

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



logo by
Paul Conrad

October 2018 Newsletter

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

COMING EVENTS

Social time: 2pm

OCTOBER MEETING

DATE: Sunday, October 21st

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPIC: Prop 6 and CDP's Youth Programs

SPEAKERS: Torrance Mayor Pat Furey and CDP activist Dan Weitzman

NOVEMBER MEETING

DATE: Sunday, November 18th

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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October General Meeting

Discussion about NO on Prop 6 and an update about the CA Democratic Party's youth outreach projects.

Pat Furey, Mayor of Torrance since 2014 and the chair of both the State and Federal Advocacy Committees for the city, is advocating a NO vote on Prop 6, which eliminates California's road repair and transportation funding via fuel taxes and vehicle fees.

Dan Weitzman, a long time activist for the California Democratic Party (CDP) since his days as an undergraduate at California State University Sacramento, has been focused on political fundraising, event planning and neighborhood activism. He works for Senate President pro-Tempore Kevin De León and as the Principal of Daniel C. Weitzman Consulting, where he specializes in raising funds to help elect Democrats across the state. Dan will focus his talk about the CDP's youth outreach projects.

Voting is like driving a car

Choose D to go forward

Choose R to go backward

September Meeting Report

by Ann Nye and Tex Yamada

Candidate for PVPUSD School Board

Megan Crawford is the only educator running for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD) Board and would be the only educator on the board. Megan is a lifelong resident of Palos Verdes Peninsula and product of PVPUSD, where she attended Rancho Vista Elementary, Miraleste Intermediate School and Peninsula High School. She's currently in her 4th year of teaching 6th grade at Paris Middle School in Redondo Beach. After earning an Environmental Science BA Degree at UCLA she received her Masters in Education from Pepperdine University and is currently going for a degree in Public Administration at USC. Megan says "my students are my kids," and she wants the school board to focus on student mental health and safety, environmental stewardship (including solar power for our schools), and welcomes



Megan Crawford

Sign Up for Our Club Emails--Unless You're a Russian Computer Bot! by Reggie Jue

If you don't receive our emails, you can sign up for our email list on our website. We send emails only a few times per month (perhaps more during election season) and we never provide your email address to other organizations, so don't worry about being inundated with spam. But, by being on our email list, you will learn about upcoming meeting topics, and local events. If you are not receiving emails from PV Democrats or pvpdems@pvpdemocrats.org, we might be in your spam/junk folder. If you use gmail.com, just add us to your contacts list to prevent our mail going to spam.

We might also accidentally delete your email subscription when we filter our Russian bots. That's right! Even our club is subject to foreign computer attacks. In fact, about half of our on-line subscribers can be traced to Russian bots, and we delete them. We can tell because the system records the native language that the browser is set to, and often it's Russian.

Also, the local server latitude/longitude locations get recorded, and they're usually in Eastern Europe!

The more sophisticated bots that we're dealing with nationally are going to be much more subtle--all the more reason to get a government serious about protecting us!



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partnerships with businesses. At the end of her talk, the club voted to endorse Megan Crawford's candidacy for PVPUSD School Board. In the race, there are 4 candidates and 3 open positions and Megan is the only Democrat running.

<https://www.megancrawfordforpvpvpschools.com/>

Candidate for California Superintendent of Public Instruction

Assemblyman Tony Thurmond

(D-Richmond, 15th Assembly District) is running for State Superintendent of Public Instruction against another Democrat, Marshall Tuck, in the November general election. In the June 5th CA Primary Election, Tuck and Thurmond were the top two vote-getters, with Tuck capturing 37.2 percent and Thurmond securing 35.6 percent of the votes. Since neither candidate received 50 percent of the vote count, both are forced to faceoff against each other in the November general election.



Tony Thurmond

Melanie Lundquist, who was slated to represent Tuck at our September meeting, had a last minute schedule conflict.

Thurmond started from humble beginnings; his Dad left the family when he was young, his Mom (an immigrant from Panama) died from cancer when he was 6; he survived foster care and he and his brother were raised by a cousin's family in Philadelphia as their sons. He says he knows what it is like to survive on public assistance.

While serving on the CA Assembly's

Education Committee, Thurmond championed a grant for foster kids to go to college and helped pass a bill outlawing For-Profit charter schools. Though he said there's a loophole where Not-For-Profit charter school board members can profit by having their schools use their products. He says we need more transparency on this. Thurmond advocated and helped win the opportunity for students to attend the first year of community colleges for free.

Thurmond has connected the Sandy Hook Foundation to those who are working to keep our schools safe. He has introduced bills for more mental health workers in the schools. Thurmond advocates for Literacy Programs; he says, "Talk, Read, Sing AND Count with your kids."

During the lengthy Q&A, Thurmond responded to a question about Governor Brown signing the CA Money Bail Reform Act which eliminates money-based bail as an option for someone to be released from jail awaiting trial. While he thinks the law allows Judges with too much discretion, he believes the law can be improved with the next Governor.

Responding to questions about his difference with Marshall Tuck, Thurmond says his political donors include the California Teachers Association, whereas, Tuck receives major backing from wealthy charter school sources.

Thurmond earned his BA in Psychology from Temple University and Masters Degrees in Law and Social Policy and Social Work from Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania.

www.tonythurmond.com

With a little extra time in the program due

to the Lunquist "no show," **Joseph Lopez**, PV Dems new 2nd Vice-President, recounted his educational background (BA in Political Science at CSULB) and cited individuals who have influenced his path into local politics and government. As a member of the WestCal Academy, he explained about their Make Education Great Again (MEGA) Career Pathway Program, and how the name was patented way before Trump's slogan.



Joseph Lopez

President's Report by Rascha Hall

There are fewer than 7 weeks to the 2018 mid-term election. Our goal is to flip the house. There are several opportunities for you to help. Our Assembly member, Al Muratsuchi has a tough race this year. Usually being the incumbent has name recognition value, but his opponent this year is a former popular mayor of Torrance and also owned a local business with trucks all over the South Bay with his name on them. He has sold the business but the trucks are still out there. And I'm sure you've seen his signs all over the South Bay area!



AL MURATSUCHI FOR ASSEMBLY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Join us as we fight to re-elect Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi and keep the 66th Assembly District Blue. We need your help talking to voters about this important election and getting out the vote for Al.

Contact:
(424) 350-8896
Email: jake@alforassembly.com

Campaign Office:
2055 Torrance Blvd, Unit B
Torrance, CA 90501

Volunteer Hours:
Monday – Thursday: 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Saturdays: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Sundays: 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

It is also possible to go to walk precincts either locally or in nearby congressional districts which are considered "flippable." They are districts which are currently held by Republicans but in which Hillary was the winner.

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September 11th, CA Lieutenant Governor, Gavin Newsom drove up in his GAVIN FOR GOVERNOR bus to Al Muratsuchi's campaign headquarters in Torrance to talk about his candidacy for Governor and to pledge his support for Muratsuchi. First thing first was to feed the supporters who showed up -- as you can see in the photo at left, Muratsuchi helped Newsom deliver the pizzas. Then Newsom spoke to the crowd, emphasizing his support for Muratsuchi, and proclaiming he's driven to solve the plight of the homeless. At the end of his talk, Newsom said he tells his kids this all the time, "Once a mind is stretched, it never goes back to its original form."

PV Democrats is joining with Beach Cities Democrats and South Bay Cares to provide opportunities for you to participate in a local phone bank until November as shown below: Please check our website for updates, <https://pvpdemocrats.org/>

Hermosa Beach: Tuesday nights,
540 24th Place 6:30 to 8:30

Manhattan Beach: Thursday nights,
1720 Gates Ave. 6:30 to 8:30

PV Estates: Monday nights,
2537 Via Olivera. 6:30 to 8:30



Rascha Hall (left) and Kathy Bradford at the Pledge to Vote Rally on September 22nd at Columbia Park. Thanks also to Carol and Bob Moeller and Irene and her daughter Pam for manning the booth.

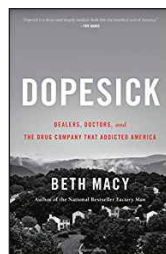
At a recent Board meeting, we voted to send \$3,300 to Blue Momentum PAC which is run by our own Congressman, Ted Lieu, and is dedicated to giving funds to candidates in an effort to flip the House. We included a letter telling them that we had a preference of giving to local candidates in nearby districts.

Book Review

Dope Sick: Dealers, Doctors, and The Drug Company that Addicted America

By Ann Nye

Who would have thought a book about the opiate crisis would include high crimes and misdemeanors involving Rudy Giuliani and James Comey. Beth Macy's book shows how a Virginia country doctor, Art Van Zee with the help of a young U.S. attorney, John Brownlee, were able to win a case against Purdue Frederick (owned by the brothers Mortimer, Raymond, and Arthur Sackler; known more for their philanthropy and the many Sackler-named museum art wings) for their misbranding of the drug OxyContin (marketed by Purdue Pharma).



Purdue Pharma knew in 1995 before marketing OxyContin in 1996 that it's time-released OxyContin tablets could be misused and that how crushing the tablets would lead to immediate, rather than controlled, release of the drug; that withdrawal symptoms had been witnessed in several patients during clinical trials; and that 68 percent of the pain killer drug oxycodone was in fact recoverable from one single, crushed-up pill when liquefied and injected.

Once doctors started widely prescribing OxyContin for noncancer pain in the late 1990s, opioids like heroin were no longer only a big city story. Any doctor in any small town could

now suddenly provide opioids to people with low back pain and other pain issues.

Beth's research shows how the opiate crisis spiked in small towns in Virginia and follows families struggling to survive addiction. Here's where the story takes a turn. A lot of drug recovery houses (or sober living houses) don't allow MAT (medication assisted treatment) even though the latest research on substance use disorder from Harvard Medical School shows it takes the typical opioid-addicted user 8 years - and four to five treatment attempts - to achieve remission for just a single year.

A paradox is while doctors up until 2016 could very easily prescribe opioid painkillers, they remained regulated in treating opioid addiction with methadone and buprenorphine (also known as Suboxone). Suboxone only came to market in 2002, after a thirty-year quest for a new addiction-treatment drug.

Art Van Zee, sympathetic to law enforcement complaints about Suboxone abuse, believes public policy makers should incentivize more doctors to go into addiction medicine, and MAT should be expanded in non-profit health departments, where salaried doctors are less motivated to overprescribe. He says, "I think taking an opioid-addicted person and expecting them to do well in drug court [without Suboxone] is almost cruel and unusual punishment." Some experts say, denying the evidence for MAT is like denying climate change. Addiction needs to be treated as a health problem NOT a criminal problem and we need universal health care to support our families overcoming addiction.



Palos Verdes Democrats Officers for 2018-2019

President: Rascha Hall 310-377-7334

President Emeritus: Lynn Bommer 310-374-1188

1st Vice President: Randall Klinenberg 310-977-1607

2nd Vice President: Joseph Lopez 310-935-9801

Recording Secretary: Kathy Bradford 310-265-9812

Corresponding Secretary: Arline Korb 310-544-7203

Treasurer: Al Shadbourn 310-326-4953

Membership: Irene Silver 310-541-2650

Publicity: Nancie Silver 310-941-4501

Newsletter Editor:

Newsletter Designer: Ann Nye 310-373-6805

Newsletter Mailings: Ron Moeller 310-541-5526

Hospitality: Maria Frusteri 310-270-1160

Web Master: Reggie Jue 310-433-8189

Palos Verdes Democrats

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

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 _____

Name* _____

* Fill in if Applying as a Family - two memberships

- ☐ I am a registered Democrat
☐ I am registered No Party Preference
☐ I am a registered Democrat
☐ I am registered No Party Preference

Residence Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ Zip _____ Cell _____

Occupation _____

Employer _____

E-mail Address _____

*Select One: ☐ Individual: \$ 25.00/Year ☐ Family Membership \$40.00/Year
☐ Young Adult \$10.00/Year

Amount enclosed _____ ☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

Please contact me to help in the following areas:

- ☐ Hospitality ☐ Newsletter ☐ Membership ☐ Publicity ☐ Correspondence
☐ Voter Registration ☐ Campaign Work ☐ Website/Facebook ☐ Phone Tree