

# Beach Cities Democrats



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

January 2020

## NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 22, 7:00PM  
Hermosa Beach Community Center  
Room 16, Hermosa Beach 90254

Alexa Stevens with Citizens Take Action will join us to discuss their efforts to support the Restore Democracy Amendment -- a constitutional amendment to get big money out of politics.

Don't miss our annual Holiday party on Saturday, January 18, from 5:00PM to 9:00PM at the Hermosa Beach home of Ray & Carol Waters. Tickets are \$40 (or \$45 at the door) and can be purchased by visiting the Beach Cities Democrats website at [www.beachcitiesdems.org](http://www.beachcitiesdems.org).

Saturday, January 18, from 9:00AM to 2:00PM, in Downtown Los Angeles, it's the 4th Annual Women's March LA. For more information go to [womensmarch.com](http://womensmarch.com).

Sunday, January 19, from 10:00AM to Noon, at Law Office, 2230 East Maple Avenue, El Segundo 90245, Generation Blue invites you to get the Blue Wave rolling for 2020. Participants will be calling voters for Christy Smith, Congressional District 25, in advance of the March 3 Special Election and Primary. Bring a fully charged cell phone, iPad or laptop and your charger. Training will be provided. Please RSVP at [Genbluepf@gmail.com](mailto:Genbluepf@gmail.com).



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Michael Deto  
President,  
Beach Cities  
Democrats



"On New Year's Eve the whole world celebrates the fact that a date changes. Let us celebrate the dates on which we change the world."

-Akilnathan Logeswaran

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and a cheerful New Year celebration. There has been so much build up to 2020... and it has finally arrived. As Democrats, we have been preparing and working towards 2020 since November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016. This is the year where all of the grassroots organizing, fundraising and volunteering will pay off by electing a Democratic President, flipping the Senate, strengthening the gains in the House and electing Democrats on down ballot races.

We are only a few weeks into 2020 and the year has been off to an eventful start. Australia has been battling bushfires where at least 27 people and millions of animals have lost their lives, thousands of structures have been destroyed and millions acres of land have been scorched. The Australian government has been slow to react to these historic fires, where firefighters are battling historic hot, dry weather and draught conditions caused by climate change. Just three days into 2020, President Trump

authorized the assassination of Qasem Soleimani, the second most powerful person in Iran, based on what now appears to be questionable information. A Ukrainian passenger plane, carrying 176 people, was accidentally targeted and shot down shortly after Iran retaliated by launching missiles at our military bases in Iraq. And now the Iraqi government voted to have the United States withdraw our military from their country.

Nancy Pelosi will send the articles of impeachment to the Senate this week, setting up the start of only the third trial in United States history to remove a President. Pelosi wrote, "Every Senator now faces a choice: to be loyal to the President or the Constitution." The impeachment trial will move us straight into the start of the Presidential Primary, starting with the Iowa caucuses on February 3<sup>rd</sup> (along with the vote-by-mail voters in California). California voters will now vote by Super Tuesday on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, increasing our importance on determining who will be Democratic nominee for President of the United States.

2020 is our year to continue to educate and mobilize voters... and we will be able to enjoy the fruits of our labor over the past four plus years. I cannot wait to continue to work with each of you to help elect Democrats to every office locally and across the United States. I hope you are well rested and ready to work as hard as we can to be successful in 2020.

Attendees at our  
December meeting  
celebrating  
Congressman Adam  
Schiff



Visit our Website at [beachcitiesdems.org](http://beachcitiesdems.org). Like us On Facebook

## December Recap

*By Andrea Valcourt*

Tony Hale called the meeting to order, since our President, who was newly elected to the Hermosa Beach City Council, had to attend a special city council meeting. Tony asked for new members and there was one. He welcomed everyone and said this was the ground floor of the Democratic Party. He asked Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tony mentioned that the impeachment hearings have been interesting and illuminating. He then gave the Treasurer's Report, since Edna was absent:

Federal PAC	\$2,065
State PAC	\$5,185

Andrea Valcourt reported that with the new voting system, the county is looking for people to work at the voting centers. More people are needed, since the polling centers will be open for eleven days, including election day. However, people can still vote by mail. Tony added that there will be a bar code on the ballot, so you can vote using your cell phone. Andrea stated that the bar code is equal to your precinct number and no personal information is attached. See [LAvote.net](http://LAvote.net) for details.

*Editor's note:* The county is paying \$100 per day to people working the polling centers.

Tony gave the State Party Convention report: There are several segments in the party, but we need to work together. Some were opposed to the Israel plank in the platform. This year was unique because we had two conventions. This one was covered by Univision. It was a good convention and we got a lot accomplished. We worked on rules. Our job is to make the party more open and to keep improving it. We have amazing representation in our state and it was good to hear from our electeds. We are a good example for the nation.

Al Muratsuchi gave an update and took questions.

Al said he has the privilege of

representing the South Bay. Things are going well for California, which has the 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world. The state is fighting the climate crisis and we are the most aggressive in the U.S. and the world. We showed we can grow our economy with green jobs, while fighting climate change.

One of our challenges is homelessness. The state is working with cities and counties, spending billions on services. The rising housing costs are a contributing factor. Forty years ago, there were 22 million people and now there are 40 million, but the housing units have not kept pace. However, in the South Bay we are very densely populated and traffic is a big problem, but we need to keep looking for solutions and not necessarily by building more units.

AB 1482 protects renters from landlords who indiscriminately increase rents. It is not a rent control bill.

Another problem the state faces is the wildfires and the related electricity outages. We've been lucky here to not have these outages. It is a reflection of climate change. PG&E has taken preventive measures with planned outages. It is a very extreme measure and affects seniors and their medical equipment the most. PG&E must find a solution as it goes through its bankruptcy proceedings.

AB 342 protects our lands from Trump's oil drilling policies in our national parks. We don't have jurisdiction on federal land, but we can prevent the required equipment from going onto state land. It's not a perfect solution, but it is what we can do. It is similar to the bill that prevents oil drilling equipment in our local waters and on our shores.

Al is co-sponsoring a plastics bill with State Senator Ben Allen. It will reduce single use plastics. They're hoping to get it passed this year.

SB 50 is a senate bill to override city and



*Our December speakers: Linda Sun and Emily Cole*

county zoning laws to help eliminate homelessness by increasing housing units, but it also can increase density. Communities don't want more building, especially here in the South Bay, where we are pretty densely populated and traffic is awful. Al believes we should not fix housing by the state overriding cities and counties.

SB 50 proponents believe it would provide more housing next to transit hubs. Al thinks they should be built around job centers. This would be good for reducing vehicle pollution. It was noted by an audience member that we should build more transportation options before we build more housing.

Another person stated there are new condos on PCH, which are not selling because they are too expensive and they are on PCH. Could the state encourage builders to make these types of development low rent with incentives? Al said he would see if there is such a SB 50 provision and get back to the gentleman.

Near San Francisco, in Palo Alto, the schools are helping teachers get housing. There are also measures to build more college housing such as March Ballot Measure 13, which is a bond to pay for this. 25% of students do not have reliable housing and affordable housing is a bigger problem for them than tuition.

A person asked if modular housing could be a solution. Al remarked that he got a 75 page proposal from a homeless man and it was well thought out. It was noted that in Japan they have pods,

*Continued on page 3*

*Continued from page 2*

which have a bedroom and common area for recreation and bathrooms. They are small, but very inexpensive to rent.

Another member asked about the rising pension costs. Al said that a 2012 bill did have some controls in place for those hired after 2012.

Tony then said asked the candidates to speak before we voted on endorsements.

Al stated he was running for his 4<sup>th</sup> term and would like to be endorsed by the club. He wants to keep fighting for the South Bay and add to the good things already accomplished. Tony stated that the only other candidate is Arthur Schaper, who some say is a White Nationalist. The motion to endorse passed unanimously.

*Linda Sun, running for Judge Seat 42*

Linda said she is a 1<sup>st</sup> generation immigrant. Her parents were teachers in Hong Kong. She came to this country at age 18 and stayed. She said "March Fong Eu inspired me to go to law school. I worked to pay for college and to bring my parents here. I became a Democrat. I did pro bono work and then became permanent Deputy Attorney General and prosecuted over 1,000 cases against unscrupulous business people. I was promoted to supervisor and have a team that adjudicated the most cases in the shortest time. It is a very efficient team. No one is above the law and no one can abuse the law. Many electeds have endorsed me."

Tony said that he couldn't determine if her opponent is a Democrat. However, he did not respond to Tony's emails. The motion to endorse passed unanimously.

*Emily Cole, running for Judge Seat 76*

Emily said she was born in LA and went to college and law school in San Francisco. She has been a Deputy District Attorney for 12 years and has been in most of the LA County courtrooms. She said, "I was able to meet the people and get to know our diverse communities. I focus on elder abuse cases and sex crimes. I'm passionate about representing these vulnerable victims and try to make the process easier for them. I have a



*Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi speaking about his current legislation*

100% conviction rate. I've been able to get help for drug and mental health defendants by being an advocate for them."

Judges do so much in people's lives: set bail, decide traffic tickets, decide if defendants go to jail or not. Be sure that the judges you vote for have the right qualifications." I will keep a tight calendar and will keep cases moving. My opponent has been a Democrat for two years, but was a Republican before that. He legally changed his name to Judge Mike Cummings for political and business reasons and lives in San Luis Obispo." The motion to endorse passed unanimously.

Tony said there is a fund raiser for Al at Smog City. Also, please refer to our agenda for other announcements. He then moved on to our January fund raising party. Ray Waters offered their house again on January 18. The motion to accept the date and place passed unanimously.



## Scenes From December 5 Reception for Al Muratsuchi



Democrats from the Torrance, Palos Verdes, and Beach Cities Democratic clubs gathered at the Smog City Brewery in honor of Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi.

*Top: Dale Petrulis, Bobbi Buescher, Linda Sun, Ray Waters, Dency Nelson*

*Center: Ken Petrulis, Hals Grellman, Ray Waters, Carolyn Waters*

*Below: Moira Zucker and Al Muratsuchi*

*Beach Cities Democrats*  
P.O. Box 2192  
Redondo Beach, CA 90278  
*President*  
Michael Detoy—626-437-7089  
*Vice-President*  
Tony Hale—310-465-6188  
*Secretary*  
Andrea Valcourt  
Info@beachcitiesdems.org  
*Treasurer*  
Edna Murphy—310-545-6292  
*Newsletter*  
Moira Zucker—310-546-7562  
moiraz@alumni.reed.edu  
*Webmaster*  
Mark Drabkin—213-787-5267  
*Immediate Past President*  
Bobbi Buescher—310-545-7890



## Beach Cities Democrats Membership Form



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

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*Annual dues are \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 for two at the same address.*

*Please make checks payable to Beach Cities Democrats and mail to P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278*

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