



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

February 2020

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 26, 7:00PM
Hermosa Beach Community Center
Room 16, Hermosa Beach 90254

We will take an in-depth look at the 2020 presidential primary election, focusing on Democratic-endorsed candidates, ballot measures, County Central Committee members, and judicial nominees. Please bring your sample ballot to make sure we elect strong Democratic candidates.

The second part of the program will be a working session where we will be making calls to ensure our endorsed candidates for County Central Committee and local offices get elected. Make sure you bring a charged cell phone for GOTV.

Please Note

Redondo Beach Kiwanis is still collecting plastic bottle caps and lids to recycle into 100 Buddy Benches. This is an excellent way to repurpose otherwise unrecyclable plastic. You can drop off what you've collected at the Hermosa Beach Kiwanis Clubhouse, 2515 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach.

There is always someone at the clubhouse on Wednesdays from 11:00AM to 2:00PM, except the 3rd Wednesday of the month, when they are there from 5:00PM to 8:00PM.

There is also someone there each Wednesday morning from 7:00AM to 9:00AM. At other times just leave the bags of plastic at the double doors and text Cathy McCurdy at 310-374-4072 and she'll make sure they're collected.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Michael Deto
President,
Beach Cities
Democrats



"A primary object should be the education of our youth in the science of government. In a republic, what species of knowledge can be equally important? And what duty more pressing than communicating it to those who are to be the future guardians of the liberties of the country?"

— George Washington

The Blue Wave in 2018 was real. Democrats increased voter turnout, successfully regained control of the House and increased control in various States' legislatures. Nearly half of all eligible voters turned out to vote in 2018, with some 60 million people voting for Democrats in the house (Hillary Clinton received 65 million in 2016). That's the highest midterm voter turnout percentage since 1914, when 50.4 percent of eligible voters went to the polls. It surpasses 1966, the previous high, when turnout

was 48.7 percent. How were we successful and how can we continue the momentum for 2020?

Numerous grassroots organizations started all over the United States engaging in conversations with all members of our communities, focusing on expanding the electorate and mobilizing voters. We need to continue to reach out to our newly eligible voters, to emphasize the importance of having their voices heard through voting. These groups have focused their efforts in swing districts and in states that have historically suppressed voting rights. These groups were vital to Democratic voters turning out in 2018 in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Wisconsin and even in California.

Florida activists passed an Amendment in 2018, promising to restore voting rights for over a million Floridians with felony convictions. The Republican controlled Legislature followed up with a law limiting the power of the Amendment. The law stated that in order to get their voting rights back, felons needed to pay off all fines and fees related to their convictions. Under that law, money owed can be waived or lowered, and other

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Democrats celebrating at a fund raiser for Andrew DeBlock's Campaign for Torrance City Council



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requirements like community service that would waive the fines... every one of them is Democratic-leaning. Those include Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Hillsborough counties, which together include more than a third of the state's total population.

Democrats need to continue expanding the electorate in swing states in 2020 because of the Electoral College. Democrats have only lost the popular vote in Presidential elections once since 1992 (Bush 2004), yet we have had three terms of a Republican President during the same timeframe. Our 2020 electorate will look different from 2016. Nonwhites will account for a third of eligible voters, their largest share ever. At the same time, one-in-ten eligible voters will be members of Generation Z, the Americans who will be between the ages 18 and 23 this year. We should be excited to see the work we have done through Democratic clubs, grassroots organizations (Swing Left, Sister District, etc.), and the continued activism of fellow Democrats to ensure we beat Trump in November and elect Democrats to down ticket races.



Scenes from our annual Holiday party at the beautiful home of Ray and Carolyn Waters

Left: Bobbi Buescher, Al Muratsuchi, Tony Hale, and Michael Detoy at our Holiday party. Right: David Burke and Alexa Stevens, our January speakers



January Recap

Andrea Valcourt

Vice President Tony Hale opened the meeting because President Mike Detoy had to attend a Sacramento class for newly elected city council members. He asked Andrea Valcourt, Secretary, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no new visitors.

Tony asked that we change the order of the agenda to allow announcements to be given first so the majority of folks can hear them.

Jan 25—Andrew DeBlock fundraiser at Smog City

Jan 26—CCAD Congress, an umbrella group for the smaller, local groups, will have its breakfast meeting at Mimi's Café

Feb 09—Torrance Democratic Club meeting

Feb 16—PV Democratic Club meeting

Feb 22—Phone banking for Christy Smith, running for Katie Hill's office

Feb 26—Beach Cities Democrats meeting

Andrea suggested that everyone call senators to encourage them to vote for evidence and witnesses. She said that unlike congress members, senators do not screen calls by address, since they represent the whole state and not a district. She has found that starting with the last office listing will often get you voice mail boxes that are not full. Everyone calls the D.C. office, so it's hard to get through or the mail box is full. If you call evenings, you can just leave a message and that makes the calling go much faster.

Tony gave the Treasurer's report. We have two accounts.

Federal account	\$2,065
State account	\$3,306

We don't have the final numbers on our January fundraising party, but it looks like we might have netted \$1,000.

Tony reported that Trump thinks the Democrats will be hurt by the impeachment process, but we think the senators will be the ones hurt by following what the president wants. Don't let naysayers get you down. Have faith and spread the news based on the facts.

Featured Speakers

David Burke and Alexa Stevens represented Citizens Take Action, a group working to pass the Restore Democracy Constitutional Amendment. David stated that anyone who's qualified should be able to run for office, regardless of their financial wealth. When big donors fund a candidate, they have influence over that person. Super PACs can influence more than one person. David said the handouts he was passing out were the same ones given to Congress. The non-partisan amendment they are working for would fix our broken campaign finance laws by providing a way to overturn Citizens United, eliminate Super PACs, create publicly financed elections, and enact other reforms. The Citizens Take Action group is working to build support for the amendment and we need a grassroots groups to make that happen. We passed around a sign-up sheet for people to indicate if they want to volunteer or donate or both.



*Above: Tony Hale and Michael Detoy.
Below: Craig Cadwallader, Larry Fox, and
Todd Loewenstein at our Holiday party*

*Scenes from Andrew DeBlock's fund raiser
at the Smog City Brewery
Above: Moira Zucker, David Burke, Andrew,
and Al Muratsuchi
Below: Al, Andrew, and Rochelle Schneider*

*More scenes from our Holiday party.
Above: Bill Brand, Janice Hahn, Varo
Asorian
Below (foreground), Lori Geittman and her
friend Patricia*

The Amendment's text was written and supported by 200 Democrats, but no Republican support.

Audience question: will it pass in 2020? No, the Republicans have not allowed changes and we have a long way to go. We need 2/3 of Congress to back the amendment and ¾ of the states need to vote for it in order for it to pass and become law. It took years for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to pass in ¾ of the states and now it may go to court.

Tony said that while Democrats aren't perfect, we support good values. California is a good example of what can be done with good democratic leadership. A few facts from their handout:

85% of Americans want to change our campaign finance system. Nineteen states have expressed support for a constitutional amendment to get big money out of our politics. A 2018 poll shows Republicans and Democrats would support an amendment that would overturn Citizens United, allowing Congress to regulate campaign spending.

Tony stated that there were no electeds present, but we had several at the party. It was a good time and a good kickoff for the election season.

LA County Democratic Party is the largest in the US. A lot of elected officials, judges and ballot measures are endorsed by the party. You can go to the website to see these endorsements. The county organizations endorse at the assembly level and below. The state party endorses above the assembly. The local organizations interview candidates and then vote to endorse or not. The endorsement requires 60% of the vote. These endorsements go to the County Party for their endorsement. Sometimes, it is a simple vote and sometimes it's messy.

At the last convention, the LA County party recognized the Armenian Genocide. Trump will not acknowledge that it happened.

With all business finished, Tony adjourned the meeting.

Endorsements

At our Holiday party, we made the following endorsements: Andrew DeBlock for Torrance City Council, Janice Hahn for County Supervisor, Ted Lieu for Representative, and for County Committee, Ray Waters, Bobbi Buescher, Connie Sullivan and Stacey Spagon Golden.

Al Muratsuchi Introduces HR 77

Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi has introduced a bill, HR 77, that would issue a formal apology to all Americans of Japanese descent for the State's role in policies that culminated with their mass incarceration. Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon said "We owe it to those who suffered by acknowledging their mistreatments but also to educate our future generations so history does not repeat itself."

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

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