in state law.</p>
State	35	Managed Care Organization Tax Authorization	<p>Makes a current tax on managed health care insurance plans permanent, which is now set to end in 2026.</p> <p>Money from this tax is used to provide health care services to low-income families, seniors, people with disabilities, and others in the Medi-Cal program.</p>



State	36	Drug and Theft Crime Penalties and Treatment Mandated Felonies	Increases penalties for certain drug crimes by increasing sentence lengths and level of crime.  Also adds fentanyl to the list of drugs (currently cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine) that would warrant a felony charge if an individual possessed one of them and a loaded firearm.
Regional (County)	4	Bay Area Affordability Plan	\$20 billion bond that addresses the 9 Bay Area Counties affordability crisis and reduces homelessness.  Provides an estimated 70,000 affordable apartments/homes; creates homes near transit, jobs, and stores; incentivizes converting vacant lots and blighted properties into affordable housing; and provides first-time homebuyers with assistance.
City	TBD	Reauthorization Measure for maintaining El Cerrito Safety and Local Services	Sales tax extension to maintain funding and prevent cuts in City services such as fire prevention and emergency response times; neighborhood police patrols; wildfire prevention; crime prevention and investigation; after-school programs; library hours; senior services; open space, parks and playfields; and general government use.  Makes permanent the one percent El Cerrito sales tax addition approved for twelve years by voters with Measure "R" in 2014.

**Resources for More Information**

Ballotpedia - [https://ballotpedia.org/California\\_2024\\_ballot\\_propositions](https://ballotpedia.org/California_2024_ballot_propositions)

California Secretary of State - <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/qualified-ballot-measures>

Contra Costa County Elections - [https://www.contracostavote.gov/wp-content/uploads/24Nov5\\_Measure-Wording-List.pdf](https://www.contracostavote.gov/wp-content/uploads/24Nov5_Measure-Wording-List.pdf)

City of El Cerrito - <https://www.el-cerrito.org/1658/November-2024-Ballot-Measure>

- Champagne Brown, ECDC President

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

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

**ECDC July General Membership Meeting** – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, July 23rd  
(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>

**ECDC Candidates Forum** – Time and Location TBD; Saturday, August 17th

**ECDC August General Membership Meeting** – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, August 27th  
(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>

**ECDC September General Membership Meeting** – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, September 23rd  
(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>

**ECDC Annual Dinner** – 72nd Annual Dinner; Time TBD; Saturday, October 12th;  
Hana Gardens Senior Apartments (10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall)

**ECDC November General Membership Meeting** – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, November 25th  
(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>

**ECDC Holiday Party** – Time TBD; Friday, December 6th; Hana Gardens Senior Apartments  
(10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall)

\* *There is no El Cerrito Democratic Club General Membership Meeting in October or December;  
ECDC's Annual Dinner is in October and its Holiday Party is in December.*

### *Other Community Events*

**El Cerrito Farmers Market** – 9:00 am-1:00 pm, every Tuesday and Saturday;  
since 1994; El Cerrito Plaza, 9000 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530;  
southwest corner parking lot between Trader Joe's and Wells Fargo Bank;  
<https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/7549/Contra-Costa-Certified-Farmers-Markets>



**DPCCC “Special VIP Reception” Honoring Congresswoman Barbara Lee** –  
6:00-9:00 pm, Wednesday, August 7th; Lafayette Library,



3491 Mount Diablo Blvd, Lafayette, CA 94549; hosted by the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC)

<https://contracostadems.com/event/dpccc-2024-roosevelt-dinner-fundraiser/>

– followed two days later by –

**DPCCC Solidarity Gala (formerly known as the “Roosevelt Annual Awards Dinner”) –**

6:00-9:00 pm, Friday, August 9th; Rossmoor Event Center, 1021 Stanley Dollar Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94595; annual fundraiser for the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC)



<https://contracostadems.com/event/dpccc-annual-awards-dinner/>

Tickets for both events are available here: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/dpcccsolidarity2024>

**2024 General Election** – Tuesday, November 5th

- William Ktsanes, VP Publications

## 6. 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, \$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.

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

Thank you!

- Neil Tsutsui, VP Membership

## 7. 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) and 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.

## 8. 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/>.

## 9. Joke of the Month – *Kittens!*

A man taking his morning walk saw a little girl on the sidewalk with a basket of newborn kittens. Curious, he walked over and asked "what kind of kittens are they?"

She replied, "they're Republicans."

He didn't really know what to say to that, so he just smiled and went on his way.

Two weeks later he came across the same little girl with the same basket of kittens, albeit now a bit older. He walked up to her and asked "what kind of kittens did you say they were?"

She replied, "they're Democrats."

He looked at her, and with a puzzled expression on his face said, "but didn't you say they were Republicans two weeks ago?"

She said, "yes, but now their eyes are open."

- William Ktsanes, VP Publications/Jokes

