

Next Meeting

Wednesday, March 28, 7:00PM

Hermosa Beach Community Center,
Room 16, Hermosa Beach 90254

Our agenda includes an endorsement vote from the club in the primary race for Governor of California as voted on by the membership at our February meeting. According to our By-Laws: "Every member present at the meeting who has paid his or her dues at least 30 days prior to the meeting, or at the previous regular meeting, or a renewing member, may vote." An endorsement is obtained through a 60% vote of the members voting.

We are having trouble contacting the campaigns for endorsement speakers. If you have a favorite candidate who you would like to speak for at the meeting or if you know how to contact a campaign, please let us know.

We will have a presentation on phone banking from Jason Berlin, Regional Field Organizer for Los Angeles CDP, who is coordinating with the State Democratic Party and the DCCC to be sure we are effectively speaking to voters in the seven targeted Congressional Districts won by Hillary. And, we will discuss the LA County Democratic Party Club Leadership and the party's coordinated campaign.

Upcoming Events

Join State Senator Ben Allen for a discussion on legislative issues at a Community Coffee on March 24 at 11:30 AM at Manhattan Beach Public Library, 1320 Highland Ave., MB 90266. Then at 12:30 PM walk and talk along the Greenbelt to Valley Park, where from 1:00PM to 2:00PM he will be joined by Hermosa Beach City Councilman Hany

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's March Madness with all the crazy coming out of the White House, no longer by the day but by the hour. Our nation as we know it, governed by "the rule of law" is hanging in the balance, succumbing to a narcissistic, wannabe dictator's whim. What's good for him is the only concern.

The compliant Republican Congress has ceded its role as an equal branch of government entrusted with holding the Executive accountable. The GOP closed down the Congressional Intelligence Committee's sham investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 Presidential Election, enacted an odious tax cut that benefits corporations and the richest Americans and refuses to deal with gun violence for fear of the NRA.

The only way to change this dynamic is to oust the fools! The happy news is of course the recent Congressional Special Elections. The latest being the razor-thin victory in Pennsylvania's 18th District with Conor Lamb winning in a district that the Republicans took in 2016 by almost 20 points.



Including Doug Jones' Senate victory in Alabama, there have been six Congressional turnovers from Republican to Democrat in 2017 and many other races that we lost, but outperformed expectations, closing the gap on average by 12 percentage points.

The possibility of the Big Blue Wave turning into a tsunami is real and palpable. We have an obligation to make it happen. As citizens who care deeply about our country and her plummeting reputation, honor and influence around the world, it is incumbent upon us to change the course of this freight train to annihilation.

Complete Republican rule has thwarted the norms, chucked checks and balances and created a government that does not reflect the wishes and needs of its citizens.

In order to win the 24 seats needed to control the House, we must look seriously at how Congressman Elect Lamb was able to win. He stood for the values of the people he hoped to represent. That is how it should be. As Big Tent Democrats we must give our candidates the latitude to reflect their more conservative leaning districts and not adhere to a strict liberal agenda. One size does NOT fit all.

That is as true here in California as it is

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Fangary for a joint Community Coffee/Community First conversation with residents.

"March for Our Lives" against Gun Violence events: Saturday, March 24: *Manhattan Beach Pier*, 10:00 AM to 12:00PM. March down the Strand to Hermosa Beach Pier for speeches by local students and community leaders. *Downtown Los Angeles*, Pershing Square, 530 S. Olive Street, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Sign Up to Phone Bank in California!

Join grassroots volunteers from across the state phone banking into vulnerable districts. You will be provided with the [virtual phone bank links \(VBPs\)](#) and training needed to participate at an established phone bank, set up a new phone bank, or work from your own home. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/CA-Phone-Bank-Email> to learn the details. You can sign up for a conference call on phone bank training on Wednesday, March 21, at 6:00 PM.

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in the most red of Red States. We are a Bright Blue State overall but we have large pockets of red. Think Orange County, the Inland Empire, Central Coast and the 21 Northernmost counties who want to split from the Golden State and start their own Jefferson State.

Here in the South Bay we have to work tirelessly to help turn the seven districts that Hillary won blue. We also must ensure that our Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi is reelected and that our Democratic candidates in Torrance and Rolling Hills Estates are elected.

It's up to each one of us to do our part. If you are unable to walk or phone then give money to the campaigns so that our Democrats can get their messages out to the people. Our reward will be great when Congress is once again responsive to the people, upholding their sworn duty to put country above party and we can get off this crazy train.

*Bobbi Buescher, President
Beach Cities Democrats*

February Recap

By Moira Zucker

President Bobbi Buescher welcomed members and representatives from our local elected officials. She praised our great website and thanked Ryley Simcox for doing such a beautiful job designing and maintaining it, and for posting notices so quickly.

Dency Nelson spoke about Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), which would authorize local governments to purchase electricity in the wholesale market and sell it to residents and businesses at competitive rates. It would be an alternative to purchasing electricity from Southern California Edison, although SCE would continue to deliver power, maintain infrastructure, and bill consumers. He said that with recent votes of the City Councils in both Redondo Beach and Manhattan Beach, both of those cities will soon be participating in LA County's CCA program, Clean Power Alliance of Southern California.

Connie Sullivan stood up to give an update on the proposed ban of MHF--

Modified Hydrofluoric Acid--at the Torrance refinery. A resolution to support the ban was tabled last year, and there is now an April 5 deadline for letting the AQMD know our position on the issue. An explosion in 2015 at the refinery came dangerously close to releasing a cloud of the deadly gas which would have caused widespread fatalities. Activists are urging the Hermosa Beach City Council to make a resolution in support of the ban at their March 13 meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Bobbi read the January-February Treasurer's report provided by our Treasurer Edna Murphy, who was not well enough to attend the meeting:

Federal Account

Beginning Balance	\$4,375.00
Money In	3,707.00
Money Out	1,790.00
Ending Balance	\$6,292.00

State Account

Beginning Balance	\$539.00
Money In	66.00
Money Out	165.00
Ending Balance	\$439.00

Reports from Electeds

Andrew deBlock reported from Al

Muratsuchi's office on the following bills:

AB 1761 Helps protect hotel housekeepers; it is estimated that 49% of them are assaulted or harrassed. The bill would call for a "panic button" to allow them to call for help, and would also blacklist offenders from using the hotel in the future.

AB1775 Bans offshore drilling within three miles of the coastline, and prevents the building of new pipelines. This is a companion bill to SB834, and the State is hoping to get the bills approved at the same time.

AB1796 Would support charging stations for electric cars, preventing landlords of rent-controlled buildings from stopping tenants who want to install charging stations at their residence.

AB3138 Would increase liability fines for companies with high rates of pollution.

Andrew was asked about harassment of mobile home dwellers by the property owner; the sheriff claims that rules are not enforceable, thus they allow it to continue.

Regarding bail bond reform, Al is reviewing a bill, SB10, that reforms the system so that people who have not been convicted of a crime cannot be incarcerated indefinitely just because they



At a March 11 event at the Pacific Unitarian Church, Democrats gathered to hear Ed Begley, Jr., speak on "A truly Green Sanctuary: Ecological Living as a Spiritual Practice." L to R: Bobbi Buescher, Betsy Butler, Craig Cadwallader, Ed Begley, Jr., Jeff DuClos, Dency Nelson, Moira Nelson

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can't afford bail. (Ted Lieu is working on this same problem.)

The subject of both gas- and electric-powered leaf blowers came up. They emit gas, dust, and debris pollution, and have been banned in some cities.

John Gran, Redondo Beach City Councilman District 4, spoke next. He is concentrating on restoring the once-prosperous Galleria and improving the appearance of the Artesia Corridor. There is now a \$100,000 grant to improve store fronts. The former Haggen property, long empty, will soon house a CVS and a grocery outlet. He said the Planning Commission for the Galleria will meet on March 15 to look for ways to draw people to the shopping center. The AMC Theater complex has been greatly improved, but very few people know how luxurious it has become.

Also there is to be a May 5 Walk Around Redondo to promote the improvements and encourage citizens to participate.

Christian Horvath, Redondo Beach City Councilman District 3, said that Redondo Beach has joined the Clean Power Alliance (CPA). CPA is a new regional electricity provider that offers the ability for its customers to choose cleaner, cheaper power, in addition to providing innovative energy programs and local economic benefits. It provides a roadmap to meet or exceed state standards and a fast way to lower our carbon footprint.

He said that he and Todd Lowenstein are discussing Electric Vehicle charging stations and the possibility of free parking spots for EVs. He also talked about the retired AES power plant. He is on a sub-committee and hopes to be among the bidders for the property, and to get funding for a park on the waterfront space.

He was asked about undergrounding utility wires on 190th street, and also about the proposed bus line. He is opposed to bus lines that will take up lanes already in use.

State Convention Recap

Bobbi and Dency reported on the well-



Redondo Beach City Councilman Christian Horvath speaking about the Clean Power Alliance

attended State Convention in San Diego February 23 - 25. There were 2,800 delegates attending.

At the Convention, Eric Bauman spoke about the problem of too many candidates running for the same seat to replace retiring Republican congressmen. With our top-two primary system, we could end up with two Republicans on the ballot unless we can unify behind a limited number (one or two) of Democrats. Ted Lieu is the vice-president of the DCCC and he is working on the problem. But Eric's speech was upbeat and encouraging, and conveyed the feeling that the Democrats are in a good position to take back the House. BCD will send a letter of thanks to Eric.

Bobbi and Dency said that John Chiang, running for Governor, delivered a great speech and was cheered on by the crowd. Many people joined them in holding up signs in front of John as he spoke, which further enlivened him. He and Gavin Newsom are the top two vote-getters: Newsom got 39% of the vote and Chiang, 30%.

In other prominent races, Kevin de Leon got 54% of the votes for Senator to Dianne Feinstein's 37%. For Attorney General, Dave Jones got 56%, while Xavier Becerra got 42%. In none of these

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Andrew DeBlock (R) with Wayne Powell at our February meeting

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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contests did a candidate receive the necessary 60% needed for the Party endorsement.

However, Betty Yee, the incumbent State Controller, received 95%, so she did get the endorsement.

Also winning endorsements: For Insurance Commissioner, Ricardo Lara received 68%, and for Secretary of State, Alex Padilla won 78%.

Our Coastline

We discussed AB 1775 and SB 834, which contain the same language and are being considered to stop the assault on our coastline, and to send a letter to our legislators to support these bills.

Announcements and Closing

Several events were announced: We were reminded of the need to contact the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management about ocean drilling. There is a link on our website.

Connie Sullivan reported that there was to be a 66th ADDC "Policy and Politics" presentation at Manhattan Bread & Bagel on March 5.

There was to be a memorial for Teresa Bird on Sunday, March 18 at the Redondo Beach Historic Library.

Also, there will be a "March For Our Lives" on Saturday, March 24, beginning at 10AM, in Pershing Square.

In closing, a motion was made to abstain from endorsing statewide candidates in the primary in order to focus on

swinging red districts to blue, with the exception of gubernatorial races. The motion was passed.

*Compiled with the help of minutes from
Ryley Simcox*

Pictured below: At the February Women's March in Redondo Beach: Cody Bridges, Ryley Simcox, Dency Nelson, Al Muratsuchi, Bobbi Buescher, and Melissa Ramoso

