



P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

October 2019

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 23, 7:00PM
Hermosa Beach Community Center
Room 16, Hermosa Beach 90254

Environmental Politics in the South Bay

We will hear from long-time environmental activist Dean Francois. Dean will talk about South Bay environmental politics and how our Beach Cities representatives can play an important role in preserving the Coastal Act.

As always, we will have news from the Democratic Party and from our locally elected officials. We will also have a report on the upcoming November 5 Hermosa Beach election and a review of this coming Sunday's Los Angeles County Democratic Party Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Democrat of the Year Dinner.

Upcoming Events

*Don't miss the 66th ADDC monthly breakfast at Mimi's Café in Torrance. Sunday, October 27th, at 10:00AM.

*Generation Blue Political Fund reception featuring Representative Ted Lieu
Sunday, November 10
4:00—6:00PM at a home in Manhattan Beach. (See page 4 for details)

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 23rd at our October meeting!



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Michael Deto
President,
Beach Cities
Democrats



"You make a living by what you get.
You make a life by what you give."
- Winston Churchill

As we enter the holiday season (and the last quarter of this decade), we must reflect on our personal values and past actions to reaffirm our individual paths forward. The world we live in has become so divisive. With the rise in popularity of social media, there has been a decline of civility and we have changed how we speak to each other. We can spend hours debating our family, friends or neighbors on various issues in such a spiteful way that we would have never have done in person. I believe the polarization on

social media can also be attributed to the decline in civic organizations, social capital and volunteerism.

Robert Putnam talks about this decline of civic engagement in his book, *Bowling Alone*. Putnam, a political scientist, discusses ways in which Americans have disengaged from political involvement, religious groups, labor unions, volunteer organizations, and bowling leagues (referring to the title of his book).

Although the overall number of bowlers in America has increased, the number of bowling leagues has decreased. He believes that this decline is a byproduct of political scandals, but I see this decline is a result of economic issues. Wages have stagnated, or have even been depressed, and people are burdened with massive amounts of student debt. There has been an increase in dual income households due to more women in the work force and the higher cost of living. Americans, who are now

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Scott McDonough, Lynn Bommer, Diane Wallace, and Tony Salvaggio in BCD's booth at the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair

forced to work longer hours for less, are now faced with a decision to get involved in society through volunteer organizations or spend their free time with their families.

Civic organizations allow Americans from both sides of the political spectrum to come together to serve less fortunate communities. Instead of spending hours arguing online about who or what is to blame for the homeless crisis, these organizations allow us to organize to help feed or provide services to the homeless. Putnam says these organizations help us create "bridging capital." Bridging capital is what you do when you make friends with people who are not like you. The decline of these civic organizations, coupled with the silo effect of only listening to partisan news sources, has made creating bridging capital much harder in the community.

During this holiday season, I am making a pledge to disengage from social media more and instead spend more time serving others. My wife and I have had lots of discussions about how we want to raise our daughter. We will serve Thanksgiving meals to individuals who cannot afford one before we enjoy one ourselves. Our daughter will have to pick out and donate toys to other children before she receives one. I hope we can all make a promise to ourselves and society to give a little bit more to help bridge the divide in America.



Congressmen Ted Lieu and Mark Takano speaking and taking questions at the lovely home of David and Jacintha Knapp



Our speakers: Courtney Lingle and Danielle Anderson

September Recap

By Andrea Valcourt

Mike Detoy called the meeting to order and asked if there were any visitors. We had one man, who said he'd like to join.

A motion was made to have the announcements first, when more people are present. The motion was seconded and passed.

Connie Sullivan said that LA County was having a Mock Election to test its new voting system, which will debut in the March Primary. The Mock Election was to be held the following weekend, the 28th and 29th, at the Clark Building in Hermosa Beach. Anyone can vote . . . kids, parents, registered or not, since this is not an actual election, but we'll be voting on fun things like ice cream. There was a short discussion about the new system and the importance of voting this weekend, which will test the whole system—software, hardware and procedures. Go to LAVote.net for more information and to register, if you have not or make changes to your information.

Connie then mentioned the 66th District Breakfast on Sunday, September 29th, at Mimi's Cafe in Torrance.

Mike Detoy made the following announcements:

- September 30, 7:00, will be the

Hermosa City Council candidates' debate in Council Chambers.

- October 5th and 6th is the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair.

Tony Hale added that the fair will be great fun and a chance to advocate for the city council candidates and the club. We will have a table at the fair and we need volunteers to staff it. You can sign up tonight or on line.

He noted that the LA County Democratic Party endorsed Mike Detoy and Justin Massey as we did last month. Therefore, as we usually do, we can support these candidates with \$100 each and two robocalls. A motion was made to give each candidate \$100 and two robocalls. The calls will include Measures CC and H. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously. Enda Murphy will send the checks right away.

Finance Report

Treasurer Edna Murphy presented the treasurer's report:

Federal PAC	\$2,271
State PAC	\$5,337

Andrea Valcourt said she would like to add to and continue the Mock Election discussion. The Mock Election is important because it will stress the whole system and we want it to work flawlessly in March. The County has been working on it for nine years and feels it is safe and secure. LA County is the largest electoral entity and the country is watching to see how this goes. The code is open source, so others can benefit from what the County has done. They took input from many factions and have made it possible for all to use the system, which is good because now people with disabilities don't have to go to a separate voting station.

There will be 1,000 voting centers on Election Day and, in addition to the absentee ballots, there will be eleven days to vote, which includes two weekends. While other states are trying to suppress the vote, we are making it easier, including same-day registration. The voting machines are like electronic inking machines and are not connected to the Internet. A paper ballot will be printed

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Redondo Beach City Councilman
John Gran

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when you are satisfied that it is correctly marked. The ballot goes into a locked box, which sheriffs will take for counting on election day. No ballots will be counted before then. You will also be able to vote anywhere in the County because the voter data base will be available at each voting center. When you give your name, the data base is updated so you can't vote a second time. A "QC code" is printed on a piece of paper. The QC code equals your precinct number, so that when you insert the paper into the voting machine, the correct ballot is displayed for you. It does not have your name on it, so no one will know how you voted.

It was noted that Ben Allen will attend Hany Fangary's monthly Community First meeting.

John Gran—Redondo Beach Councilman

Thank you for all your kind words for Bill Brand as he battles cancer. He appreciates your good wishes and prayers. He has a Facebook page.

The AES plant may stay open past December 31, 2020 and as long as three years. The City is fighting this proposal. Once the plant is decommissioned, the wires will be removed two years later. Edison will pay for some of the cost and Redondo will also pay for some of the cost, and we have a mechanism in place for that.

John addressed the fact that a recall process has been started to remove him from office because he changed his support for going with the LA County Fire-fighters. He thinks others may also face a recall.

Redondo is looking at a plastic ban like Manhattan Beach's. We're also going to ban smoking in public areas and flavored tobacco productions.

Our General Plan Advisory Meeting for the Artesia area is on the second floor of the library. We'll be looking at zoning.

I'm president of the Redondo Beach Kiwanis Club and we are collecting bottle caps and container lids to build 100 Buddy Benches for our schools. We have already dedicated three benches. The benches promote friendship at the schools and kids can sit on them if they want a friend to come talk to them. We will be working with Hermosa Kiwanis as well.



At the 66th ADDC breakfast: Edna Murphy, Lynne Michaels, Tony Hale, Moira Zucker, and Varo Asorian.

I've brought packets with a flyer that discusses the project and types of lids. It takes five big black trash bags full to make one bench, so we need a lot of help. You can bring your lids to the next meeting or call me and I'll pick them up. For more information you can go to <https://www.hermosakiwanis.org/>.

Courtney Lingle and Danielle Anderson—South Bay Cares and Generation Blue

Courtney said: We started South Bay Cares after the 2016 election because we were very concerned about what would happen. We started with 30 people and now we're 1,600 and counting, and we have five committees working on specific concerns. As a 501c3, the organization cannot support political parties or activities, so that work has to be separate. To make it clearer which was which, we re-named it Generation Blue.

South Bay Cares has worked on the Las Vegas Vigil, Lights for Liberty, Beach Clean-ups, and school projects. There are so many good people doing good work. We have some Republicans now and teens are joining, who are our future. It is sad to have people try to destroy some of our work. We meet every month and each month has a theme like elections. See our Facebook page and our website for details. Southbaycares.com.

Mike Detoy said he attended a meeting and it was pretty powerful. They made packages for people being deported.

Danielle Anderson works on the Generation Blue Political Fund, previously called the South Bay Cares Political Fund. This group does post carding, phone banking, registers Orange County voters, and supports OC candidates. They held a yoga fundraiser at the beach.

Karine Jean-Pierre, of Move On, will be the November 14 meeting's speaker and will bring her new book, *Moving Forward*. The meeting is free and runs from 7:30 – 9:30, with a new member orientation at 7:00. On November 10 there will be a cocktail party for Ted



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Lieu's Blue Momentum PAC.

Tony Hale said that our highest goal in politics is to find people with like values and not about fighting with people who disagree. The Democratic Party worked with all of these groups, which is why we had the Blue Wave.

There are 300 delegates on the County Committee and they unanimously endorsed Justin Massey, Mike Detoy for Hermosa City Council, and Hermosa Measures CC—City Clerk and H. Hermosa decided it would be better to appoint the City Clerk because one person had run for the position for years but is now retiring. While we like to vote for our city officials, it is a good move to allow the City to appoint the Clerk and get the most qualified person for the job. It is especially true in such a small town. And, remember, if the person doesn't perform, the council can remove him or her.

On October 20, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner takes place at the Sheraton to honor the Democrats of the Year, Moira Zucker and Wayne Mogilefsky.

The County Committee took a vote to request Sheriff Villanueva to become more transparent and to stand for the LA County Board of Supervisors' values.

The next Democratic presidential debate watch party will be at Schooner Bar and Grill on 190th.

Mike Detoy adjourned the meeting.

GENERATION BLUE

Generation Blue Political Fund is holding a reception supporting Representative Ted Lieu's House Defense PAC—"Blue Momentum PAC"—Supporting worthy Democratic challengers and Incumbents

Sponsors:

Kamala and Gary Horwitz
Dency and Moira Nelson
Connie and Richard Sullivan
Dr. Lisa Watanabe

Sunday, November 10, 2019

4:00—4:30 PM Sponsor Reception

4:30—6:00 PM General Reception

At the Manhattan Beach home of Kamala and Gary Horwitz

Address provided upon RSVP

For more information please email Genelle Buchert@GMAIL.COM
or call 562-981-2111