



# El Cerrito Democratic Club

## July 2025 Newsletter

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ECDC  
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## 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/join/tZUpCOCvqDkpEtH10GiVZ7NcegZqDI\\_tJeMI/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGpqjwjHdKXsxGCRpwcBo\\_CXe3wpnpej7d1zU\\_CChZpNS31M-V4I5ZWl8z6](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/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                   | ● VP Programs – Ruthie Abelson Olivas |
| ● Past President – Champagne Brown           | ● VP Publications – Courtney Helion   |
| ● Executive Vice President – William Ktsanes | ● VP Records – Leslie Reckler         |
| ● VP Media – Madeline Kronenberg             | ● VP Treasurer – Ed Crowley           |
| ● VP Membership – Greg Lyman                 |                                       |

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 Publication

## **2. Information and Zoom Link for the Tuesday, July 22, 2025 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.

### **July Meeting Agenda**

6:20 pm – Assemble and Mingle, Zoom Logins

6:30 pm – Call to Order

6:31 pm – Review and Approve the July 2025 Meeting Agenda (Action Item)

6:33 pm – Review and Approve the June 2025 Membership Meeting Minutes (Action Item)

6:35 pm – Officer Reports:

President (Neil Tsutsui)

- Now is the time to renew, since pre-endorsement is coming up this month.

Executive VP (William Ktsanes)

Membership (Greg Lyman)

Media (Madeline Kronenberg)

Publications (Courtney Helion)

Treasurer (Ed Crowley)

Records (Leslie Reckler)

Programs (Ruthie Abelson Olivas)

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

6:55 pm – Consider Bylaws change to update membership effective date to July 1. (Action Item)

7:00 pm – Program: Rosa Menjivar, The Latina Center, “Protecting Immigrants: Know your Rights” Seminar

7:45 pm – Announcements (please limit to 2 minutes)

7:55 pm – Good of the Order

8:00 pm – Adjourn

Neil Tsutsui, ECDC President



### 3. Minutes from the June 24th El Cerrito Democratic Club General Membership Meeting

El Cerrito Democratic Club  
General Membership Meeting Minutes  
6:30 PM, Tuesday, June 24, 2025  
(in person at Hana Gardens, 10860 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito; and via Zoom)

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#### Call to Order

William Ktsanes called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

#### Review and Approve the June 2025 Meeting Agenda

On the motion of Helion and second of Crowley the agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

#### Review and Approve the May 2025 Membership Meeting Minutes

On the motion of Crowley and second Bashor the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

#### Officer Reports:

President (Neil Tsutsui, absent)

- Please sign up to represent ECDC at our table on July 4th  
Sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/ECDC-July4th>
- Requests to add an item to this agenda. Pls submit it ahead of time so that it can be discussed ahead of time. Please submit to: [ecdc.pres@gmail.com](mailto:ecdc.pres@gmail.com)
- Meeting June 25th 6:00 p.m. at City Hall to hear about the Richmond Street Plan.

Publications (Courtney Helion)

- Please send articles to [ecdc.pubs@gmail.com](mailto:ecdc.pubs@gmail.com)

Treasurer (Ed Crowley)

- Balance: \$1553 Monthly Expenses: \$537.60 on room rental and \$10 on bank fees.

Programs (Ruthie Abelson Olivas)

- Next speaker: Immigration and Undocumented Protections and Rights.

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

- No update for DPCCC Next meeting is June 26th.
- Big topic is the rechartering of all clubs.

#### Michael Nye District 1 Report

- The State Convention was wonderful. There was a DPCCC reception on Saturday night with Cory Booker and Tim Walz. Very unifying. Democrats must get their act together and go big on issues.
- Reorganization year. Rusty Hicks as chair and David Campos as Vice Chair. Three women on E board from Contra Costa: Monica Wilson, Carolyn Wysinger, Champagne Brown.

## **Program: “Get to Know Contra Costa District Attorney Diana Becton”**

### **Crime Prevention**

- Created a Human Trafficking Unit
- Created a Major Crimes Task Force to work with other agencies to solve crimes
- Youth restorative justice program through RYSE
- Cold Case Unit to solve old crimes
- Neighborhood Restorative Partnership - accountability program for low level crimes.
- Clearing low level Marijuana offenses

### **Reasons for the Recall (In Becton’s Opinion)**

- Follow other cities that have recalled DAs. There is a false narrative that certain DAs are not holding people to account and are soft on crime. Contra Costa is one of two counties where violent crime has fallen.
- Murder of Alexis Gabe. Tragically killed in 2022. Proponents of the recall do not feel that everyone that should have been charged in the case were charged. There is not substantial and sufficient evidence to bring forward any more charges in the case.

### **How to Help Stop the Recall**

[Dianabecton.org](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/diana-becton-1)

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/diana-becton-1>

Donate money and sign up to volunteer mainly to staff “No to the Recall” efforts - collect signatures, pass out literature on the facts. Encourage people not to sign on to the recall.

The recall campaign will need to collect 72,000 signatures by September 25. A recall campaign would cost at least \$8 million.

### **Announcements**

Join the El Cerrito Senior Center Action Committee. They will have a booth on Pomona on July 4th. Please stop by to learn about the committee. Contact: Buddy Akacic.

AC Transit has enacted a realign program to begin in August. There will be a new line serving El Cerrito.  
<https://www.actransit.org/realign/service-changes>

The League of Women Voters will hold their annual meeting here at Hana Gardens this Saturday 12-2:30 p.m. The speaker is Shanelle Scales-Preston, County Supervisor, District 5 \$40 to attend.

There is a meeting at City Hall June 25th 6:00 pm. To go over the Richmond Street plan. It is open to all.

The meeting was adjourned in memory of Contra Costa County Supervisor Federal Glover. 7:25 p.m.

#### 4. Program: Rosa Menjivar, The Latina Center, “Protecting Immigrants: Know your Rights” Seminar

My name is Rosa Menjivar-Cruz. I am married and have a 16-year-old daughter. I hold a degree in Business Administration from El Salvador and a degree in Theology from the U.S. For the past fourteen years, I have worked at The Latina Center, where I have coordinated various programs, including Breast Cancer Prevention, Home to Home Domestic Violence, and Young Latino Future Leaders for ten years. Currently, I serve as the Manager of the Community Engagement and Advocacy Program, which includes five committees: Health, Housing, Education, the Peace Committee (where we collaborate with the police), and the Immigration Committee.



Over the years, we have taken young people and adults to the California Senate at least once or twice yearly to advocate for different bills that benefit our community. I have also led immigration forums and Know Your Rights talks with the Richmond and San Pablo police, churches, parents, local school youth, and the broader community. This year, I have worked closely with the Richmond and San Pablo police, and I have successfully provided Know Your Rights training to around 1,200 Latino individuals.

Rosa Menjivar- Cruz, estoy Casada y tengo una hija de 16 Anos de edad. Soy Graduada en Administración de Empresas en El Salvador y graduada en Teología en EE. UU. Tengo catorce años trabajando en la Organización The Latina Center, coordinando diferentes programas como: Breast Cáncer Prevention, Home to Home Domestic Viólence, 10 years with Young Latín Future Leaders, y desde hace dos años estoy como Manganer of Community Engagement and Advocacy Program en el cual tenemos 5 comités: Salud, vivienda, Educación, Comité de Paz donde trabajamos con la policía y El comité de Inmigración.

Durante estos catorce años hemos llevado a jóvenes y adultos al Senado de California por lo menos una o dos veces al año para abogar por diferentes propuestas de ley a beneficio de la comunidad. También he estado encargada de realizar foros de Inmigración y charlas de Know Your Rigths con la Policía de Richmond y San Pablo, Iglesias, padres y jóvenes de las escuelas y comunidad en general. Este ano he trabajado de la mano con la Policía de Richmond y Sa Este ano hemos servido alrededor de 1, 200 personas latinas con los entrenamientos de Know Your Rights.

photo credit: <https://thelatinacenter.org/team/>



## 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 22, 2025;  
(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: Rosa Menjivar, The Latina Center, “Protecting Immigrants:  
Know your Rights” Seminar*

**ECDC August General Membership Meeting** – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, August 26, 2025;  
(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: TBD*

**ECDC September General Membership Meeting** – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, September 23, 2025;  
(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: TBD*

**ECDC Annual October Dinner** – 73rd Annual Dinner; Saturday, October 25, 2025. Location and time  
TBD; no General Membership Meeting in October; **special guest former California State  
Controller and Gubernatorial Candidate Betty Yee, topic TBD**



**ECDC November 2025 General Membership Meeting** – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, November 25, 2025; (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: TBD*

**ECDC Annual Holiday Party** – time, date and location TBD; no General Membership Meeting in December

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

**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=c2sySEl5ZEplJl1HVUM5bERCZGpEOT09>.

Below is the ECDC E-Board Calendar through June 2025:

<b>2025 El Cerrito Democratic Club Executive-Board Calendar (E-Board)</b>					
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 Postal Mailed (to those who have paid extra for USPS delivery)	Monthly ECDC Newsletter Emailed (by 6:00 pm)	General Membership Meeting Date
Wednesday 7/2/2025	Thursday 7/17/2025	Tuesday 7/22/2025	Wednesday 7/23/2025	Saturday 7/26/2025	Tuesday 7/28/2025
Thursday 8/7/2025	Thursday 8/14/2024	Tuesday 8/20/2025	Wednesday 8/21/2025	Saturday 8/23/2025	Tuesday 8/26/2025
Thursday 9/4/2025	Thursday 9/10/2025	Tuesday 9/17/2025	Wednesday 9/18/2025	Saturday 9/20/2025	Tuesday 9/23/2025

### **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](http://www.contracosta.ca.gov/7549/Contra-Costa-Certified-Farmers-Markets)

**El Cerrito Historical Society: Setting the Stage for the next 65** – Saturday, August 9th  
1 - 4 P.M; 951 Pomona Ave El Cerrito Join us in celebrating 50 years of the El Cerrito Historical Society and 65 Years of CCCT at this one-day-only event!  
Free Admission (Donations Encouraged)  
<https://www.elcerritohistoricalsociety.org/societyevents/ccct-tour>



**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=cHRneSsxYkVnWWdTcTNQRnBBTmhzd09>  
For more info, contact the club. <https://www.westcountydemocraticclub.com>

**DPCCC General Membership Meeting** - 7:00 - 10:00 pm, August 21, 2025; If you are not a DPCCC member and wish to attend, please RSVP to the DPCCC Secretary at [secretary@contracostadems.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 [ecdc.pubs@gmail.com](mailto:ecdc.pubs@gmail.com) for publication in future newsletters!*

- Courtney Helion, VP Publications

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

**REMINDER!** – ECDC annual memberships expire annually on **September 30th**. If you have not yet done so, please renew for 2025. **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.

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

Thank you!

- Greg Lyman, 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) 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](mailto:ecdc.pubs@gmail.com) for review and editing.

- Courtney Helion, VP Publications

## **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/>.