



## MEETING CANCELLED

We apologize for canceling this month's Beach Cities Democrats meeting. After consulting the leadership team, we agreed unanimously that we need to listen to our elected leaders to minimize possible exposures in our community. We will hold a special virtual meeting on April 2nd at 7PM. To participate in this meeting, all you need to do is call in on the conference call line. You can also participate on your computer. The call-in number is 323-886-0941. Call-in time is 7PM, April 2nd.

Computer access:  
<https://www.uberconference.com/tony309>

At the upcoming virtual meeting, we will talk about bylaw changes to allow us to hold virtual meetings where we can conduct official business. So please join us on April 2nd.

Proposed Bylaw Changes:

## ARTICLE X – HOLDING VIRTUAL MEETINGS

The Board of Directors may determine by a unanimous vote that in-person club meetings are not possible and call for a virtual online meeting or conference call. Such meetings must follow the same notification requirements as in-person meetings and follow all the established rules in these bylaws for voting and making endorsements. During virtual online meetings, motions may be made for a voice vote, vote by email or other electronic means; or by way of the US Postal Service.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Michael Detoy  
President,  
Beach Cities  
Democrats*



“No, I don’t take responsibility at all”  
— Donald Trump

In May 2018, under the reorganization by then National Security Adviser John Bolton, the Director of Global Health Security and Biodefense was eliminated. Rear Adm. Timothy Ziemer was the top White House official responsible for leading the U.S. response in the event of a deadly pandemic. News articles in 2018 stressed how the United States was unprepared for a pandemic... and losing this position on the National Security Council made it worse. President Trump has proposed cutting the CDC budget since he took office, but Congress has consistently overruled his cuts.

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) was first identified in Wuhan, Hubei, China in December of 2019. In March, the World Health Organization recognized it as a pandemic with hundreds of

thousands of cases in 140 countries across the globe. Over 6,000 people have died from the disease so far causing economic and social uncertainty. The virus primarily spreads between people similar to the flu, via respiratory droplets from coughing or sneezing, and causing complications including pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome. The time between exposure and symptoms is between 2 and 14 days, typically 5 days. The time from development of symptoms to death is between 6 and 41 days, with the median of 14 days.

On January 19, a 35-year-old man went to an urgent care in Snohomish County, Washington, after experiencing a fever and cough for 4 days. He tested positive for COVID-19 the next day. On January 31, the Trump administration limited entry into the United States from China, but unfortunately COVID-19 was already in the United States. On February 29, the United States experienced its first death due to the disease in Kirkland, Washington. On March 4<sup>th</sup>, on a phone call with Sean Hannity, Trump implied the coronavirus was not as bad as the seasonal flu. As of March 12, the CDC revealed that less than 10,000 tests for COVID-19 had been conducted.

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*Board Members and  
Candidates:  
Dale Petruilis, Hospitality  
Chair, Andrew DeBlock,  
Candidate for Torrance City  
Council, Ray Waters and  
Connie Sullivan, members of  
the 66th ADDC, BCD  
President Michael Detoy, and  
Webmaster Mark Drabkin*



*(President, Continued from page 1)*

The World Health Organization published several RNA testing procedures on January 17, yet the United States was far slower to produce test kits than other countries. The response nationwide has been delayed but many states have aggressively helped combat the virus. Washington, and now California, are leading the nation in combating the pandemic. During these types of public health emergencies, we need to be able to trust our political and public health leaders. I hope we all listen to our officials, participate in social distancing and help flatten the curve.

Do not hesitate to reach out for help instead of risking your health. Let us check on those in need of help as we get through this together. I am more than happy to help run errands for those who should not leave the house. "When we all help each other out, when we stand together, we are stronger together."

*Hillary Clinton*

Mike Detoy on International Women's Day (Sunday, March 8):

Here's to strong women.  
May we know them.  
May we be them.  
May we raise them.

## February Recap

*Carolyn Waters*

President Michael Detoy opened the meeting thanking Dale for the lavish snacks. One new person introduced himself and said he was attracted by our web page. Our other two new people, Brian and Joann Bailey, said they, too, were attracted by the site.

Comments on the new voting system in LA county and ballot design followed. Mark Drabkin was working the polls. He reported on a few imperfections he witnessed the first weekend, but subsequent to the March meeting, he worked the final four voting days and said that many of those imperfections were repaired. Connie Sullivan complained about the appearance of the ballot pages.

Our President, Mike Detoy, recently elected to the HB council, followed with a Hermosa Beach City Council update. Contract negotiations with the Police Officers Association produced a raise of 7% then 6% over three years to bring Hermosa Beach (HB) police salaries up to some neighboring cities. The HB force is down six to eight officers. Interviews are underway. The city is offering \$30,000 to \$40,000 bonuses to hire. Budget revenues are higher because of the hotel tax increase that passed in November. A wheelchair path to the beach was approved to run down 8<sup>th</sup> Street. American Disabilities Act (ADA) needs work around town, Mike said.

Andrew DeBlock reported from Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi's Office that House Resolution 77, introduced by Al, passed unanimously: a formal apology to all Americans of Japanese descent for the State's role in policies that culminated with their mass incarceration. Andrew said this apology was deserved for a long time.

The Los Angeles County Democratic Party, called County Committee, at this month's meeting endorsed candidates from around the state to represent CA at the Democratic National Committee.

Next was a discussion of the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Presidential Primary Election ballot. Proposition 13, not to be confused with the old Prop 13, authorizes bonds for facility repair, construction and modernization at public education facilities to be paid from general fund revenues. It also raises the limit of real estate taxes. The Howard Jarvis organization opposes it. The Democratic party endorsed the measure.

Also, the County Committee endorsed The Citizen's Sheriff Oversight Committee proposition. Connie said this was one more effective measure; Mike said body cameras reveal more.

Measure FD, an ordinance for a special parcel tax to improve LA County fire protection and emergency medical response appears on HB residents' ballots as HB fire services are provided by LA County. Mike said that a fire engine costs about \$800,000 and a radio \$15,000—\$20,000. In discussion of electric fire engines, Mike said there were different models.

Someone asked who the Beach Cities Democrats endorsed for County Committee, 66<sup>th</sup> Assembly District: Bobbi Buescher, Ray Waters, and Stacey Golden.

## Treasurer's Report

Our balance in February was:

Federal PAC	\$2,065
State PAC	\$3,916

Andrew DeBlock spoke as a candidate for Torrance City Council, seeking phone bankers. He said we can win if we knock on doors. For a yard sign, call Patty at 323-539-7105.

Further, the Fire Department responds to calls for emergency medical treatment. In the case of an asthma attack, the Fire Department can come and administer albuterol so that an emergency room visit is avoided, for example.

Beach Cities Democrats and County Committee endorsed Al Muratsuchi for Assembly. Al is an advocate for local control, reference SB50.

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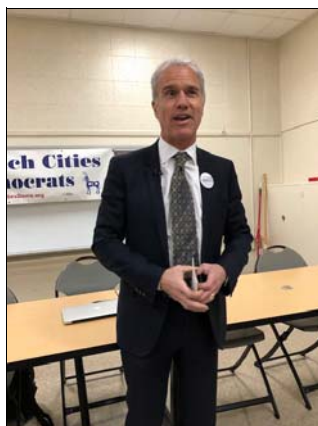
*(Recap, Continued from Page 2)*

Ted Lieu, one of the best at fighting Trump, is fully endorsed; we will send him back to Congress.

For Board of Supervisors 4<sup>th</sup> District Janice Hahn is fully endorsed. She attended our Beach Cities Dems annual party.

For District Attorney the party endorsed George Gascon. Dale Petrulis said he is a judicial reform candidate who supported AB47. He supports reducing overcrowding in jails and bail reform. Jackie Lacey, the current DA is "not the best." Rachel Rossi is a progressive candidate in her mid 30s.

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*Tom Parkesian, our February speaker*



*Representatives Maxine Waters and Ted Lieu, who recently spoke at the State of the Region lunch sponsored by the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce*

### Local Leaders Discuss Border Wall

Representatives Maxine Waters and Ted Lieu spoke at the State of the Region lunch sponsored by the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, February 12. Waters said, "I want all of us to be concerned about our country, our democracy, and the state of our Constitution. She has called for an "all hands on deck " opposition to Trump's declaration of a state of emergency over the border wall he wants to build. Congressman Lieu agreed. He said that lawsuits had been filed by sixteen states challenging Trump's actions. "We feel pretty confident that we will win these lawsuits that have been filed by sixteen states challenging Trump's actions.

"Both the 43rd and 33rd districts take in most of the South Bay." Waters told the crowd that "remarkable things" were playing out in Washington, D.C. Now head of the Financial Services Committee, Waters, who has said she'll go after a release of Trump's income tax returns, will move forward with "hearings and oversights and some investigations," but noted that her first hearing was on the national problem of homelessness. Both Representatives touted their recent legislative work. Ted Lieu will introduce bills aimed at reforming campaign finance laws; closing loopholes on background check for gun sales; and adding an LGBT category to the existing Civil Rights Act.

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### Featured Speaker

Candidate for Judge of the LA County Superior Court, seat 150, Tom Parkesian, Esq., addressed our meeting as he has "every Democratic club from Pomona to Santa Monica" because people need and want to know judicial candidates. His list of endorsements included the American Federation of Labor, city councils, trade unions, Adam Schiff, Maxine Waters, Fiona Ma, twenty Dem clubs, and other progressive democrats. Tom's father was a judge with an impressive career including a run for governor in New Jersey, endorsement by Robert Kennedy. Tom was a devastated ten-year-old when Bobby Kennedy was assassinated. Tom wants to inspire people. His grandparents fled the Armenian Genocide in 1915. Adam Schiff's HR 296 recognizes that. Unions meant survival—his grandfather was a member of the original CIO, his grandmother a unionized garment worker. Tom's father served in the Army's forward Squadron in the Pacific, 1942-46.

His father told Tom to "find a time for public service." Tom has practiced for 30 years as a civil lawyer (immigration), as an appellate member of the bar, and a mediator. Tom says that trial court is the "court of consequences," the first place that people encounter court. Here, decisions are made of financial impact, reputation, and relationships with family.

The president places judges, and judges determine your life. Do judge candidates see the world as you see it? The LA County Bar assesses candidates. The oath of office says to protect the Constitution above the state, to dispassionately apply facts to the law. Did the judge read papers, will he read the reports of the jury, determine the facts? Are the witnesses trustworthy? A judge needs a few years under his belt. All this is why Parkesian is running for judge at this time in his career.

He said the role of mediator is a different animal—not an advocate for one side but stands in the middle. Where do the circles intersect? Find it and you have a deal. He wants both sides to leave the room with, "could have been better, but it was fair. "Republicans don't do endorsements for judges. But Rex Harris, a solid Republican, has endorsed Parkesian.

He said it was unconscionable that judges don't make efforts to get to know people. Ten years as a lawyer are required currently; he suggests 15 years and has asked the Bar to find people who are attracted to the bench who have empathy; and, in order to pull back the curtain, to create meet-the-public situations.

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*(Recap, Continued from Page 3)*

Someone asked who the Beach Cities Democrats endorsed for County Committee, 66th Assembly District: Bobbi Buescher, Ray Waters, and Stacey Golden.

Mike reminded members to sign the Charter Application and adjourned the meeting.

*(Speaker, Continued from Page 3)*

We requested Parkesian's recommendations for judicial candidates on the ballot. He offered the following recommendations:

- Linda Sun
- Steve Morgan
- Robert Jacobs
- Emily Cole
- David Burger
- Sherry Powell
- Ken Fuller
- Adan Montaban
- Scott Mann

Parkesian sought our endorsement. It was moved and seconded by the Beach Cities Democrats to endorse Tom Parkesian for Judge of the Superior Court Office 150.