

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



logo by
Paul Conrad

September 2017 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

SEPTEMBER MEETING

DATE: Sunday, September 17th

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPIC: Money in Politics

SPEAKER: Professor Peter Mathews

OCTOBER MEETING

DATE: Sunday, October 15th

MEETING TIME: 2:30-4:30pm

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

TOPIC: Senate Update

SPEAKER: Peter Muller, Deputy State
Director for Senator Diane Feinstein

Inside This Month's Issue:

September General Meeting Page 1

August Meeting Report Page 1-2

Ted Lieu Endorses John Chiang Page 2

South Bay's Response to

Charlottesville Page 3

Movie Review Page 3

Fundraiser for Al Muratsuchi Page 3

September General Meeting

Our September meeting will feature a discussion of money in politics as we gear up for the 2018 election cycle. We will be joined by Professor Peter Mathews.

Professor Mathews is the author of *Dollar Democracy: With Liberty and Justice for Some*. *Dollar Democracy* is about the corrupting influence of private money in politics that has caused a disappearing middle class, environmental destruction, the dismantling of the public education system, the endangering of our food and water supply, a lack of health care, and waste, fraud and abuse in the Military-Industrial Complex.

Peter Mathews is a full-time Professor of Political Science at Cypress College, an adjunct Professor of Sociology at Long Beach City College. He is a three term Chair of Department of Political Science at Cypress College and teaches American Government and International Relations, Contemporary Political Issues, Comparative Government, Political Theory, and Urban Politics.

Professor Mathews has been a featured Political Analyst and Commentator on several television and radio programs. He is currently a featured Political Analyst and Contributing Partner on the "Head-On" radio show on KEIB AM 1150 in Los Angeles.

August Meeting Report

by Carol Moeller

The 2017 Supreme Court Review

PV Dems member and Superior Court Judge **Tom Long** lent us his expertise to explain the major cases decided by the Supreme Court during the 2016-2017 session. He emphasized that having only 8 justices deciding most of the cases had the biggest impact on the docket. Rather than hearing as many as 200 cases as in previous Supreme Court years, the court heard only about 60 cases this year. He related that Justice Kennedy was in the majority in 93% of the cases (so was the primary swing voter in this divided court) while Justice Roberts came in second as his votes sided with the majority roughly 80% of the time. We should all note that justices Bader-Ginsburg, Bryer and Kennedy are all over 80 years of age, so losing any of them during the current administration would push the court in a decidedly conservative direction.



Tom Long
Superior Court Judge

Separation of church and state: *Trinity Lutheran v. Pauley* (7-2). Missouri law prohibits state support for religious institutions, so when Trinity Lutheran requested the same playground funding which secular institutions receive, their request was denied. The Supreme Court reversed this decision in an opinionated decision where Justice Sotomayor's strong dissent argued that allowing state funds for any religious purposes could open the door to a narrowing of church and state boundaries. In the 2004 *Locke v. Davey*

Upcoming Events (go to www.pvpdemocrats.org for details)

Tom Steyer to Address the 66th AD

August 29 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Reception for Congressman Ted Lieu

September 16 @ 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Fundraiser for Al Muratsuchi (see page 3)

September 21 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

John Chiang for Governor Fundraising Event in RPV

October 15 @ 2:00 pm

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

case, Washington state scholarship funding was denied to students pursuing theological studies, and much of the church and state separation cases since then have used this case as part of their basis for allowing funding only for secular schools. Justice Thomas in the majority implied that *Locke v. Davey* may have been a wrong decision. A question at the end asked if this decision might open the door to *mandating* that taxpayer-funded vouchers be used in religious schools. In states where vouchers are allowed to fund religious education, 96% of those vouchers are used in religious schools, so this decision could have a huge impact on where our educational funds end up.

Bias and discrimination in jury deliberation: *Peña-Rodriguez v. Colorado* (5-3). This case involves the potential influence of a vocal racially biased member of a jury during deliberation. Although jury deliberation is held somewhat sacrosanct vis-a-vis outside interference (even to the extent that decisions made by persons under the influence are permitted), the majority felt that this case clearly violated the 6th amendment (the right to an impartial jury). Justice Kennedy wrote that "given our tainted racial history", in cases as egregious as this, an exception needed to be made.

Bias and discrimination during trials: *Buck v. Davis* (6-2). An expert witness in a trial opined that "blacks are more likely to cause violence". The majority felt that "some toxins are lethal even in small doses", and thereby overturned a death penalty case due to this overt courtroom racism.

Gerrymandering: *Cooper v. Harris* (5-3). The court found North Carolina employed "cracking" (breaking up districts to dilute out black voters) and "stacking" (putting most

black voters in just one district to dilute their voices elsewhere). In a surprising vote, Clarence Thomas sided with the liberals! This case could have an impact on the upcoming *Gill v. Whitford* case that will examine whether a redistricting plan in Wisconsin used partisan gerrymandering. Since new computer programs enable precision gerrymandering, thereby widening the gold standard "efficiency gap" (the difference between the parties' respective wasted votes, which are the number of votes cast for a losing candidate and all the extra votes cast for the winner, divided by the total number of votes cast), the results of these two cases might have the greatest impact on upcoming elections.

Activist Report

Connie Sullivan says, "the Torrance Refinery Action Alliance (TRAA) needs your help."

The campaign against the use of toxic modified hydrofluoric acid (MHF) by two South Bay refineries (Torrance and Valero in Wilmington) has moved to the Air Quality Management District (AQMD). For several months AQMD staff have been conducting a rulemaking process, which it appears will soon culminate with a recommendation to the AQMD Board to mandate a phase out of deadly MHF.

The TRAA is asking all concerned South Bay residents to write or email the AQMD board members in support of Rule 1410 to ban MHF at refineries within the district's boundaries.

The chair of the board is Dr. William A. Burke and his assistant's email address is: mwpatrick@aqmd.gov. His street address is: 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA, 91765. You can use the same street address for the other AQMD board members:

Ben Benoit, Vice Chair
(bbenoit@cityofwildomar.org)
Marion Ashley, Governing Board Member
(mashley@rivco.org)
Joe Buscaino, Governing Board Member
(jenny.chavez@lacity.org)
Michael A. Cacciotti, Governing Board Member
(macaddiotti@yahoo.com)
Sheila Kuehl, Governing Board Member
(ealty@bos.lacounty.gov)
Dr. Joseph Lyou, Governing Board Member
(joe@ccair.org)
Larry McCallon, Governing Board Member
(lmccallon@cityofhighland.org)
Judith Mitchell, Governing Board Member
(JudyM@ci.Rollings-Hills-Estates.ca.us)
Shawn Nelson, Governing Board Member
(Shawn.Nelson@ocgov.com)
Dr. Clark E. Parker, Sr., Governing Board Member
(clarkeparker@aqmd.gov)
Dwight Robinson, Governing Board Member
(drobinson@lakeforestca.gov)
Janice Rutherford, Governing Board Member
(SupervisorRutherford@sbccounty.gov)

Ted Lieu Endorses John Chiang for Governor by Carol Moeller

At a park in Westwood, several members of the PV Dems heard Ted Lieu announce his endorsement for John Chiang as Governor of California. A child of Taiwanese immigrants, Chiang graduated from Georgetown University School of Law and began working as a tax-law specialist, then as a state attorney and as a staffer for Barbara Boxer. He was elected to the State Board of Equalization and then to the State Controller's position before being voted in as State Treasurer. In all of his political campaigns, Chiang was the top vote-getter. His accomplishments include improved notification to those whose property is in jeopardy of being seized, standing up to then-Gov. Schwarzenegger who refused to pay government workers to try to gain political leverage, maintaining a high state credit rating



Ted Lieu (right) endorses John Chiang for Governor

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continued from page 2

during the recession, banning investments through Wells Fargo in response to the bank's fraudulent practices and leading pension and corporate governance reform. Join John Chiang's campaign!

The South Bay's Response to Charlottesville

by Carol Moeller

Upon very short notice, a sizable crowd convened at the Manhattan Beach Pier in response to the white supremacist, Nazi-sympathizer fiasco in Charlottesville. Members of the PV Dems were among those decrying these hate groups.

Protestors gathered in sympathy for the victims of hate, in solidarity with those demanding the removal of Confederate monuments, and in a show of force denouncing an administration that has empowered the rise of hate groups. Trump's "wink and nod" flirtation with racism, anti-Semitism, misogyny and a host of other extremist viewpoints has enraged the world. "Liberal" California actually has among the highest number of hate groups in the US; The Southern Poverty Law Center has identified 79 individual groups in our state. Only three states (Texas, New York and Virginia) have more organized hate.



The South Bay's rally response to Charlottesville at the Manhattan Beach Pier

released, Al Gore provides us with an updated and expanded narrative that provides recent catastrophic climatic events as proof of the reality of climate change and the necessity to switch off of fossil fuels. His painstaking data squarely demonstrates the effects of global warming and illustrates how far ahead of the US many countries are in the quest for sustainable power. How quickly, actually even exponentially, the use of solar power has grown in certain parts of the world; the graphic on Chile's move to solar is simply jaw-dropping and worth the price of admission alone. It serves as a loud and clear example that we could and should be doing the same.

What this movie does not address, however is to reduce harmful emissions enough, we also need to seriously reign in carbon use by reducing air travel, and limit the consumption of meat, which would result in difficult culture and lifestyle changes. This movie does emphasize how hard-won the unanimous passage of the Paris Climate Accord was, and so how particularly ominous Trump's seemingly flippant and reason-free decision to pull the US out remains. This narrative is a tough reminder that our government by no way puts the best interests of the people of this nation, or of the world, at heart.

Fundraiser for Al Muratsuchi September 21 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

After a bruising campaign to take back the South Bay 66th Assembly District seat last

November, support from district volunteers resulted in a decisive win, 54 to 46 percent.

Al is running for re-election and we know that this is a seat we can NEVER take for granted. The retired Torrance Mayor has recently announced he is running for this seat. Al is counting on the amazing 'people power' to help him keep this seat.



Al Muratsuchi

CA State Assembly District 66



Poster created by <https://www.nwgsdpdx.org/>

Movie Review

An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power

by Al Gore

Reviewed by Carol Moeller

More than ten years after his first movie, *An Inconvenient Truth*, was



To download the invitation and pledge form, click [here](#) or go to www.pvpdemocrats.org

AL MURATSUCHI

FOR ★ STATE ★ ASSEMBLY

****SAVE THE DATE****

TORRANCE MAYOR PAT FUREY
TORRANCE COUNCILMEMBER TIM GOODRICH
HERMOSA BEACH COUNCILMEMBER HANY FANGARY
GARDENA VALLEY DEMOCRATIC CLUB

PALOS VERDES DEMOCRATS
TORRANCE DEMOCRATIC CLUB
WEST LOS ANGELES DEMOCRATIC CLUB
BOBBI BUESCHER

HOST COMMITTEE IN FORMATION

PLEASE JOIN US TO **RAISE A PINT** TO SUPPORT THE RE-ELECTION OF

**ASSEMBLYMEMBER
AL MURATSUCHI**

Thursday, September 21, 2017
6:00 pm
Smog City Brewery
1901 Del Amo Boulevard, Torrance, CA

Suggested Contribution Levels:
\$4,000 - Diamond Sponsor
\$2,000 - Gold Sponsor
\$1,000 - Silver Sponsor
\$500 - Bronze Sponsor
\$66 - Individual

For more information or to RSVP call 562-981-2111 or email ganellis.buchard@gmail.com
To give securely online please go to
<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/098117>



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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