



Our next meeting

Wednesday, September 23
at 7:00PM

Click to join the meeting:
bit.ly/BeachCitiesDemocrats

At the next Beach Cities Democrats meeting, we will consider some endorsements for the upcoming election:

- LA Community College Trustees
- Water Board
- California Propositions

There will be more program information in our upcoming emails. If you are a candidate, or would like to refer a candidate seeking our endorsement, please email info@beachcitiesdems.org. We look forward to you joining us.

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>



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jessica
Accamando
President,
Beach Cities
Democrats



If you're anything like me, you've been overwhelmed by fundraiser invitations, support texts, and Democratic emails. They are all worthy causes and important actions. I care so much, but where do you draw the line between participation and sanity?

If you were expecting an answer, I don't have one. I just wanted to let you know that you're not alone. If I don't do enough, I feel guilty. If I sign up for several virtual events, I feel exhausted. I say, do what you can with the time you have, but don't feel guilty for not doing it all. With that, sometimes you don't know what you're missing.

And last month, I attended an event that I'm so glad I didn't skip. The Malibu Democratic Club hosted Rep. Adam Schiff, Academy Award winning screenwriter Billy Ray, and best-selling author Gregg Hurwitz in a discussion about political messaging. I was sure it was going to be like many of the other virtual events I've attended, where we get hyped, updated, and encouraged to leap to the cause. But that, it was not. I've been so mesmerized by what I learned at this event that I haven't stopped talking about it. So let me tell you what I learned...

Gregg and Billy have been working across the country to help campaigns understand the dynamics of communicating in this climate. What to understand, how to market, and what to try and avoid. They have done some incredible things and with so much

messaging out there, it was nice to have some clear, proven strategies that work to win.

First, they reported that data shows that conservative voters by and large are disgusted with Trump's behavior, just like us. They don't enjoy his erratic communication style and they actually wish he would stop Tweeting. They're embarrassed by his conduct and disgraceful behavior. So with that, Gregg and Billy said, stop trying to point out his gross tantrums and messages as proof of why he's not qualified. It's lost on them as it's not a disqualifier for leadership. As disgusted as they are, there are other reasons they continue to support him.

Second, Gregg and Billy said that liberal voters tend to focus on empathy while conservative votes are worried about chaos (as a threat to their family and everyday life). What concerns conservatives most is anything that threatens order or their family structure. So what messaging should focus on is how Biden is focused on bringing order to America. They noted that the recent protests cause conservative voters to believe they are an entry point to chaos (and we need to avoid that!).

With this knowledge, the team said that messaging needs to focus on a message that welcomes people OUT of chaos. Something like "You may have voted for change before. And change happened. Now is the time to vote for security, freedom, and order. Vote Biden." We need to amplify the message that Biden is the best choice for saving our government from chaos.

Are you surprised by these findings and

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suggestions? Yeah, me too. Maybe not entirely, but I'm so happy to see some real suggestions around data. And they did this for the 2018 midterm elections and can prove that this message model works.

I don't know if Biden is going to take this guidance in marketing (though Billy and Gregg did say that they are talking to the Biden camp), but we should all take some guidance from this insightful information. We can change the way we talk to independents and undecided voters as well as previous Trump voters who might be unsure if we're on the right path.

These people can feel secure in messaging that delivers what they're looking for.

So with all that, I'm so glad that I decided to attend that event. Afterwards, I felt like I could have so easily missed out. Sometimes the easiest thing you can do is be present and listen. So beware of what you might miss when you're feeling like there's too much going on. Pick and choose, and sometimes you'll pick a real eye-opening winner.

Together, let's avoid overwhelm and engage where we can. And when we do engage, remember what your conservative friends value most—security and freedom. We want that too.



Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi

We were reminded that the census is ending early. It is important to complete, since it affects our congressional representations and federal funds. The Manhattan Beach Huddle is writing post cards to get out the vote and support certain candidates. If you are interested, send Andrea an email at our club's email address and she will send you contact information.

Tony said that if you are concerned about mailing your ballots, you can use the many drop boxes.

Connie Sullivan made the following announcements:

9/10—drop box location website available.

10/5—counties begin mailing ballots.

10/19—last day to register to vote.

10/23—counties start counting ballots received and verified, but they are not tallied.

10/24—75 voting centers open, four of which are large.

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11/3—ballots must be post marked by this date or put into a secured official drop box.

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11/20—last day mailed ballots can be received for counting, if postmarked 11/3.

You can follow your ballot's progress at lavote.net.

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August Recap

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Vice-president Tony Hale suggested that we send a resolution to the California Geological Management (CALGEM) to ask that So Cal Gas stop injecting gas into a Playa del Rey storage facility, which has been leaking, since it was built in 1942 and it holds less than 1% of California's gas supply.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The resolution will also be sent to So Cal Gas and the LA County Democratic Party.

Jessica made the following announcements:

- Check that your voter registration is up to date and ask friends to do the same.
- There are four ways to send in your ballot: US mail, drop boxes, county registrar offices, voting centers.
- Jessica has created a Facebook private group for the Beach Cities Democrats.
- Gen Blue has phone banking Sundays 4:00 – 6:00. Susan Goodlerner added that they are alternating between Christie Smith and Harley

Rouda.

- Save the Seven fundraiser is on August 31.
- Keep the House is on August 31.
- LA County rent relief ends on August 31.
- Janice Hahn announced there are new ballot boxes.

Secretary Andrea Valcourt announced that the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) asks that we support getting the following environmental bills passed and signed by Governor Newsom. For more information on these bills, visit www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov

- SB 1044 would protect lands against Forever Chemicals
- SB 54/AB 1080 would reduce plastic pollution
- AB 841 would make school ventilation systems better
- AB 326 would increase access to clean vehicles and create new jobs

The following bills failed passage:

AB 345 would have protected against fossil fuel pollution near homes and schools

AB 3030 would have protected 30% of public lands by 2030

Jessica introduced Al Muratsuchi, our state assemblyman. Al thanked us for the invitation and said it was good to see us. He's in Sacramento and the air quality is very bad. Unfortunately, the Senate had to cancel their session because a senator tested positive for the coronavirus. Then he gave a summary of various bills. (Input leginfo.ca.gov for more information on these bills.)

AB 345, which required setbacks between oil drilling sites and homes, died in the Senate. Al said he introduced it because he was inspired by the Hermosa No on Oil campaign. He said we need to continue fighting for these setbacks.

AB 326, which would promote electric vehicle memberships and which would allow monthly rentals of these vehicles. Al said he wrote it and Ben Allen co-authored it because millennials don't want to own cars.

AB 3088, was introduced by David Chiu to extend the eviction moratorium until February, 2021, so that we can keep more people from becoming homeless. Although it might be a burden on small landlords, it is the lesser of two evils.

There were a couple of criminal justice reform bills to try to make sure civil rights are not violated.

SB 1120 is part of a package favored by the Governor and Speaker ProTem to address the housing shortage by allowing a two on a lot project to become four on a lot, without review. This bill is not supported by the South Bay and Al will vote no. Solving these problems should not be at the expense of local control.

Prop 22, if passed, would reverse AB 5, which says Lyft and Uber drivers are employees. The employers were not paying for insurance and that burden then fell to the state and local governments. It's not right to abuse the labor laws to make a profit. However, some want the

flexibility of being part-time and that is the intent of Prop 22.

Karen Klink said that she put criminal justice bills in the chat box and wanted Al's stand on them.

SB 731, if passed, would prevent police officers found guilty of wrongdoing to move between cities. Al said that he is still weighing the pros and cons. He noted it is backed by the ACLU. He said that we can't have bad cops moving between departments. Al's connection dropped, but his representative Andrew DeBlock said he would get Al's answers to Karen.

Jessica asked Lee Fink what were good causes for which to donate. Lee answered the Fair Fight, which works against voter suppression and is organized by Stacey Abrams and the Joe Biden campaign.

Jessica then asked Tony to oversee the endorsements. Tony said that he would introduce the candidates and make the endorsement motions to speed the process, since there are so many candidates.

Motion to renew our endorsement of Al Muratsuchi, California Assembly. First by Irene Guimera, second by Christian Horvath, passed by a majority.

Motion to renew our endorsement of Ted Lieu, US Representative.

First by Christian, second by Connie, passed unanimously.

Tony then said we have an unusual endorsement for the City of Tustin, which we wouldn't normally make, but it is for our friend Lee Fink, who is running for City Council. When he returned from working for the Obama Administration, he decided that more Democrats were needed at the local level. Now, three Democrats are running for three Tustin seats. In reply, Lee said that he appreciated our consideration.

Motion to endorsement Lee Fink, Tustin City Council.

First by Vanessa Poster, second by Lori Geittmann, passed overwhelmingly.

Tony asked that the members consider donating to Lee's campaign if they can afford it.



Tustin City Council Candidate Lee Fink

Motion to offer Lee robo calls. First by Roger Schamp, second by Connie, passed over -

whelmingly. Motion for all endorsed candidates to receive robo calls.

First by Connie, second by Christian, passed unanimously.

Al rejoined the call and Mark Drabkin asked about AB 5 and Prop 22. Al said that AB 5 was codified by the California Supreme Court. Uber and Lyft drivers are employees and the companies must pay for their benefits. Prop 22, which is supported by Uber and Lyft, is designed to overturn AB 5, and get the companies out of paying their fair share. Mark asked if Al thinks Uber and Lyft will leave California if Prop 22 loses. Al replied that they will never leave because they are profitable and have a large market share.

Stacey Golden asked for Al's position on Prop 15, which would reassess business-owned properties worth more than \$3 million to current market value, instead of purchase price. The increased revenue would go to schools. Al stated that he is still doing his homework. The proposition excludes small businesses, but property owners would pass on taxes to small businesses renting from them.

Doug Bender said, in regards to SB 50, which would override local control of zoning rules, that we need to stop

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building big businesses in the desert and thereby increasing commuting. Al replied that we do need to increase our supply and move down rental and sale prices. Gentrification is another factor driving up prices. It's hard to strike a balance with supply and overdevelopment and increased density.

Remaining Endorsements:

Stephen Morgan for Judicial Office 72
David Berger, Judicial Office 82
Scott Yang, Office 162
Vanessa Poster, Beach Cities Health District Board
Vish Chatterji, Beach Cities Health District Board
Mark Burton, Manhattan Beach City Council
Grettel Fournell, Manhattan Beach City Council
Jason Boxer, Manhattan Beach School Board
Fatima Iqbal-Zubair, 64th District Assembly
Mike Brunick for Manhattan Beach School Board

Jessica said that we will have other candidates to endorse at our next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Federal PAC	\$1,765
State PAC	5,344

Redondo Beach City Councilman Christian Horvath said there was to be a Call to Action on September 1, in hopes of closing the AES power plant. Craig Cadwallader, of Surfrider Foundation, said that he can't stress enough the importance of the Water Board meeting and calling in.



Please note:

Attached are the minutes of the July 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.



Beach Cities Democrats

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Dems Meetings Minutes
August 26, 2020

Our President, Jessica Accamando, opened the meeting and led us in the pledge of allegiance. Then, asked for new members and they were: Jason B., Marc Saltzberg, Debra Thomas, Stacy Armado, and returning members Barb Elman and Carmen.

Tony Hale, our Vice President, said he thought we should send a resolution to the California Geological Management (CALGEM) to ask that So Cal Gas stop injecting gas into a Playa del Rey storage facility, which has been leaking, since it was built in 1942 and it holds less than 1% of California's gas supply.

Wayne made the motion to send the resolution, Dency Nelson seconded it, and it passed unanimously. It will also be sent to So Cal Gas and the LA County Democratic Party.

Then, Jessica made the following announcements.

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Doug Bender said, in regards to SB 50, which would override local control of zoning rules, said that we need to stop building big businesses in the desert and thereby increasing commuting. Al replied that we do need to increase our supply and move down rental and sale prices. Gentrification is another factor driving up prices. It's hard to strike a balance with supply and overdevelopment and increased density. We need more houses but we need to keep local control. I don't favor nimbyism.

Jessica thanked Al for his time and asked Tony to resume the endorsements.

Tony said that each candidate will have one minute to speak before we have the endorsement vote. All the judges have been endorsed by the LA County Party. Then, he introduced Stephen Morgan running for Judicial Office 72.

Stephen said that he has been a lifelong Democrat and has worked on several campaigns. He was in the army for 14 years and was a JAG lawyer for both the criminal and prosecution sectors. Teaches criminal law and has a well-qualified rating with the California Bar. He thanked Vanessa for her support. Tony added that Stephen is endorsed by the California Democratic Party and reminded everyone that all endorsed candidates will get robo calls.

Motion to endorse Stephen Morgan, Office 72

First by Vanessa Poster, second by Dency, passed unanimously

David Berger was introduced for Office 82. He thanked us for our consideration and said he came here in 1989 from England and was a District Attorney for 24 years, focused on victims of abuse, including elders and children. He has numerous endorsements and they can be finding on his website and he is also on Facebook.

Motion to endorse David Berger, Office 82

First by Irene, second by Dale Petrulis, passed overwhelmingly

Next is Scott Yang for Office 162. Scott said that his family immigrated from Vietnam between 1979 and 1980. He graduated from UCLA and was a civil lawyer for five years and performed pro bono work. He was a DA for 13 years in the Sex Crimes Division. He too has many endorsements and has a well-qualified rating with the LA County Bar.

Motion to endorse Scott Yang, Office 162

First by Paul Seo, second by Jessica, passed unanimously

Tony introduced Vanessa Poster and noted that she and Vish were endorsed by the LA County Party.

Vanessa said she has received so many endorsements for her re-election to the Beach Cities Health District Board (BCHD). She is a positive leader and a compassionate listener. BCHD has been recognized as a Blue Zones Organization and BCHD has helped reduce childhood obesity in the South Bay because the school district and the families participate in the BCHD program. She continues to be innovative during covid and helps teens advocate for themselves. She looks forward to renovating the Prospect property, which needs it because the aging buildings are not earthquake safe and the property has chemical contamination from other tenants. The parking lot will be turned into a park.

Motion to endorse Vanessa Poster, Beach Cities Health District Board

First by Dale, second by Wayne Powell, passed unanimously

Next was Vish Chatterji for BCHD Board re-election, for whom Dency spoke, saying that he's seen the Board in action and for which he has a great deal of respect. It is a difficult time with the Prospect Project. BCHD is an asset for the South Bay in its usual work and now helping with the covid crisis.

Motion to endorse Vish Chatterji

First by Dency, second by Christian, passed unanimously

Tony introduced Mark Burton for Manhattan Beach City Council. Mark said that it is imperative that Grettel Fournell and I get elected because the current council won't vote for environmental issues. I am a lawyer and a union member. I'm speaking for Grettel because she has a campaign event and because I believe she will be a great council member. If we win, we would have 3 votes with Hildy Stern.

Motion to endorse Mark Burton, Manhattan Beach City Council
First by Wayne, second by Irene, passed unanimously

Motion to endorse Grettel Fournell, Manhattan Beach City Council
First by Wayne, second by Jessica, passed unanimously

Next introduction, Mike Bruneck for Manhattan Beach School Board. He said that he's a Manhattan local. His three kids are in Manhattan schools, his wife is a teacher, and I'm in the tech industry. I coach youth teams and volunteer at the school. The School Board has budget challenges and need to be more creative in financing. I believe in accountability and interacting with the stakeholders: students, parents and citizens.

Motion to endorse Mike Bruneck, Manhattan Beach School Board
First by Connie, second by Christian, passed unanimously

Jason Boxer followed and said he is a recent Manhattan graduate. I've taught in New York and I've worked on elections. Since covid, I worked for food distribution and other support agencies. California has the 5th largest budget and the schools need money and we need to advocate for that money. Students have helped with my campaign by shooting and editing video. They are great. I'm a lifelong Democrat and this endorsement will give me creditability.

Motion to endorse Jason Boxer, Manhattan Beach School Board.
First by Connie, second by Jessica, passed overwhelmingly.

Vish joined the call and thanked us for his endorsement and said he is looking forward to another term.

Then, Tony introduced Fatima Iqbal-Zubair, for 64th District. She said she is running for morality in government. Fatima stated she has the endorsement of many Democratic clubs. She is a public school teacher and has been advocating for environmental issues, since she learned that Compton schools didn't have clean water. That led to her running for the State Assembly. She worked as a commissioner for her opponent and found him to be the worst Democrat on the environment. He is against AB 345, which Al wrote to provide setbacks between oil drilling and homes. My district has four refineries and the highest rate of asthma. I want to get schools equitably funded.

Tony added that her opponent, Mike Gibson, is not on the call and was endorsed by the State Democratic Party. However, we can still endorse Fatima.

Motion to endorse Fatima Iqbal-Zubair, 64th District.
First by Vanessa, second by Dale, passed unanimously.

Jessica added that Fatima works for my Volunteer Group and therefore I endorsed her. Stacy said that she's a Carson teacher and is surprised by how many people don't vote. Fatima replied that she wants to make it easier to vote. Many are disillusioned because they hear promises, but don't get the follow through. I hope to build the trust that is missing.

Jason said that Fatima is doing very focused campaigning and will be the first Muslim in a state district. He added that Gibson takes oil money.

I want to make it clear that I pointed out that we are endorsing against the Party, so there's no confusion.

Next, Tony introduced Doug Solomon, running for the Water Board. Doug said that he studied water biology. I've studied the Board and they have strayed from their charter. Look into its budget and how it spent the money on an unnecessary desal project and other pet projects. We need to make recycled water. Garcetti wants all the water to be recycled and not dumped into the Bay.

Dency added that the LA County Party did endorse Doug and I want to be sure that we endorse him at the next meeting, since we did not post this endorsement. I agree with everything that he's said.

Jessica said that we will and we have other candidates to endorse next meeting. Then, she called for the Officers' reports and moved that the Minutes be approved.

First by Moira Zucker, second by Christian, passed unanimously.

Jessica said that she wants to grow the membership. She asked that we support, if we can, the Disable the Enablers Super Pac, which works to unseat people like Susan Collins.

Edna gave the Finance Report.

Vanessa said that they got about 60 people at the post office protest and only one opponent, who was asked to leave because he was using amplified sound.

Tony urged everyone to keep the faith and have confidence in our values and encourage everyone to vote.

Christian Horvath, Redondo Beach City Council

He asked that for a Call to Action on September 1 at 9 am, when the Water Board is evaluating the power plants. We want AES closed. The Clean Power Alliance is against it.

The South Bay fiber network is connecting to every South Bay city, so starting talking to your city council member about getting local access.

Redondo passed the following bans on plastic, smoking in public places, and youth tobacco products. We're working on parking tickets and pushing the County to expand the Homeless Court. I think we need a discussion on local control and we need to decide why we need different types of housing zones.

David Poster asked if the coastal Commission will support closing the AES plant? The state agencies are for the extension. We have plenty of power and don't need the AES.

Jessica reminded us to call the Water Board.

Craig Caldwellader said that he can't impress enough the importance of the Water Board meeting and calling in. Tomorrow at noon is the cutoff for written comments.

Stacy reminded everyone to wear a mask.

Then, Jessica adjourned the meeting.