



NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, June 24, 7:00 PM

To join by computer or smartphone, follow the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89905753998>

Or join by phone at (669)900-9128

Our guest speaker will be Mark Gonzales,
Chair of the Los Angeles County
Democratic Party

He will talk about our local efforts to win
both in California and across the nation

Here are some ways you can help Democrats in 2020

Two local groups that serve our area:

<https://sisterdistrict.com>

<https://www.fieldteam6.org>

Help send text messages to voters in
important races:

<https://www.openprogress.com>

Get a bird's eye view of what is going on
near you at SoCalBlue

<https://socalblue.org>



ADDENDUM TO MEETING AGENDA

We will also be holding elections for
the BCD eBoard for the 2020-2021
Fiscal Year.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Michael Detoy
President,
Beach Cities*



"How wonderful it is
that nobody need
wait a single
moment before starting to improve the
world!"- Anne Frank

As I look back on my past 12 months' service as your President, I am immensely grateful for all the hard work from the members of our club during these unprecedented times. We have been forced to adapt and have grown more nimble as a club due to this pandemic. We have embraced watching out for those more vulnerable than ourselves. And we have continued to fight and march for equality for all marginalized communities across the United States. The Beach Cities Democrats has grown and become more accessible with our adoption of virtual meetings. This process included changing our by-laws and it was supported by the members. These virtual meetings allowed individuals to phone-in or watch online as we conducted business. As we transition back to meeting in person, I hope we continue to stream the meetings to allow those who cannot attend in person to watch from the comfort of their own homes. I have to give a big thank you to Vice-President Tony Hale for all of his hard work in making these meetings successful.

Over the past year, we had the opportunity to grow closer together as a nation as we all sacrificed ourselves for the greater good of the community. However, COVID-19 quickly became a political battle and further polarized the

nation; from the current administration ignoring the warnings of the public health officials to the disparaging rhetoric from Trump, some Americans started attacking public health officials for taking away their liberties. I am proud the Democratic party reaffirmed their commitment to listen to experts to help save countless lives. I am also proud of our community, who volunteered to shop for groceries or run errands for anyone who did not think it was safe for them to leave their house. As we look forward, we need to keep listening to scientists, who continue to guide us during these extraordinary times.

During the past few weeks, our nation reached a boiling point when we witnessed the murder of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers. This was an assault on the sanctity of human life. We took to the streets to march against police brutality and mourn victims of police violence. Instead of bringing our nation together, our divider-in-chief has continued to stoke racial tensions and empowered his base to attack our calls for social justice. Racism is a sickness to which no individual or institution can claim immunity. Societal change starts with us as individuals, and together we need to continue to tell the world that Black Lives Matter.

I have enjoyed serving as your President and I know Beach Cities Democrats will be in good hands under our new leadership. Beach Cities Democrats will continue to advocate for equality, help elect Democrats to local and national office, and continue to be good neighbors. Thank you for this opportunity and I look forward to continuing to support our wonderful club.

May Recap

President Mike Detoy opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to a flag displayed on the screen. Tony Hale moved that we accept the minutes, and the motion passed. Then, following introductions of new people, we heard David Berger, a candidate for Los Angeles Superior Court judge. He is currently serving as a deputy district attorney for Los Angeles County, and seeks our endorsement. Next, we heard from Myanna Dellinger, running for judge in Los Angeles County Seat #72. She is the only female currently running for a seat on the bench which is already 75% male.

Nicholas Rodriguez then spoke on behalf of Congressman Ted Lieu. He said that although the district offices are closed, they still work five days a week from their laptops and phones. There has been a huge increase in casework, related to immigration and, most crucially, the coronavirus. They passed the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act last week, a bold, comprehensive coronavirus relief package that builds upon four prior congressional laws to address the impact of the pandemic. The bill totals more than \$3 trillion and includes provisions for COVID-19-related financial aid, including \$25 billion to help the U.S. Postal Service and \$3.6 billion to expand vote by mail for the general election in November. Also included in the Heroes Act is a bill to allow smaller cities direct access to coronavirus relief funds – so they have the necessary resources to address the unique needs of their communities. The bill includes \$25 million for the Farm to Food Bank project, and the inclusion of non-profit organizations as eligible beneficiaries of the Paycheck Protection Program.

In addition, the bill includes provisions to send more direct economic assistance payments (\$1,200 per family member and up to \$6,000 per household) to Americans, protect payrolls, support small businesses and nonprofits, extend unemployment benefits, strengthen food security and more to protect the lives and

livelihoods of those impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Their hope is that the Senate will move swiftly to pass this bill, which puts American workers and families first.

One of the biggest challenges families face is the risk of losing their homes because they are unable to pay rent due to COVID-19. Ted was pleased to see that the HEROES Act would provide emergency assistance funds to help low-income renters avoid eviction. Although this is a step in the right direction, we need to establish a more permanent federal standard to keep families in their homes, which is why he recently introduced the Prevent Evictions Act to reduce low-dollar evictions by creating and supporting landlord-tenant mediation and rental insurance programs.

Congress has also passed The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act totals \$2.2 trillion in financial aid (H. R. 748) and was signed into law March 27.

Redondo Beach Mayor Bill Brand spoke about the various bills (15) that have been introduced to mitigate development. "It's about NIMBY, it's about density," he said. There is a revolution in Sacramento, where they are trying to take away our power to determine local control of property. Assembly Bill 1279 designates certain places as high resource areas and would allow four-plexes in single family zones. This bill would require that the applicant agree to, and the city and county ensure, the continued affordability of rental units to lower income and very low income households for 55 years. It also allows cities or counties to appeal the designation.

Tony asked how we could get more information. Livable California is a statewide, non-partisan group made up of elected officials, nonprofit and



(L) David Berger, running for LA Superior Court judge
(R) Myanna Dellinger, running for judge in LA County Seat #72



organizational leaders, and individuals. They advocate for a more livable California. Senate Bill 330, the "Housing Crisis" act, speeds up housing construction and takes away local control. Hermosa Beach is about to set up a local rezoning project; it has always been one of the highest-density cities in California. There are 14,000 people per square mile. In Redondo, there are 11,000. Bill referred us to the League of California Cities website to see more information about the bills.

Andrew DeBlock, reporting for Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, said that their office is still open and they are

Andrew DeBlock from Al Muratsuchi's office



providing assistance in getting unemployment benefits.

Tony said we are forming a nominating committee to elect officers for the upcoming fiscal year. When Michael Detoy accepted the office of president, it could not have been foreseen that he would soon hold an elective office; he is a Hermosa Beach Councilman. Therefore, Jessica Accamando has agreed to run for BCD president. The other officers--Tony Hale, vice-president; Edna Murphy, treasurer; and Andrea Valcourt, secretary, are willing to serve in the new fiscal year. The process will be open; we will notice our members ahead of the election and take nominations from the floor.

Jessica
Accamando,
candidate
for Beach
Cities Dems
President



Delegates to the National Convention in our district (33rd Congressional District) will be elected soon. In the running are Tony Hale, Mike Detoy, Sam Liu, Kerry Jacob, and Al Muratsuchi.

Next, Mike introduced California State Senator Ben Allen. Ben said that where our state once had a surplus, we are now just trying to keep basic services. We have a \$54.3 billion deficit, the largest in our history. Governor Gavin Newsom has moved from highly restrictive rules to opening up certain sectors of the economy, with some modifications. Counties will be able to make more of the decisions, and soon we may see Part 2, in which salons, sporting goods stores, and the like may open. Target, Walmart, and other big box stores have remained open; now mom & pop stores would like to be able to go back into operation. There are signs of dissent; Republicans want to overturn stay-at-home orders, but some Democrats believe we should wait until the pandemic has abated some more.

Ben is chairman of the Senate Environmental Caucus; he referred us to his OpEd in the Sacramento Bee. He said that climate change is even more serious than the coronavirus pandemic. Like Franklin Delano Roosevelt with the Works Progress Administration, he thinks the country needs to create jobs. Some ideas are building a green infrastructure and more building of electric vehicles. He said that Senate Bill 50, about local control, was defeated. But SB 1363, which would cut greenhouse gases, is still on the table.

As for the pandemic, Californians are already receiving ballots in the mail. But we need to keep voting centers open for those voters who may need help.

Redondo
Beach Mayor
Bill Brand,
speaking
about
housing
density



Republicans sued Governor Gavin Newsom over mail-in ballots. SB 45, a climate resiliency bond, is polling well. The bill includes wildfire response and an environmentally friendly response to climate change. As for the Assembly, AB 1279 would take away local control of property matters. SB 902 restricts local control. Scott Weiner said that it would allow the city to zone up to ten units per parcel.

Ben said he is passionate about public transit. Downtown LA is vibrant, due to the ease of getting there. He has sought to get funding from a gas tax to enhance public transit.

Tony Hale then asked how we can guarantee that vote-by-mail will be viable/possible. When more people vote, Democrats win. The vast majority of voters mark their ballots at home and take them to their polling place. Ben is working on a plan to roll out dropoff centers for those who don't want to mail in their ballots.

Doug Bender, of Indivisible South Bay, asked if we could monitor whether the economic centers are opening too fast. Ben again expressed that although the economy is suffering, reopening too soon could trigger another wave of pandemic. Dency asked Mike if he thought we were moving too fast in reopening. Someone noted that Mitch McConnell is holding up a bill that would help people stay home and not go to work.

Tony asked what could Californians do to ramp up testing. Dr. Patrick Soon Shiong,

the new owner of the LA Times, is working on vaccine development. Meanwhile, it is important to set up a good contact tracing system.



California State Senator Ben Allen

We have since learned that the LA County Department of Public Health is advising those who recently attended a protest to self-quarantine for two weeks, monitor for symptoms, and get tested if symptoms develop.

If you choose to partake in future demonstrations, please remember to take the proper health precautions. Please wear a facial mask that covers your mouth and nose and fits tightly around your face, and maintain six feet of distance from others.

All Los Angeles County and state-run COVID-19 testing sites are now open. COVID-19 tests are free and available to all residents to first contact their Primary Care provider or health care center.



Congressman Ted Lieu



Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi is helping constituents get unemployment benefits.

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
Treasurer
Edna Murphy—310-545-6292
Newsletter
Maira Zucker—310-546-7562
Webmaster
moiraz@alumni.reed.edu
Mark Drabkin—213-787-5267
Immediate Past President
Bobbi Buescher—310-545-7890



Treasurer's Report

Edna Murphy gave the Treasurer's Report:

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| Federal PAC | \$1,765 |
| State PAC | \$5,062 |

Please note:

Attached are the minutes of the May meeting as recorded by our Secretary and which will be formally adopted at our next virtual meeting. If you have any corrections or changes, please address these in an email to info@BeachCitiesDems.org or bring them up at our next meeting.

Delegates to the Democratic National Convention

The three delegates and one alternate who will represent our congressional district to the Democratic National Convention have been elected. Three members of Beach Cities Democrats have been elected: Tony Hale, Al Muratsuchi, and Kerry Jacob have been elected with Kerry Jacob serving as an alternate. Nicole Boxer was the other person elected to go to the convention. We still do not know if this convention will be in-person or virtual.



If you own a business that was damaged in the recent protests, please contact the LA County Disaster Help Center to seek additional funding.

Health Plan Information

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Covered California opened a special enrollment period to help those who are uninsured enroll in quality affordable health care plans. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 open enrollment period, more than 155,000 Californians have signed up for health care coverage. Any person who is uninsured and eligible can enroll in a health care plan that works for them by going to CoveredCa.com.

Beach Cities Democrats Meeting
May 27, 2020

Mike Detoy, President, welcomed everyone to our virtual meeting and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, with the flag displayed on the screen.

Mike welcomed our five visitors, which included three judges running in November's election: David Berger, Miyanna Dellinger, and Stephen Morgan. The judges gave some of their qualifications. Mike said we would have endorsements at a future meeting.

Mike added that there are, at least, one event per day to work for the coming up primaries as well as the November election.

He reminded us that the South Bay Community Volunteers are available to help anyone, who needs assistance during this pandemic. You can also look at Hermosa One for open businesses.

One of our visitors, Jacintha Knapp, stated that she promised TJ Cox, running for Congressional District 21 in the Central Valley, that she would ask for our help in his campaign. He's in a toss-up election and has an upcoming virtual fundraiser. The South Bay and West LA have done some phone banking for him already. Tony Hale, Vice President, said some club members are familiar with her and her good work. He made a motion for the club to support TJ and Dency Nelson seconded it. Mike asked for anyone in opposition or abstaining. There were none and the motion passed unanimously. Mark Drabkin, Web Master, said to send TJ's fundraiser information to our website email and he would post it.

Mike introduced Nicolas Rodriquez, who spoke for Congressman Ted Lieu.

Nicolas thanked us for having him and said that while the office is closed, we are still working to handle your cases, with many asking for help with small business, the VA, and food insecurity. Ted and the staff have conducted several virtual events, some with other electeds.

The Congress passed the Heroes Act last week to provide funding for individuals, governments, hospitals and Vote By Mail. The House now has proxy voting. The Heroes Act has gone to the Senate for a vote, but it's not clear that McConnell will bring it to a vote. We are negotiating with the Senate.

The FISA bill, HR 4046, which limits warrantless searches of Americans' internet activity, has been tabled. It had passed with a Senate bipartisan vote, but now the support is withdrawn, since President Trump said he will veto it. The DOJ also said it opposes the bill. We are negotiating on this as well. Input www.congress.gov into your browser for more details. Congress's oversight work continues with virtual meetings and also on Covid-19 in our prisons.

Staff is also working for our nominee and other lower house candidates, and things are moving fast. Tomorrow is an event with TJ Cox.

Lori sent her thanks to the office for help with her Medicare problem and Connie Sullivan said she also wanted to thank the staff for help with PPP. She added that they have to keep working on PPP.

Input www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov into your browser for information on the bills mentioned in this report.

Mike then introduced Redondo Beach Mayor Bill Brand.

Bill stated that there is a revolution going on in Sacramento to take away cities' rights to implement zoning laws. AB1279 has been introduced, which would require cities to allow developers, who meet certain criteria, to build a fourplex in a residential area or to build 100 units per acre. There are 15 bills along these lines and I want to ask Senator Ben Allen how he is voting on these. Al Muratsuchi has voted against these types of bills. Mike added that the CA legislature is also looking to take away building height restrictions. Liliana Pond, with Senator Allen's office, said that he should be on the call about 8:00.

Bill continued that Hermosa is the most densely populated city in LA Count. Cities want to control growth and therefore control traffic and be able to fund services and schools. While there is a housing shortage, we can't solve it by forcing cities to over build. Tony said to send a link for the information on these bills and we'll post it on our website.

Mike said that Hermosa is working on a big rezoning project, based on our 20 Year Plan. If these bills pass, this work will be wasted. Bill continued that Hermosa has 14,000 units per square mile, Long Beach 9,000, and Redondo 11,000 units. Redondo already has a state mandate of 1500 low cost housing units and if SB1279 passes, it would be more housing on top of the 1500. Tony Wiener is pushing these bills and Sacramento is in full swing.

Then, Tony said that Al Muratsuchi's representative, Andrew DeBlock, couldn't attend, but to remind you that their office is open for business and can help with unemployment benefits.

Tony announced that the Nominating Committee needs to meet and recommend candidates for our Executive Board. Mike cannot run due to his duties as a fire fighter and as an Hermosa councilmember, which was unforeseen, when he ran for president. Therefore, Jessica Accamando, Volunteer Coordinator for South Bay Community Volunteers, is running for president, I'm running for Vice President, Andrea Valcourt and Edna Murphy are also running for their current positions of Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. However, anyone can add their names at our next meeting or by sending an email to the address on our website.

In addition, three club members are running for national convention delegates. You have until 5 pm tomorrow to vote electronically and you can only vote in one caucus. Biden will get three delegates (two men, one woman), Sanders gets two (one man and one woman) and Warren gets one woman. Kerry Jacob, who works for Al is running for the Biden caucus as well as Mike and Tony. Dency added that there are about 24 candidates running.

Mike then said that he was excited to introduce Senator Ben Allen.

Ben said he appreciated our patience. He got called to a Budget conference call. We were talking about starting some new programs and now we looking at a projected \$54.3 billion deficit. It may be more. And, we don't know if we'll get Federal funds or how much.

We're back in Legislative session by committee only. The governor set certain criteria for re-opening businesses and is letting the counties determine when they've met the criteria and how they want to open. There is tension between the local and state governments on re-opening and we need to weigh the benefits of opening versus the health benefits if we don't open. Cities and/or counties with low infection numbers are asking to be excluded from the rules. The president is cheering on re-opening.

The Executive Branch has made vast changes by executive order. Luckily, our governor believes in science. Hundreds of laws, passed by Congress, have been modified due to the virus emergency by these orders. I think there will be many state and federal court cases on these constitutional issues. There are some Republicans, who want to overturn the Emergency Order.

In the meantime, we still have COVID-19 and wild fires are on the way. Many bills will not be heard this year. I'm concerned about rolling back environmental laws in the name of COVID. We are working remotely, but can't vote because we're concerned about legal challenges.

I'm on the Environmental Committee and we're proud California is leading on these issues. We're going to have 7% budget cuts for the next several years to get us back into the black. The climate is more deadly over time than the virus. Corporations are making money on the backs of our children's health.

Ben then asked for questions and Bill Brand asked about AB 1279 and the approximately 15 similar bills that would take away local zoning control. He stated that if AB 1279 passes, a contractor can ask the State to require a city to allow more dense housing than its zoning allows.

Ben replied that he didn't know that much about AB 1279 and said he was surprised that the League wasn't against it. For better or worse, the governor and the legislature want to tackle the housing shortage. I'm surprised how many colleagues want to take away local control. It's felt that cities are standing in the way of good projects.

Bill said that Scott Wiener has proposed SB 902, which overrides a city's decision on zoning, forcing 10 units per parcel and with no CEQA oversight/approval. (CEQA is the California Environmental Quality Act agency.) There is no better agency to deal with housing issues. It would override a city's single family dwelling zoning laws.

Dency asked what are some solutions to the affordable housing shortage? Bill replied that people say there is an affordable housing shortage, but in Hermosa there's no shortage of housing. It is the most densely populated city in LA County.

Ben stated that he was passionate about transit because we can solve some of these problems that way. There is some interest in this now. The Olympics will give us a deadline to get public transit improved. People are opposed to more housing because of the traffic impact. How can we create jobs that make our infrastructure more green and more sustainable? I think transportation is really important for this. We need to build more homes and we need to align that with transportation. We need to be more mindful of cars and how to reduce miles traveled. In cities like LA, the bus system is not a viable option. People will choose a car over a bus. The Metro is a better option and it needs to be expanded.

The Pandemic has called attention to voting. California is ahead on this issue. I think the majority of the US has picked their candidate. California has two weeks for voting, which will help with social distancing. The Governor has issued an Order for mail in ballots and the Republicans have filed a law suit against it. Mail in ballots are a way to save lives.

Mike asked if there were any other questions for Ben.

Bill said that he had talked to Janice Hahn, our County Supervisor, regarding dividing the county differently for the lower courts and she said that it is too complicated. LA County has asked for a

variance on re-opening restaurants at 50% capacity. What about SB 45 (Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation and Flood Protection Bond Act)? Ben replied that there is a lot of support for it. It addresses climate change, fires and floods. However, it has to go on the ballot after being passed by the Legislature.

Tony asked if there were any concerns about the Vote By Mail option with the pressure Trump is putting on Congress to defund the Postal Service. The last primary election there weren't many Democratic voters. Ben answered that the Democrats are lousy turning out for special elections. We won District 25 with Katie Hill in 2018, but lost her seat in this year's special election for Christy Smith. I'm concerned about Trumps' dictatorial tendencies and wanting to defund the Postal Service and speaking against Vote By Mail. I'm passionate about keeping our Voting Centers open. Then people can vote at home and turn in their ballots or vote in person. It works in Colorado.

Tony wanted to know what California can do to build its infrastructure. Ben replied we're providing the postage for the mail in ballots and we'll have the drop off locations. Colorado has more drop off boxes than Voting Centers. I'm going to continue to bang on this drum. We need to talk about this within the Democratic Party.

Tony clarified that he is concerned about technical training to have enough people to work with solar panels. I think we'd fail if we don't fund retraining to work in green industries. Ben replied those are good points. Kevin De Leone has put some of this in his bill. Dency said that labor unions are for jobs and we have to push green energy jobs, which will get the unions on board. Ben said that we have to incorporate the concerns of people losing their jobs, when they go from oil to solar jobs. We need to think about the human component. At the same time, we can't keep going on the old models. It hurts the poor and the union members.

We need to diversify the environmental movement. We need more environmental justice. I'm lucky to have such an engaged district. The poorer cities and areas have the worst health problems and have the worst pollution. This has impacted them, when they get the virus.

Ben continued I fear the loud voices are drowning out the others. I'm worried that all we've done to beat down the virus will be wasted with a resurgence, if we open too quickly. People will die and our efforts will be wasted. We need to do the responsible things to reopen and stay safe. We're not going to have a vaccine this year. We need to be responsible.

Dency asked, Mike you're a first responder, what do you think? Mike replied it is very complex. I've seen the horrible effects of the virus. I've seen people die. We don't have a good social safety net. One \$1200 check isn't going to make people ok. Other countries are still in lock down, but they have a better safety net.

Tony asked what the State is doing to help. Ben answered the it is increasing testing. There is a lot of focus on this. We need to see where the virus is moving by using contact tracing. We can use Google, etc. to track people's movements to see how the virus is spreading. Mike stated that we have ramped up testing and I'd definitely join a tracking program.

Dency said that they're doing testing at the Galleria at Hawthorne and Artesia. The problem is that we're so partisan now. Ben answered that Dency was so right. It's very damaging and I feel badly that people refer to "our side" about this.

Scott McDonough asked for the status of ACA 6 (Assembly Constitutional Amendment 6, which would restore parolees' right to vote. It passed the Assembly and if the Senate passes it, it would need to go on the November ballot and pass to become law.) Ben answered that he didn't know the status, but said he would get an answer, if Scott gave him his contact information.

Mike then asked for a motion to accept last month's minutes. Tony made the motion and Dency seconded it. The minutes passed unanimously.

Edna then gave the Treasurer's Report and it was unanimously accepted.

Dency said that club dues are \$25 or \$40 a year for a family at the same address. They are due June 30. Edna can verify if you owe them.

Tony stated that we're going to have a new campaign, Take our Country Back, using house parties. Engage your friends and relatives and give them a voice. We'll be holding these between now and November. Dency added that you need to reach out to your friends, people who don't normally attend meetings.

Jessica noted that Hermosa Beach made a proclamation to recognize Gay Pride Month and she thanked Mike for helping make it happen.

Mike thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.