

## Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 24  
7:00 PM

Hermosa Beach Community Center  
710 Pier Avenue, Room #4  
Hermosa Beach

## Important Notice

### 2016 Democratic State Convention

The annual California Democratic Party (CDP) State Convention will be held in San Jose, at the San Jose Convention Center, from **Friday, February 26 to Sunday the 28th**. Those of you planning to attend can find all the information you need on the CDP website at: [www.cadem.org/convention](http://www.cadem.org/convention).

Delegates to the Convention include our Los Angeles Democratic County Committee members, elected Democrats and their proxies, and the Democrats who were elected at our 66th Assembly District caucus at the end of January. In addition, many Democrats from the South Bay serve as Volunteers at the convention to help register delegates and aid in logistics. Other Democrats may attend some events (the main hall and dinners, with the big speeches, are restricted) as observers or as members of the many Democratic Caucuses (African-American, Arab-American, Asian/Pacific Islander, Business & Professional, Chicano/Latino, Children's, Computer & Internet, Disabilities, Environmental, Filipino-American, Irish-American, LGBT, Labor, Native-American, Progressive, Rural, Seniors, Veterans and Women's caucuses) which will hold meetings during the convention. The

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*A Tale of Two Nations*

I was struck this week by a sharp contrast between two news stories I read.

In one, I was reminded that in April California will make birth control pills available to women through pharmacies without a prescription. (LA Times 2/14/16, "Birth control pills without prescriptions, coming soon to California under new law"). This is expected to improve access to birth control and reduce unwanted pregnancies. Yippee! What's not to love about that?

On the other hand, researchers from the University of Texas at Austin just reported in the New England Journal of Medicine that there was a sharp, immediate uptick in pregnancies in counties where Planned Parenthood clinics had closed since the Texas state legislature radically reduced funding to family planning clinics in 2011. In just 18 months since the cuts, the researchers calculated



that the relative increase in births was 27% for women who lost access to subsidized family planning services. "Many of these births were probably unplanned, since the increase was only seen in counties where women faced new hurdles in access to contraception." (LA Times 2/3/16, "After Texas stopped funding Planned Parenthood, low-income women had more babies"). This shouldn't come as a big surprise: the Texas Observer reported shortly after the cuts that "the bipartisan Legislative Budget Board estimated that last year's cuts would lead to more than 250,000 women losing services and 20,000 additional births covered by Medicaid" (the actual number of women who eventually lost services was much higher). (Texas Observer, 8/15/12, "One Year Later, Cuts to Women's Health Have Hurt More Than Just Planned Parenthood").

These additional, unplanned, unwanted births to Medicaid recipients will be especially costly to the state, since Texas refused to accept expanded

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*January Meeting — We had a large crowd at our January meeting including several guests and new members.*

(Convention, continued from page 1)

Labor Caucus used to restrict their membership to Union members, but that is not mentioned on the dues page. Any Democrat can join a Caucus or renew their membership on the CDP website's "Caucus Dues" page. Candidates for various offices try to speak at every caucus they can, which often leaves little time for business.

The 66th ADDC will host a dinner on Saturday, 2/26, at the Vyne Bistro in San Jose for delegates and volunteers attending Convention. The cost per person is \$40, and you must RSVP in advance with Connie Sullivan at pvedems@gmail.com if you wish to attend.

In election years we have quite a few candidates speaking at our convention, but this year our Presidential candidates will likely be busy in other States. The only speakers listed are Robert Reich and Barbara Boxer, who will likely represent Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton, respectively. There are two primary functions for the Convention; the first is adopting the Platform, which states our Party's principles, and the second is endorsements, which is why the candidates try to speak to everyone everywhere!

The State Convention is always a lot of fun and very interesting, if hectic. This is now the largest annual Democratic gathering in the USA, replacing the old annual California Democratic Council conventions which were made up of representatives from Democratic Clubs across the State. It's a great place to renew old friendships and make new ones, and to get involved in political campaigns that will shape our democracy for decades to come.

(President, Continued from page 1)

Medicaid funding through the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). As a result, they are losing approximately \$10 billion a year in funding that would otherwise reimburse their hospitals for uninsured

care. In short, the costs of their ideological warfare on the poor, women and Obama are finally coming home to roost. NPR reports that "Texas has the second-highest health insurance premiums in the country, right behind Florida. And Texas has the third-highest property taxes in the country. In Dallas, for example, more than half of property owners' county property tax bill goes to reimburse Parkland Hospital for the uncompensated care it has to provide." (See NPR.org, 5/30/15, "Texas Politicians And Businesses Feud Over Medicaid Expansion"). In short, Texas' elite are beginning to realize that it's very costly to eliminate family planning and turn away federal money to subsidize universal healthcare. Which would almost provide us California progressives with a moment of schadenfreude—almost, that is, if it weren't for the heartbreaking toll that unwanted pregnancies take on those women, their children, and our society.

Access to free or highly affordable birth control is the type of issue that both conservatives and liberals should be able to agree on. It's good social policy, and it has a very high financial return on investment. Yet in our highly polarized political environment, we are creating a splintered nation of have-and-have-nots that goes well beyond wages and wealth to encompass healthcare, voting rights, civil liberties—every aspect of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The good news, from a social science perspective, is that I think this will provide us with ample data as to who is right about how best to uplift our nation and its people. Progressives can increasingly demonstrate in objective economic terms that universal healthcare, a living wage, LGBT rights, women's rights, and investment in education are the winning formula for moving our nation forward. The conservative movement will continue to prove itself to be outdated and irrelevant. Sadly, so much human suffering will ensue in the course of this particular experiment that I can only hope that it comes to an end very soon.

Best,  
Kathryn Campbell  
President, Beach Cities Democrats

## January Minutes

Courtesy of Secretary Thomas Kelleher  
President Kathryn Campbell opened the meeting and introduced first time visitors, including Susan Jerich, a candidate for judge in L.A. county and Priya Chatwani, president of Mira Costa High School Young Democrats.

### Officer Reports

President Campbell reported on the Executive Board meeting in December. Some of the topics discussed were changing the venue for future meetings and having more locally relevant programs. During the meeting, members agreed on beachcitiesdems.org as a new URL for Beach Cities Democrats. Additionally, they discussed having a director for social media and outreach.

Vice President Dency Nelson noted that our two endorsed candidates for City Council, our one endorsed candidate for School Board, and our endorsed Measure H all won by significant margins.

Edna Murphy presented the Treasurer's Report:

#### Federal Acct

Beginning Balance	\$2,138.00
Money in	\$0.00
Money out	\$332.00
Ending Balance	\$1,806.00

#### State Acct

Beginning Balance	\$535.00
Money in	\$0.00
Money out	\$149.00
Ending Balance	\$386.00

Minutes from the November and December Meetings, taken by Tom Cares and Stephanie Solomon respectively, were approved unanimously.

### Reports from Local Electeds

Sam Lieu, field rep for state senator Ben Allen, introduced Susan Jerich, a candidate for a judicial seat in Los Angeles. She discussed her background as a prosecutor in the Bay Area and federally for the US Attorney's office. She asked for Beach Cities Democrats' endorsement.

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**Development in Redondo Beach**

Redondo Beach City Councilman Bill Brand discussed over-development near the ocean in Redondo Beach. He began by talking about the Harbor Drive AES power plant and the need for a referendum to rezone the area on which it is built. He then moved on to talking about development on the waterfront, involving a public-private partnership between Redondo Beach and CenterCal that would double the development around the pier.

The project had a flawed Environmental Impact Report, no feasibility studies and results-driven traffic circulation analysis. The EIR goes to the Harbor Commission in the spring.

**Resolution on Charles Lester**

Jeff DuClos discussed the California Coastal Commission's attempts to remove Executive Director Charles Lester. He expressed concern over the Coastal Commission's growing number of lobbyists and developers, who are now attempting to oust Lester. Although Lester has had an excellent record as executive director, these commissioners still asked him to resign without giving any reason. Lester asked for a public hearing regarding his dismissal.

President Campbell presented a resolution opposing attempts to remove Lester. Bill Brand made a motion to pass the resolution, which carried unanimously.

**Torrance Refinery Update**

Connie Sullivan discussed safety concerns surrounding the Torrance refinery. After an explosion in the refinery last year nearly hit a tank storing hydrofluoric acid, concerns arose over the possibility of a disaster involving the leakage of hydrofluoric acid and its deadly vapor, which could spread over 3.2 miles and potentially endanger a quarter million people. Ted Lieu is working on measures to prevent hydrofluoric acids, and State Senator Ben Allen has a greater chance of passing legislation regulating its use due to the party composition of California's senate.



January Meeting Highlights: (L) President Kathryn lights a birthday candle for Vice-President Dency Nelson; (Right) Past BCD President Bobbi Buescher with January speaker Redondo Beach City Councilmember Bill Brand

**The Court**

By Lee Fink

I was going to write a column about the campaign between Hillary and Bernie, and what makes up real change ("Change We Can Believe In"). I was also thinking of writing a piece about how Donald Trump is the Republican's Frankenstein, the monster they created but can no longer control. I also had a really wonky piece about how the Federal Reserve's interest rate hike last month was really a vote of no confidence in Congress, generally, and specifically the Republican leadership of Congress.

But none of that matters anymore.

As I was writing, it was announced that Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia passed away. While all condolences are appropriate and are extended, the political implications of this are impossible to overstate. Anything that was going to be considered in the United States Congress has changed dramatically, as has the tenor of the Presidential campaign.

Since 1972, the Supreme Court has had a majority appointed by Republican Presidents. That has had dramatic implications for the court and the country. The reinstatement of the Death Penalty, the narrowing of civil rights that had been extended during the Warren Court, the effect on Federalism with both the Commerce Clause and the 11<sup>th</sup> Amendment, campaign finance, and of course *Bush v. Gore*. My Law School note adopted the premise that the Court had become such a political body that a virtual tie election is

naturally decided by the Court, because it was merely a reflection of the long term politics of the nation. So what comes next means three big things:

First—Every Democrat, every legal scholar and judge, every law enforcement official, and every patriot who believes in the progress of democracy, must put a full court push on the Senate to confirm President Obama's nomination. Certain Republicans, who have spent 7 years trying to undermine the Obama Presidency, are already pushing to stall the nomination until a new President takes office. That is nearly more than a year away, and would be unprecedented in American history. Stalling this nomination is a dereliction of duty, and an effort to undermine the basic foundation our Constitution. Barack Obama was elected—twice—to a four year term, and should, and must, be given every right and consideration. There is no need to wait until the next President takes office—this is not in the lame duck days of the Administration. And more importantly, leaving a vacancy on the Court for a year would undermine the administration of justice. It literally has never happened before, and should not be allowed to happen now.

Second—President Obama must quickly move to nominate a justice whose record is unimpeachable. The reality, for better or worse, is that appointing a liberal lion to replace Scalia will be nearly impossible, so we should not expect to see a Brennan or Ginsberg. But even a moderate like a Breyer or Souter would

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be a welcome change from Scalia's consistent, but still wrong-headed conservatism. Some early guesses include Sri Srinivasin, an Obama appointee unanimously confirmed to the DC Circuit in 2013; Albert Diaz, a native of Puerto Rico and Marine veteran, unanimously confirmed in 2010 to the Fourth Circuit, and Jeh Johnson confirmed by a vote of 78-16 to be Secretary of Homeland Security, and previously a prosecutor and distinguished lawyer.

Third—the Democratic Primary must be about our very best chance to win in November. Nothing else matters. If the Republicans are successful in holding up the President's nomination, a Democratic President must be the one to replace Scalia. It simply cannot be left to Ted Cruz or Donald Trump. Whatever you felt about the election before, that has changed. If you are concerned about corporate money in politics, Wall Street, Health Care, workers' rights, and women's rights, then you must look only for the person that has the best chance of winning in November.

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

### U.S. Senate

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### House of Representatives

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### State Senate

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