

# Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



## March 2018 Newsletter

P.O. Box 2234, Rolling Hills Est. CA 90274  
Visit Us on the Web at [www.pvpdemocrats.org](http://www.pvpdemocrats.org)  
"One of the oldest Democratic Clubs in California"

### COMING EVENTS

**Social time: 2pm**

#### MARCH MEETING

**DATE:** Sunday, March 18th

**MEETING TIME:** 2:30 - 4:30pm

**LOCATION:** Peninsula Center Library  
Community Room; 701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

**TOPIC:** 2018 Candidate for Lt Gov

**SPEAKER:** Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis

#### APRIL MEETING

**DATE:** Sunday, April 15th

**MEETING TIME:** 2:30-4:30pm

**LOCATION:** Peninsula Center Library  
Community Room; 701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

**TOPIC:** TBD

**SPEAKER:** TBD

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### March General Meeting

**At our March meeting we will be joined by Eleni Kounalakis, candidate for Lt. Governor. Eleni is a Democratic Party activist and former U.S. Ambassador to Hungary under President Obama.**

Ambassador Kounalakis has visited each of California's 58 counties during her campaign and has been endorsed by Senator Kamala Harris and Emily's List among others. Her campaign is focused on economic issues, including affordable housing and affordable college education, in addition to growing California's role on the world stage through leading the country in areas such as environmental protection..

### February Meeting Report

by Carol Moeller

### Commissioner Veronica Saucedo running for a judicial position

Judicial Candidate **Veronica Saucedo** went to UCLA law school, worked for the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice and in 2015 was appointed as an LA Court County Commissioner. Whereas most local court judges are elected positions, a commissioner is hired by the court to help with a judge's case load. A commissioner has the same powers as a judge to hear a court case and pass legally binding judgments. Now Commissioner Saucedo is running for a judicial position.

### Incumbant Tim Goodrich running for Torrance City Council

First elected to the Torrance City Council in

2014, **Tim Goodrich** is running for re-election this year. Tim served three tours of duty in the Middle East while in the US Air Force and then completed a Master's Degree in public administration and a certificate in political management from USC. Focusing on community safety, he is one of only two councilmembers (out of a total of 7 on the city council) who voted to phase out Hydrofluoric Acid at the Torrance Refinery.

### State Senator Kevin de León running for US Senate

**State Senator Kevin de León**, the son of a single immigrant mother (who supported her family working as a housekeeper) was the first in his family to graduate from high school and college.



State Senator Kevin de León

He attended U.C. Santa Barbara and graduated from Pitzer College with honors.

Senator de León was elected as President pro Tempore of the state Senate in 2014. Prior to that, he served four years in the Assembly before his election to the state Senate in 2010.

Where he stands (in his own words in a speech to the California Democratic Convention on 2/24/18):

"I'll always vote in favor of organized labor. (Before his election to state office, he was a community organizer and an ESL teacher.)

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I'll vote against school vouchers.

I'll vote against allowing federal agents to spy on American citizens without warrant.

I would NEVER vote for two different wars lasting 17 years, costing countless American lives and more than \$5 trillion.

I would never vote to prosecute 13-year-olds as adults -- especially in a criminal justice system propped up by institutional racism.

I will fight to end the school-to-prison pipeline once and for all.

I will ALWAYS stand up for our Dreamers and NEVER treat them as a bargaining chip.

I will demand 100% clean energy and freedom from fossil-fuel dependency. (During his tenure California's jobs in clean energy reached 500,000, which is more than all coal jobs in the US. He authored SB 350, which mandates that utilities in California purchase 33% of their electricity from renewable sources by 2020 and 50% from renewable sources by 2030. He later sponsored SB 100, which accelerates those targets.)

And make no mistake: I will be your champion on Medicare-for-All." (He was one of the co-authors of [SB 562](#) and said he is in favor of "Bernie's plan".)

De León is familiar with our local fight against the Torrance refinery and pledged to work against "[NOx](#), [SOx](#) and [MHF](#)".

He is a champion of "retirement security" in the form of [California Secure Choice](#), which he would like to have an "opt out" clause that would enroll workers without a retirement plan, unless they choose to opt out of this plan.

Prior to speaking at our meeting, de León was a keynote speaker at the regional conference of the [Citizen's Climate Lobby](#).

When asked as Senator, which committees he would like to be a member of, he cited these four:

1. Health and Education
2. Energy
3. Environment
4. Foreign Relations

PV Dems member and Superior Court Judge Tom Long encouraged him to also consider the Judiciary committee.

## Feb 3rd Joint Regional Democratic Update

By Carol Moeller

State Senator Ben Allen hosted a 26th SD information session at the iconic Albright restaurant on the Santa Monica Pier followed by a well-attended rally to protest Trump's loosening of off-shore drilling prohibitions along our coasts. Three of our Congressional representatives (Ted Lieu, Nanette Barragan and Maxine Waters) spoke at the rally!

Here are some of the highlights of the Democratic Update:

**Ted Lieu:** (regarding Devin Nunez) "Wait 'till you see the Democratic memo!"

Lieu started a political action committee known as known as the Leadership, Integrity, Engagement, Unity (LIEU) PAC, which is being used to help finance campaigns other than his own. Citing the grassroots movement that emerged following the Women's March after Trump's inauguration in defeating Trumpcare,

Lieu called for the same support to help retain Democratic incumbents such as Sacramento Reps. Doris Matsui, Pete Aguilar, Raul Ruiz and Scott Peters and to help flip 14 incumbent Republican districts for the 2018 Congressional elections, including currently held by Steve Knight, Mimi Walters, Dana Rohrabacher and Daryl Issa.

LIEU PAC is also supporting:

Current CA State Senator [Josh Newman](#) (22nd District on Orange County) Yale grad, veteran, who is being targeted by Republicans.

LIEU PAC also supports [Connor Lamb](#) (who served as a prosecutor in the Marine Corps and also as a District Attorney) in a special election this March 13th and [Chrissy Houlahan](#) (Stanford and MIT grad and Air Force reserve officer) in the Nov election, both elections taking place in Pennsylvania.

In GA, the LIEU PAC supports [David Kim](#), who is an educator and son of Korean immigrants.

He recommended the website [regulations.gov](#) to voice opinions about any political issue.

**Ben Allen** co-authored [SB 834](#) which would prevent the transport of oil through state waters, thus making Trumps "all but Florida" oil drilling plan unworkable here.

He recommended seeing the movie "[A Plastic Ocean](#)"

**Al Muratsuchi** introduced [AB 1775](#), which prevents new leases for oil extraction, also to thwart Trump's offshore drilling plans.

## Refinery Explosion Rally

By Connie Sullivan

On February 17 the Torrance Refinery Action Alliance (TRAA) organized a rally at Columbia Park to commemorate the third anniversary of the refinery explosion.

You may recall the Chemical Safety Board declared that we had a near miss of a terrible release of the modified hydrofluoric acid (MHF) stored in a large tank near the explosion. TRAA formed right after the explosion and is dedicated to requiring the two South Bay

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## Move to Turn RPV into a "Charter City"

By Gary Boston

A recent Daily Breeze (Citizen group revives charter city move for Rancho Palos Verdes <https://www.dailybreeze.com/2018/02/19/citizen-group-revives-charter-city-move-for-rancho-palos-verdes/>) article noted that there is

refineries that use it to switch to a safer chemical.

While people arrived folk singer Ross Altman welcomed the

crowd with his music and provided a festive mood for the event.

A crowd of almost 300 gathered to hear from several elected officials (Torrance Council Members Tim Goodrich and Kurt Weideman and Congresswoman Nanette Barragán) along with messages from Supervisor Hahn and Assemblyman Muratsuchi.

Sally Hayati, president of TRAA updated the crowd on the latest status of the AQMD rulemaking process. TRAA is expecting the AQMD to bring forward a final plan in early April. There is great concern that AQMD staff will bring forward a mitigation plan rather than a ban of MHF.

Other speakers included a Torrance teacher, a nurse and Steve Early, author of *Refinery Town: Big Oil, Big Money, and the Remaking of an American City*.

The event ended with a march to the front entrance of the refinery where the crowd chanted "Hey Hey, Ho Ho, MHF Has Got to Go".

Hopefully, the refinery got the message.

once again a move afoot to try to turn RPV into a "Charter City" rather than a "General Law" city. The initial public meeting regarding these efforts was held on Saturday, Feb 24 in the Hesse Park community center. The meeting was organized by a group calling themselves the RPV Citizens Charter Committee. After reading about this effort, I decided to attend this "workshop". Admittedly I went in skeptical. Any time I hear about "more local control", "home rule", or "state's rights", my antennae go up and I assume I am dealing with one group of people looking to preserve their power at the expense of others.

The last time a RPV Charter was on the ballot it was rejected by 70% of the voters. The Citizens Committee views the Democrats in Sacramento as "out of control" and see "bad things happening to RPV". In order to get a Charter ballot measure in front of voters in November, they need to get something to the City Council by May.

This process is moving forward and we, as Democrats, need to be aware of it at a minimum. RPV city charter initiative meetings are scheduled in the Fireside Room at Hesse Park, 29301 Hawthorne Blvd., on the following dates: Monday, March 19 and April 16, 7-9 p.m.

*It doesn't have to be this way. Change is coming. And it starts now, inspired by and led by the kids who are our hope for the future. Their young voices will be heard.*

*Stand with us on March 24. Refuse to allow one more needless death.*

**#MarchForOurLives Los Angeles, 10 AM - 2 PM PDT, Pershing Square**

## MARCH FOR OUR LIVES!

Less than a week after a gunman killed 14 students and three staff at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, survivors of the shooting have mobilized to launch the #NeverAgain movement, and the March for Our Lives, a nationwide protest on **March 24** to protest gun violence.

Here's their [Mission Statement](#):

*Not one more. We cannot allow one more child to be shot at school. We cannot allow one more teacher to make a choice to jump in front of a firing assault rifle to save the lives of students. We cannot allow one more family to wait for a call or text that never comes. Our schools are unsafe. Our children and teachers are dying. We must make it our top priority to save these lives.*

*March For Our Lives is created by, inspired by, and led by students across the country who will no longer risk their lives waiting for someone else to take action to stop the epidemic of mass school shootings that has become all too familiar. In the tragic wake of the seventeen lives brutally cut short in Florida, politicians are telling us that now is not the time to talk about guns. March For Our Lives believes the time is now.*

*On March 24, the kids and families of March For Our Lives will take to the streets of Washington, DC to demand that their lives and safety become a priority. The collective voices of the March For Our Lives movement will be heard.*

*School safety is not a political issue. There cannot be two sides to doing everything in our power to ensure the lives and futures of children who are at risk of dying when they should be learning, playing, and growing. The mission and focus of March For Our Lives is to demand that a comprehensive and effective bill be immediately brought before Congress to address these gun issues. No special interest group, no political agenda is more critical than timely passage of legislation to effectively address the gun violence issues that are rampant in our country.*

*Every kid in this country now goes to school wondering if this day might be their last. We live in fear.*





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## Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded in 1952 - One of the oldest and largest Democratic Clubs in California

[www.pvpdemocrats.org](http://www.pvpdemocrats.org)

As a member of the Palos Verdes Democrats, you can:

- Meet other Democrats
- Meet and get to know your elected officials, raise funds and work for candidates
- Attend special events and monthly meetings
- Hear speakers and discuss issues of local, state and national import
- Receive a monthly newsletter
- Vote on club issues, unless registered as NPP (No Party Preference)

**Please send your membership form to P.O. Box 2234, Rolling Hills Est. Ca 90274**  
**Please fill in all items to ensure that we have your full and correct current information.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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\* Fill in if Applying as a Family - two memberships

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