



Our next meeting

Wednesday, October 28 at
7:00PM

Click to join the meeting:
bit.ly/BeachCitiesDemocrats

We will hear from County Supervisor Janice Hahn. She will be talking about recent COVID safety issues and other important Los Angeles County issues. We will also be hearing from local officials, and discussing the upcoming election.

Here are some ways you can help Democrats in 2020

Two local groups that serve our area:
sisterdistrict.com
fieldteam6.org

Help send text messages to voters in important races:
openprogress.com

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



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jessica
Accamando
President,
Beach Cities
Democrats



This is the last cover article I will write before the biggest election of my lifetime (so far). So forgive me if I get a little emotional, casual, and flat out spacey.

How are you?

We've been so busy in our monthly meetings—endorsing amazing candidates and hearing from important leaders. But because of this tragic pandemic, we have lost that personal connection we usually got in the minutes before and after the meetings. I miss hugs. And that makes me a little sad.

I created the Facebook group for us to chat about common interests and let our feelings out... but alas, it's still just Facebook—a virtual environment with semi-authentic connections made with words and pictures.

But really, how are you?

Are you panicked like me? Fluctuating from calm and cool to utter fear... counting days. Or are you 'Obama hopeful'? I admire you if you are.

Or maybe you're too busy in action to even breathe—like Andrea with her letter writing, Dency calling for Arizona, and Tony representing several wonderful candidates. So many of you are doing whatever you can to make a difference, and you are. THANK YOU!

Maybe you're frantically donating thinking you can avoid waking up the day after the election feeling like you could have given more. That is me.

Whatever you're feeling, I hope you're finding ways to preserve your mental health while also contributing to the cause. We really need every ounce of volunteerism, donations, and action.

I realize you might be reading this just days before the election, but it's not too late to get involved if you're feeling like now is the time to step it up. Odds are these camps are still going to be working like crazy, so here's some options to take action:

- Member (and organizer extraordinaire) Susan Goodlerner is promoting "Swing State Sundays" with California Democrats for the critical Senate races and, of course, Biden. You can volunteer at 9am, noon, and 3pm from your own home. If you have a couple hours to spare, consider this bonus karma! www.mobilize.us/2020victory/event/343435/
- Or join the amazing Field Team 6 who are helping Florida Democrats vote by mail! They do this every Thursday at 3:30pm and Saturday at 11am. Training is included and, of course, you can do this from your home! www.mobilize.us/ft6/event/289950/
- While I'm at it, let me plug the other project I've been involved in—Disable the Enablers. Similar to the Lincoln Project, this group is led by some locals (and others in Ohio) to use creative means to advertise against Mitch McConnell, Lindsey Graham, Susan Collins... and others. Their efforts will reach beyond the election, but now's the

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- time to make sure you're following them on social media and throwing a few bucks their way if you can. www.dtepac.org.

Also...let's **congratulate** our own Dency Nelson for being invited to the Advisory Board for "Take Back Our Planet"—a nonprofit that educates folks on climate change, created by Brennan Lieu, a Senior in High School and the son of

Representative Ted Lieu. Please visit their website at takebackourplanet.org. Please email me if you have thoughts or join me in conversation in our Facebook group.

Hugs to you all (I mean it)!

Info@hermosabeachdems.org



(L) Andrew DeBlock, Al Muratsuchi's Field Representative. (R) California Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi

October Recap

The meeting opened with a minute of silence in honor of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Following that, the minutes were approved.

Several candidates attended:

Andrea Hoffman – LA College Board
David Vela – LA College Board
Anthony Donna – LA College Board
Doug Solomon – West Basin Water District
Siannah Collado Butte – El Camino College Board of Trustees

Vice-President Tony Hale said that we endorsed Vanessa at our last meeting. Lawn signs are available, although Vanessa's name is paired with another candidate who is not a Democrat. Susan Goodlerner announced that there is zoom phone banking every Sunday, 3:00 – 5:00, coordinated by the Democratic Party. Training sessions are available for those who need it. Secretary Andrea Valcourt reminded the group to fill out their 2020 Census form, and also to encourage friends and family to do the same. It is crucial to get as many people as possible because it impacts how much Federal money we receive and the number of Representatives allotted.

Connie Sullivan then spoke. She was asked by the LA County Party to present *Voting in the Time of a Pandemic*, prepared by the LA County Registrar. Voting in person will be safe because the

centers follow the LA County health rules. On October 24, there will be 75 voting centers for ten days and then an additional 750 locations beginning October 30.

If you mail your ballot or use a drop box, the envelope must be signed. Permanent drop boxes will be available 24 hours a day; locations will be posted on the LA County website. Once you have voted, you can track your ballot at California.ballottrax.net.

Mark Drabkin said that the Torrance City Council is rejecting permanent drop boxes because they can be vandalized. Andrew DeBlock said that Torrance has only one box presently. The County wants five boxes per zip code. Ballots can be mailed, dropped off at Voting centers or at drop boxes.

Endorsements

Sandra Lowe spoke on Prop 24, which amends consumer privacy laws. It gives us the privacy rights that let us take back control over our personal data and limits corporations from tracking our geolocation and using sensitive personal information.

Sianna Collado spoke next. She is running for El Camino Board of Directors. She worked for the LA District Attorney for nine years and is now in private practice.

Trisha Murakawa, running for the same office, spoke next. She is a teacher and a member of five Democratic clubs. She is supported by Ted Lieu, Al Muratsuchi,

Ben Allen, and the LA County Democratic party. Members voted using private chat; Ashley Tull counted the votes as Jessica asked if there were any questions for the two candidates. The result: Trisha received over 60% of the votes, and was thus eligible for our endorsement. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to endorse Trisha Murakawa. Next speaker was Adam Seiden, speaking on Prop. 19. It would allow seniors to take their lower property tax rates anywhere in the state should they move. If passed, it would generate more tax revenue and is endorsed by the LA County and State Democratic parties. The members moved, seconded, and passed a motion to support this proposition.

Doug Solomon, running for Water Board in District 3, spoke next. He favors recycling all water and enhancing conservation measures. He opposes the desalination plant, and wants the Water Board to be more transparent. The members voted to endorse Doug.

Next we heard about Prop 24, which would amend the Consumer Privacy laws and which the LA County and State parties oppose as do the ACLU and California AARP. However, the LA Times and some of our Democratic elected support the measure. Given the conflicting viewpoints, the members voted to take no position on endorsement.

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Connie announced that Stacey Golden and Andrew DeBlock have been named 66th AD Woman and Man of the Year. The awards will be given at the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt dinner, which will be a virtual event this year.

Jessica read the State Party endorsements: Yes on 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 25. No on 20 and 22. Neutral on 24.

Next, Edna Murphy gave the Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer's Report

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

There followed some discussion about our bylaws, which are posted on our website.

Jessica said that the Easy Reader and Hermosa One have collaborated to host the South Bay Debates October 12 – 21 and she is helping to produce them. For more information visit debate2020.easyreadernews.com. She also worked for Disable the Enablers, a super PAC formed to disable senators like Mitch McConnell. Visit dtepac.org.

Diane Wallace announced that there is a Manhattan Beach School District forum coming up. Trisha thanked us for our endorsement. Andrew said that because of the late hour, he would not speak, but we should contact him with any questions about Assemblyman Muratsuchi.

Following adjournment, some members stayed on to talk about Justice Ginsburg.



LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn at our Holiday Party in 2019

From Congressman Ted Lieu's Weekly COVID Letter:

As we continue to battle COVID-19, I urge you to keep up your efforts to reduce the spread of this virus and wash your hands frequently; practice social distancing; and wear a mask in public. By doing so, you are helping to save lives. This week, the LA County Department of Public Health updated its Health Officer Order to align with state guidance and limit private gatherings to no more than 3 households. Please remember to follow the public health guidelines in place to keep you and your families safe. LA County remains in Tier 1 of California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy, meaning many non-essential indoor businesses are closed. For more information, please input the following into your browser: covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/.

On Tuesday, I joined LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn and California Secretary of State Alex Padilla for a telephone town hall on voting. We discussed the numerous ways LA County residents can cast their votes in this election. Ballots are currently being mailed to every registered voter in Los Angeles County. You can return your ballot by mail; drop it off at a drop box or voting center; or vote in person. Some vote centers will be available for early in-person voting on October 24th and all vote centers will be available on October 30th through Election Day on November 3rd, and you can track your ballot. For more information on voting in LA County,



California State Senator Ben Allen, one of the electeds who support Trisha Murakawa



Congressman Ted Lieu

please visit lavote.net.

If you've recently tested positive for COVID-19, you may be eligible to participate in a research study. The Westside Medical Associates of Los Angeles, in partnership with the Montreal Heart Institute, is investigating whether a medicine called colchicine is effective as a short-term treatment for COVID-19. To be eligible for the study, you must be diagnosed with definite or probable COVID-19 in the last 36 hours, not hospitalized and 40 years of age or older.

You do not need to leave your home to participate. If you meet the criteria and are interested in participating, please call the study hotline at 1-877-536-6837. If you are a patient of Westside Medical Associates of Los Angeles, please call 310-289-5221. For more information, please visit colcorona.net.



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From Supervisor Janice Hahn's Office

County Supervisor Janice Hahn, who will be speaking at our October meeting, is concerned that public health measures to protect residents of Skilled Nursing Facilities from COVID-19 may prevent them from being able to vote in November. She has sent a letter to the County Registrar requesting steps be taken to ensure these residents can receive and cast their ballots. Hahn was contacted by the Gray Panthers Political Action Committee which advocates for the rights of older voters. She has instructed the County Registrar to notify these facilities that they should submit a Vote By Mail Hospital Application.

*Please note:
Attached are the minutes of the September 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
Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2020

Our president, Jessica Accamando, opened the meeting and lead us in the pledge. Then, she asked that the minutes be approved and they were unanimously.

After observing a minute of silence in respect for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Jessica said that after the meeting, people could stay on line to talk about the Justice and her legacy.

We had quite a few visitors, since we were going to endorse candidates again. They were

Andra Hoffman—LA College Board

David Vela—LA College Board

Anthony Donna—LA College Board

Doug Solomon—West Basin Water District

Siannah Collado Butte—El Camino College, Area 3, Board of Trustees

David Poster speaking for Vanessa Poster—Beach Cities Health District Board

Rosie Javaid

Allen Kirschenbaum

Tony Hale, Vice President, stated that we endorsed Vanessa last meeting and that if you put your name in the Chat Box, we can get a free lawn sign to you. I must note that the sign is shared with another candidate, which is not a Democrat.

Dency Nelson said that you are not negating your obligations to the party, if you have a lawn sign with a non-Democrat on it, displayed in your yard.

Jessica gave her announcements and asked for others to do the same.

Gen Blue is giving a sticker for doing 27 things.

Please read my column in our newsletter. I don't usually call attention to my work, but I think it has important information.

You can get Joe Biden signs from the PV Dems.

Susan Goodlerner announced that there is zoom phone banking every Sunday, 3:00 – 5:00, which is coordinated with the Democratic Party, alternating between Joe Biden and various Senators. There is a brief training session at the beginning for those that need it.

Andrea Valcourt, Secretary, reminded everyone to not only fill out your 2020 Census form, but to encourage your friends, family and even periphery people that you know to participate. It is important to get as many people counted as possible because it impacts how much Federal money the state gets and how many representatives we are allotted.

Jessica introduced Connie Sullivan, who was asked by the LA County Party to present *Voting in the Time of a Pandemic*, prepared by the LA County Registrar. Connie stated that voting in person will be safe as the centers will follow the LA County health rules. On October 24, there will be 75 voting centers for 10 days and then an additional 750 locations will be added starting October 30. There will be some large venues like sports arenas and the Music Center.

Remember that if you mail your ballot or use a drop box, the ballot envelop must be signed. Anyone can drop off your ballot for you, but that person must also sign the envelope. If you forget to sign or your signature has changed significantly, you will be notified and asked to fill out a signature verification form.

Permanent drop boxes, like mail boxes, will be available 24 hours a day and smaller boxes will be available in certain building during the hours the building is open. A website with all the LA County voting locations and drop boxes as well as their hours will be up soon.

Your vote-by-mail ballots, with pre-paid postage, will start arriving on October 5 and can be returned by US mail, put in a drop box, delivered in person to a voting center, or you can vote in person. You can track your ballot by going to California.ballotrax.net.

Some dates to remember:

Sept 24—sample ballots mailed

Oct 5—mail-in ballots start arriving

Oct 19—deadline to register to vote-by-mail, if you miss this deadline, there is same day registration.

You can register online or send in a paper registration and it must be postmarked by Oct. 19.

Oct 24—75 voting centers open

Oct 30—725 additional voting centers open

Nov 3—election day

Nov 20—last day for ballots to be received and counted, if postmarked by Nov 3

Mark Drabkin said that the Torrance City Council is rejecting permanent drop boxes because they can be vandalized. Andrew DeBlock replied that Torrance has only one box currently, but there are on-going discussions. LA County wants five drop boxes per zip code. Tony said that ballots can be dropped off at Voting Centers or mailed as well as using the drop boxes.

Jessica said that Sandra Lowe has another appointment, so Jessica wanted to start the endorsements with Sandra, who is speaking for Prop 24, which amends consumer privacy laws.

Sandra said that she has worked for the Democratic Party and a teachers' union and has a background in education. Prop 24 will double fines and we need this to protect kids, who go online, but don't have security on their devices. No agency has oversight for data security. Prop 24 establishes rules for organizations and the power to enforce the rules and collect fines. The proposition has a lot of good endorsements such as unions and Senator Ben Allan. It is modeled after a European law, which is considered the gold standard. This law, if passed, can be amended by the state legislature by a 50% vote and doesn't roll back current rules

Next Siannah Collado, running for El Camino Area 3, was introduced. Siannah said that she and her husband are El Camino graduates and this is a way for her to give back to the college. I worked for the LA DA for nine years working in the sex abuse unit. I've been in private practice the past four years.

Then Jessica introduced Trisha Murakawa for the same office. Trisha stated that she is a teacher and a member of five democratic clubs. Vanessa Poster supports her as well as five past presidents of this club, Ted Lieu, Al Muratsuchi, Ben Allan, and the La County Democratic Party. She was a commissioner

for 24 years. If elected, she'll be the only Asian American on the Board. Trisha said she wants to break through this ceiling for me and for others.

Dency said that 60% of the ballots cast is needed for an endorsement by current members. Trisha appeared before the 66th and 62nd districts and was unanimously endorsed.

Connie stated that we should use the private chat to vote. Jessica requested Ashley Tull to help by counting the text messages, if anyone cannot use the private chat box, using Jessica's name. Then, she asked if there were any questions for the two candidates.

Ashley said that Trisha had a lot of endorsements and asked Siannah if she had any endorsements. Siannah answered that I gave my qualifications, which I thought was what was important to state. I do have endorsements, mostly in the legal arena, since I'm a lawyer and was a DA.

Rosie Javaid stated that Siannah was very active and a super star on campus, when they attended El Camino. She's a solid candidate.

Susan Goodlerner asked Trisha if she would work to correct the fees and budgets. Trisha answered she would be working for transparency and fair fees. Each union was negotiated separately, but there's a lot of overlapping issues that could be done as one entity. Then, negotiate with the separate unions for their specific issues. It took over a year to finalize the negotiations. I think we could save time this way. The faculty is not paid on par with other community colleges. They do a great job and they could do more.

Dency gave the first, Bobbi Buescher the second, and the vote was overwhelmingly for Trisha at 60+%.

Jessica asked if we wanted to not endorse LA College Board candidates, since we don't vote for them and we have a full scheduled. There was only one no vote, so David Vela, Andra Hoffman, and Anthony Donna thanked us and left the meeting.

Jessica introduced Adam Seiden, to speak about Prop 19, which changes certain property tax rules. Prop 19 allows seniors to take their lower property tax rate anywhere in the state, which would allow them to move closer to family, when they need help. This would also be good for fire victims. It also closes a loop hole, which allows people who inherit property to rent it out, often getting huge rents. Now, the person must live in the house in order to benefit from the lower tax rate.

This change will generate additional state revenue and only Jarvis is opposed to it. The LA County and State Parties endorse it.

Tony made a first and Irene made the second. Tony noted that Prop 19 really embraces our values and bridges the gap. However, the League of Women voters opposes it. Melyssa Guerri said that the League opposes it because it earmarks money for fire victims.

It was mentioned that this bill is supported by Realtors because they will sell more houses. Adam said that firefighter, etc. are for it, even though the realtors can sell more house. Tony said that the realtors tried previously to pass a similar bill and this bill represents our values. Dency stated that it was a real effort to reverse our values. And Ann Gotthoffer asked if the person inheriting the house takes the lower tax rate? Yes, but only if they live in the house.

Jessica then asked for an endorsement vote and it passed by a majority.

Then, Jessica introduced Doug Solomon, running for the Water Board, District 3.

Doug said that he thought the Water Board had lost its vision. It should recycle all water and spend its money on conservation measures. He's against the desal plant, which will burden us with high debt and water rates. Instead, focus on water recycling and conservation and reduce the water rates. He also wants the Water Board to be more transparent.

Dancy moved to endorse Doug. The Democratic Party endorsed him. It is refreshing that a well-qualified person is running against the incumbent. Diane made the second and it passed.

Connie challenged the voting method being used because it's different from the two people who were voted on earlier. Tony replied that we don't usually have a ballot, but have a motion to endorse and a show of hands or a voice vote. Connie said she was ok with an up or down vote on one proposition or one candidate.

Next, Jessica said that Robert Herrell would talk about Prop 24, which would amend the Consumer Privacy laws and which the LA County and State parties opposed.

Doug stated that he was against Prop 24. He said that he worked on privacy issues for Rep. Jackie Spear on the leading edge of these laws. This is a 54 page proposition and it is poorly worded. This has not gone before the State Legislature, which is the standard procedure. The Privacy King wrote this and revised it. The ACLU, Color of Change, and California Alliance for Retired Americans are against it. Some provisions are weaker than the current law. I'll put the link for opposing organizations in the Chat Box. I think this is a step back from where we are. Minor things are good, but there are bad carve outs.

Tony said that he sits on the State Party Board and it was a very difficult vote. We couldn't come to a consensus. We had the same problem last night at the LA Party. Ben Allan spoke for it. I wouldn't like us to endorse it, but I don't want us to be against privacy. I think we should remain neutral.

Doug replied that it's a very long list against it. Go to the link.

Adam stated that there are many people supporting it such as the LA Times, Ro Khanna, and Betty Yee. It's probably good to take a position.

Moiria Zucker said that it makes sense to not take a position and moved not to endorse.

Jessica called for a vote to endorse, not endorse or no endorsement. The vote was 2 yes, 4 no, and 14 no endorsement.

Jessica called for a vote to endorse Prop 19. There was a discussion on how to conduct the vote. The final vote was 14 yes, 2 no, and 5 no endorsement.

Connie announced that Stacy Golden and Andrew DeBlock were named 66th Assembly District Woman and Man of the year. The awards have traditionally been given at the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner, but of course it will need to be a virtual event.

Jessica read of the State Party endorsements and then asked for other announcements. Yes on 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 25. No on 20 and 22. Neutral on 24.

Tony said that he wanted to speak about Prop 23, which would establish state requirements for dialysis clinics. He continued that the last time this was proposed he investigated the three big companies, which provide these services and he feels strongly about this. This proposition has some changes, which cover some of the things that caused it to fail last time. The companies discourage people from getting a transplant because the companies would lose business, but people don't have to stay on dialysis indefinitely if they qualify for a transplant. Each company has its own standards and they commit many violations. They only use a vile of medication for one patient, when it can be used for more than one. Instead, they throw the medicine away. These companies can afford to pay for these high priced ads of misinformation. Let's take the same position as the State and LA County Parties.

Rosie said that the Torrance School Board debate is October 1, Thursday, between 7 and 8 pm. We're asking for an endorsement at the next meeting. We have a great challenge to get two democrats on the board, Anil Muhammed and Madison Laster. If you can support them monetarily, please do.

Next, Edna Murphy gave the Treasurer's report.

Dency said that one of the most important things we can do is sponsor robo calls for the candidates we endorse. I'd like to make a motion to do that. Andrea noted that we voted for that at the last meeting.

Then, there was a discussion about comparing our By-laws to those of the LA County Party. Dency said that our By-laws are not as deep as the County's and we make every effort to be transparent. Mark added that he posted the By-laws on our website.

Jessica said that she acknowledged lessons learned and that we will send out the voting rules, when we send out our meeting reminder.

Jessica said that the Easy Reader and Hermosa One have collaborated to host the South Bay Debates October 12 – 21 and she is helping to produce them. For more information go to debate2020.easyreadernews.com. She added that she also worked for Disable the Enablers, a super PAC formed to disable senators like Mitch McConnell. For more information go to dtepac.org.

Diane stated that there is a Manhattan Beach School District forum coming up.

Trisha thanked everyone for the endorsement. Adding, I want to win and push our values. Jessica invited her to join our organization.

Andrew said that, because of the late hour he won't speak, but please call or email me with your questions.

Dency and Diane moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. People were invited to stay on, if they wanted to talk about Justice Ginsburg.