

Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread & Bagel
1812 N. Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach
Wednesday, January 28
7:30 PM

This month's meeting will be an endorsement meeting.

Both Eric Pendergraft, Vice President of Business Development for AES, and Redondo Beach Councilman Bill Brand have agreed to join us to argue the pros and cons of Measure B, which will be on the March 3 ballot in Redondo Beach.

Please plan to attend and bring along a friend who would like to hear a thoughtful presentation of both sides. Note that only those who have been BCD members for at least 30 days will be able to vote on our endorsement.

You are cordially invited to the District Swearing-In Ceremony for:

Ted W. Lieu

California's 33rd Congressional District

Sunday, March 1, 2015
Program begins promptly at 2:00 PM
University Of California, Los Angeles
Royce Hall
10745 Dickson Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90095

Reception to Follow

RSVP Online:
[Http://eventsrsvp.ucla.edu/
RSVPRepTedLieu/](http://eventsrsvp.ucla.edu/RSVPRepTedLieu/)

Or Call 323-651-1040

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ON THEIR WAY UP

I've heard it many times before: "I'm not interested in local politics, I'm focused on the big issues." To be honest, when I was younger I pretty much felt that way myself. While I might become incensed over certain "quality of life issues," I often learned about many local votes only after the fact.



Over time, however, I've come to realize the importance of local elections on our "big issue" debates. There are several good reasons to pay attention to local politics, and to actively engage in support of Democratic candidates and policies. Today I'll focus on the importance of grooming candidates who are prepared to move up to higher office.

One key point that I remember former CDC Present Henry Vandermeir making over and over again was the importance of identifying and grooming Democratic candidates for supposedly nonpartisan local elections. Because, as Henry pointed out, most Republicans these days see everything as partisan, and will vote all the way down the ticket for the Republican in any race. Democrats, who are often more cerebral in how we approach issues and candidates, often hesitate to vote for someone whom they are not familiar with "just because they are a Democrat." Coupled with our lower election turnouts, the result is that many cities that reliably vote Democratic in Gubernatorial and Presidential elections have school boards, city councils, and other local offices that are heavily weighted towards Republicans. Then, when higher offices open up, we have

fewer well known candidates, with less campaign experience. Thus by waiting until that elusive day when we are "better informed," we end up systematically undermining Democratic candidates and Democratic values in ways that affect our success not just on the local level, but at higher levels of office as well.

The same argument can be made regarding voting for female and minority candidates. That is why groups like Emily's List and The New American Leaders Project have turned their attention to nurturing more local candidates and assisting them with the campaign learning curve. Today, in 2015, only 27% of the California legislature is female, just above the national average of 24%! If we ever want our legislature to start looking more like our populace, we need to start giving Democratic women and minority candidates the benefit of the doubt, supporting them even if they are not yet "proven." If we don't give them the opportunity to prove themselves, who will?

In closing, I encourage you to vote, and ask your neighbors to vote, for the following BCD endorsed candidates in the upcoming March 3 election:

- Candace Nafissi, Redondo Beach City Council (the only Democratic candidate!);
- Anita Avrick, Reetha Garretty and David Witkin for Redondo Beach School Board (all three are Democrats; you may vote for two);
- Current City Council members Amy Howorth and David Lesser for City Council in Manhattan Beach.

Yours,
Kathryn Campbell
President, Beach Cities Democrats
kathrync@hotmail.com

January Minutes

Treasurer Edna Murphy was not present due to illness, and therefore a Treasurer's report was not available. We hope to include it in the February meeting.

Deputy Chief of Staff Sam Liu from St. Senator Ben Allen's office introduced Samantha David, Director of Senator Allen's district office.

Don Dear, from West Basin, announced that Gloria Gray, Harold Williams & Scott Houston were sworn in as Directors of the West Basin Municipal Water District.

January was an endorsement meeting for the upcoming March 3 elections in Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach and Manhattan Beach. Results of the endorsement votes follow.

Redondo Beach

Candidate Candace Nafissi received the club's endorsement for Redondo Beach City Council. A motion was also passed to contribute \$200 to her campaign. She is the only Democrat running in that election.

Anita Avrick, Reetha Garretty and David Witkin, the three Democratic candidates for two open positions on the Redondo Beach School Board, all received the club's endorsement.

Hermosa Beach

The Beach Cities Democrats voted "No" on Hermosa Beach Measure O (oil drilling) after a presentation on the issue by former HB Mayor George Schmeltzer.

Manhattan Beach

Current City Council members Amy



Candace Nafissi, Candidate for Redondo Beach City Council. She is the only Democrat running in that election.

Howarth and David Lesser were endorsed for City Council in Manhattan Beach.

After the endorsement votes, Redondo Beach Councilman Stephen Sammarco urged members to vote "No" on Redondo Beach Measure B. After some discussion, a decision was made to vote on an endorsement position on Measure B at our February meeting.

Under Old Business, President Kathryn Campbell announced that BCD raised over \$800 at our Democratic New Year party and thanked hosts Ray and Carolyn Waters for their generosity in lending their home. She also announced that our charter renewal application had

been submitted. Finally, she announced and congratulated the winners of the recent ADEM elections, which may be found on Cadem.org.

Lori Geittmann made a motion to send flowers to Edna Murphy in the hospital, which passed unanimously.

Dency Nelson updated the group on his ongoing discussions with the HB City Council and Fiesta Hermosa event organizers to improve the Free Expression area going forward.

Respectfully submitted, Teresa Bird



BEACH CITIES GREEN

Dency Nelson

Robert Kennedy, Jr., and my friend of almost 40 years, Ed Begley, Jr., were in Hermosa Beach last night, at our Hermosa Beach Community Theatre.



Invited by Hermosa Beach Mayor proTem and Beach Cities Democrats member Nanette Barragan, they came and spoke, along with an amazing panel of environmental organization leaders, about the environmental impacts of oil drilling in general, and more specifically about oil drilling in Hermosa Beach, an issue that will be decided by the citizens of Hermosa Beach in a special election on March 3.

Just when you think you've heard all that could be said about oil, oil drilling, oil companies and the environment, last night Bobby Kennedy captivated us all with a history lesson about humanity's relationship with our planet, beginning with the legal code of the Roman Emperor Justinian, on which much of modern law is based. Under that code, all Roman citizens, meaning free men, were understood to have a sacred right to share in the bounty of the Earth's pleasures and produce. Over time, that sacred right has been taken away from us, "land grabbed" by feudal lords and wealthy land barons. This was the historical conflict underlying the stories of Robin Hood and Prince John. It continues to be waged against us by the Koch Brothers, alluded to by Kennedy as the feudal lords of the 20th & 21st centuries.

As I have often repeated in these pages, my own history as an environmentalist began on April 22, 1970, the first "Earth Day," when as Senior Class President of my high school I followed the directive of my then San Francisco Bay Area Congressman and environmental hero, Pete McCloskey, and organized my school's Earth Day activities. The objective of that day was then, as now, to

heighten the awareness of "Ecology" and of our relationship with the planet and its resources, rapidly being depleted by overpopulation and overconsumption which threaten the quality of life on the planet.

Today, a growing mountain of solid scientific data tells us ever more insistently that this irresponsible behavior is the major contributor to "Climate Change." The situation has reached crisis stage, already producing increased storm intensity, sea level rise and widespread drought, to name just a few of the consequences. But in addition to that, as Bobby Kennedy drew our attention to last night, is the huge element of economic injustice in this continued bad behavior regarding the Earth.

As in the days of the feudal lords, modern-day wealthy barons have influenced politics and government to favor the status quo, supporting fossil fuel producers and related industries through outrageous subsidies while making it more and more difficult for the rest of us to harvest the clean, healthy, safe ener-

gies from the sun, the wind and the tides. And while hundreds of thousands of miles of pipeline to move the polluters' products have been authorized and financed by governments and investors, only minimal attention and money have been invested in transmission lines and infrastructure needed to carry the clean power from the rooftops of the 99% of the rest of us.

Bobby made it clear last night that this fight in our town, this line in the sand that can be drawn on March 3, is about so much more than just Hermosa Beach. Yes, it is ridiculous to even consider this project here in tiny, densely populated Hermosa given the inevitable impact on our quality of life. Yes, oil drilling would threaten the economic engine that is our beautiful beach and our clean, inviting community. But beyond those reasons for voting against the measure is that an overwhelming victory for "NO on Measure O" will send a message to the region, the state and even the nation, that the people say NO! to old, dirty, selfish energy, and are moving to the clean, sustainable, and job-producing energies of the future.

HOLIDAY PARTY



Beach Cities Democrats enjoyed a festive holiday potluck at the Hermosa Beach home of Ray and Carol Waters. Speakers included elected Representative Ted Lieu, State Senator Ben Allen, and Redondo Beach City Councilman Bill Brand. The party was well-attended and raised \$800. Lieu photo courtesy of Stacey Michaels.



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