



NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, August 28, 7:00PM
Hermosa Beach Community Center
Room 16, Hermosa Beach 90254

At this meeting we will be considering endorsements for the upcoming November 5 Hermosa Beach Municipal Election. On the ballot will be two 5-year-term City Council seats; one 5-year-term City Treasurer position; one 5-year-term City Clerk position, and two ballot measures. One measure would be to increase the City of Hermosa Beach's current TOT (Transit Occupancy Tax, often referred to as the Hotel Bed Tax) from 12% to 14%, and the other measure would be for the voters to decide should the City of Hermosa change from electing its City Clerk to appointing that position.

This is a non-partisan election, but any and all registered Democrats who have filed to run for the elected positions may seek our club's endorsement. Per our bylaws, "Endorsements shall be made only by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of the members voting at a meeting of the membership of this organization. In no event shall an endorsement for office be made by a vote of the Board...Only those members present at the meeting when endorsement takes place will be able to vote on whether or not to endorse a particular candidate...No new member shall be eligible to vote on an endorsement unless he/she has paid his or her dues at least 30 days prior to the meeting, or at the previous regular meeting."

Our program will feature Danielle Anderson from the Generation Blue Political Fund, which is the political arm of South Bay Cares. Their voter engagement task force is focused on electing more Democrats to local, state and national offices. Their most immediate goal is to support those running in local races in the upcoming elections. To do so we will partner with like-minded organizations and local clubs to educate and encourage voters by:

- Registering voters
- Staffing phone banks
- Canvassing neighborhoods
- Writing postcards

The other important business to be conducted at this meeting will be sign-ups for volunteers for our Beach Cities Democrats booth for the three days of Fiesta Hermosa over Labor Day Weekend, August 31 through September 2.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Michael Deto
President,
Beach Cities
Democrats



We watched twenty candidates vying to become the Democratic nominee for President of the United States during the second round of debates. As we listened to the candidates, we heard a wide array of policy proposals and philosophical differences. The discussions the candidates are having allow each of us to create our vision for the future of America. With millions of unique dreams for the future of the Democratic party, and this country, eventually each of us will have to join a collective vision behind one candidate. The Democratic nominee will need to unite the supporters of the nineteen other candidates and energize voters to defeat Donald Trump next year.

My parents never really discussed politics with me. I was born and raised Catholic and, because of that, tended to have more conservative ideals. When I turned 18, my dad told me he was a registered Independent, so I followed in his footsteps. I graduated from Santa Clara University with a degree in Business Finance. Santa Clara taught the students to live the three C's: Competence, Consciousness and

Compassion. All universities expect their students to become competent in their fields of study. But Santa Clara also stressed conscience and compassion.... Conscience refers to ethics while compassion refers to empathy and concern for others. These values eventually became the foundation for my political belief system and the reason I joined the Democratic Party. Every American needs to live with conscience and compassion to make positive impacts in our society. And as Democrats, we must support and elect officials who create policies with consciousness and compassion to help the most vulnerable in our society.

When I became a full-time, union firefighter, my eyes were opened up to the importance of the labor movement. The labor movement was never discussed in the classes I took, especially from the free-market professors I had in business school. The battles the previous generations have had fighting for worker's rights, coinciding with the fight for civil rights and women's rights, is something most of the younger members of our society don't fully understand. My hope is the Democratic candidates minimize the attacks on each other. Instead the candidates need to educate the younger voters of the successes of the Democratic party and highlight the attacks on the rights of vulnerable populations from the current administration.



Beach Cities Democrats and friends gathered at Scott Mayers's Lantern House for a fund raiser for Andrew deBlock on August 3. Andrew is running for Torrance City Council.

July Recap

By Andrea Valcourt

Mike Detoy, our new president, welcomed everyone and led us in the pledge of allegiance. He asked if there were any visitors and there were not.

Mike introduced himself, saying that he is a firefighter, has worked to clean up the beach, and worked with non-profits. Mike added that he wants to make the club very inclusive.

In addition, he stated that it was a big day for our country, with Mueller testifying before Congress and the country.

Tony Hale, our new vice president, added that we need to recognize what happened today. Some are crestfallen by what they saw, but we can't count on just one person, on Mueller. The millions of us need to work together and win in 2020. We need excitement about our core values. Please keep the faith; find what we can agree on and work to make our country better.

Treasurer's Report

Edna Murphy presented the Treasurer's Report:

Federal PAC	\$2,504
State PAC	\$5,308

John Gran—Redondo Beach Councilman

John asked that everyone keep Bill Brand, Redondo Beach Mayor, in their thoughts and prayers as Bill works through his health issues. Despite his illness, Bill is now working on a bill for local control on housing zoning.

The CPA, part of the CCA (Community Choice Aggregation), which allows cities to pick their energy sources, is in place in Redondo, but Edison is having some billing issues. The City is working with Edison on these so, please check the website for updates. You can also contact your council member about your billing problems.

The Water Filtration Project has a lot of problems, but we will work through them. Redondo and Hermosa are in contact with each other.

The development at Hawthorne and Artesia is underway and we'll hopefully



(L) Redondo Beach City Councilman John Gran
(R) Our featured speaker, Max Ulin, from LAANE (Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy)

break ground in 18 months. There will be 300 apartments on the Hawthorne side of the property, near Islands, as well as retail shops and restaurants. It will be an open mall with a skate park and a place to gather. The area where Sprouts is will remain the same. The Macy's will move into the vacated Nordstrom building.

The Grocery Outlet, which replaced the Albertson's/Haagen's, is open. Also, there are two options for the Green Line Expansion and the EIR should be out around Christmas time.

Christian Horvath—Redondo Beach Councilman

The AES property has been sold and should close at the end of August. Redondo Beach hopes to buy 25 acres there and we are in funding Phase 3, which is very hopeful. We think we have another revenue source, which will help a lot in completing our purchase.

Christian said that he is part of the Team working with Metro to obtain \$4 million for a regional gigabit Broadband Ring. It will improve the city's responsiveness on their website as well as the library and other entities. The ring will save the cities a lot of money. The next phase will hopefully be to build an Internet option for the South Bay residents, but that is in the future.

Another benefit of working with Metro is they are requiring us to work with them to synchronize our traffic lights. That will make traffic flow much better, saving our citizens time and money.

The South Bay Council of Governments chairperson has declared a

Climate Emergency, making climate part of our policy decisions.

Mayor Brand wants a bill to keep the state from telling cities what their zoning rules should be. We need to give Sacramento alternative positions to help with that effort.

Redondo has the most homeless people in the South Bay and they are clustered near the 405 and the pier. More people fell into homelessness this year, even though we have helped many people get services and get off the street. We are working with PATH (People Assisting The Homeless) and initiating new programs, focusing on drugs, mental illness and crime. We want to expand the Measure H guidelines to include more issues. A woman suggested that train cars be used as an inexpensive way to build housing.

It was also stated that there are buses that will take you around the South Bay. The city should promote them. Gila Katz added that the Beach Cities should encourage parents to have their children bike or walk to school, instead of driving them. It will be less dangerous and reduce traffic. That's why she worked with the Beach Cities Health District on the Walking Bus program.

Isabel Rodriguez, who is a member of the Council of Governments, said the cities need to take into account that the population is aging as they make policy. Women are the largest segment of the homeless population and they are living in their cars because the rents keep going

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)
up, but not their income.

When you can no longer drive, it is difficult to get around without a car, but the cities sponsor the WAVE buses, which cost a dollar a ride and there are also taxi vouchers for a dollar. The cities should be more proactive in advertising these options.

Max Ulin from LAANE (Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy)

Our featured speaker, Max Ulin, said that LAANE came out of a UCLA initiative, which worked to unionize hotel workers and then it moved to port workers and others. Funding comes from grants, labor movements and donors.

He also said that LAANE works with a labor movement called *Our People Our Ports*, that addresses labor and environmental issues. The Port of Los Angeles is a linchpin for the US economy and a major part of the world economy because it handles 40% of US imports/exports.

Approximately 80% of drivers, warehouse workers, and port workers are Hispanic and of those 50% are not US citizens. Warehouse workers are a mix of Black and Hispanic. These workers are demographically vulnerable and being exploited. Many workers are classified as independent contractors, instead of employees. This saves the companies money in wages and benefits. About 500 cases that went before the Labor Board were determined to be misclassified workers, but the problems persist. Only 20% are unionized and only 10% have health insurance.

Workers are classified as independent contractors by the trucking companies because then they cannot unionize and they do not get benefits such as overtime, sick leave, vacations and business expense reimbursements. Truckers are responsible for all expenses related to their trucks such as loans, insurance and maintenance. If the company buys the truck up front, the loan payments are taken out of the trucker's paycheck, which could be 61% of their pay.



Al Lay, President of the LAX Area Democratic Club, Dency Nelson, our outgoing Vice-President, and Jimmy Gow, President of the Torrance Democratic Club, at a Clean Money Campaign event

The ports are the largest stationary polluters and trucks pollute as they go up and down the 710 and 5 Freeways. This impacts many poor communities. The truck fleet needs to be converted to lower polluting trucks and the drivers need to be converted to employees. LA passed the Clean Truck Program, but the Courts took out the employee conversion part.

Companies are leasing new trucks to the independent contractors, but many are illiterate and not US citizens and don't understand what they signed. This is a form of debt bondage and many truckers drive over the 11-hour maximum to make as much money as possible. This makes our roads dangerous because the drivers are so tired.

SB 1402 amends California's labor code and holds the company accountable for not paying truckers properly and not sharing certain expenses. The first offense puts the company on a website list indicating offenses, the second offense holds the company to which they deliver goods such as Target accountable as well.

Next year we want a legislative fix for converting the truckers to employees and getting them the benefits they deserve. This misclassification is against the law. We're going to come back to you for support. As South Bay cities, you have a lot of weight.

The next problem is automation and the unions are working on this.



Moirra Zucker with Representative Maxine Waters at the August 12 Torrance Democratic Club meeting

Max asked that we adopt the LAANE resolution to support the port truck drivers and to write letters to officials. A motion was made, seconded, and passed. There was one NO vote.

For more information about LAANE type <https://laane.org/blog/campaigns/ports-goods-movement/> into your browser.

Announcements and Adjournment

Lynn Bommer, who is a past president of the Palos Verdes Democrats, said her group is working to get Shelly Simmons elected to the Virginia House. There will be phone banking in various locations throughout the district.

Starting August 13, Flip the House will be registering voters in Orange County and will continue until November, 2020. Contact Lynn if you want to car pool to one of the colleges.

Field Team 6 is doing door-to-door canvassing, phone banking, post carding, and registering voters on campuses and at swearing-in ceremonies for new citizens.

Tony Hale for LA County Committee

New by-laws were passed and they voted to condemn China's human rights abuses.

The 66thADDC Breakfast is Sunday, August 25. Keep OC Blue is meeting on
(Continued on page 4)

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(Continued from page 3)
August 17th, and on the 28th, Sister District is meeting.

Ray Waters stated that he registered our booth for the Free Speech Section of Fiesta Hermosa.

Mike Deto adjourned the meeting.



For more information about Beach Cities Democrats and upcoming events, please visit our website at www.BeachCitiesDems.org.

We look forward to seeing you Wednesday the 28th at our August meeting!



Summary of Heal the Bay - Nothin' But Sand Beach Clean Up - Hermosa Beach, August 7

Joined by hundreds from around the Los Angeles area to clean up Hermosa Beach. Very well attended. Heal the Bay also asked the volunteers to sign a postcard against the desalination plant proposed in the Santa Monica Bay.