

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



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Paul Conrad

September 2018 Newsletter

P.O. Box 2234, Rolling Hills Est. CA 90274
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"One of the oldest Democratic Clubs in California"

COMING EVENTS

Social time: 2pm

SEPTEMBER MEETING

DATE: Sunday, September 16th

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPIC: State Superintendent for Public Instruction Candidates

SPEAKERS: Marshall Tuck's Rep Melanie Lundquist and Tony Thurmond

OCTOBER MEETING

DATE: Sunday, October 21st

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPIC: TBD

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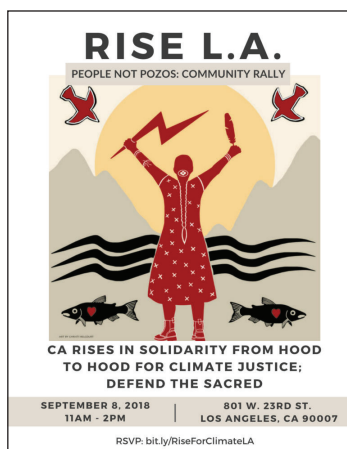
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September General Meeting Superintendent of Public Instruction race: Melanie Lundquist representing Marshall Tuck and Assemblymember Tony Thurmond to speak.

Marshall Tuck (represented by Melanie Lunquist) is a former CEO of the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools (which runs 18 schools in Los Angeles) and a former President of the Green Dot Public schools (which operates 28 charter schools across three states). Tuck graduated from UCLA and Harvard Business School. He worked for two years at Wall Street Bank Salomon Brothers and then at Model N, a revenue management software company, before switching careers to work full time in education. **Melanie Lundquist**, a graduate of University of Southern California, is a founding member of the Board of the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools, past chair of the Advisory Board for Teach for America, and is co-chair of a \$165 million capital campaign for the California Science Center. She also established the Cardiovascular Institute at Torrance Memorial Medical Center.

Tony Thurmond, a State Assemblymember since 2014, has sponsored legislation including due process for immigrants, tobacco-free schools, subsidies for early childcare services for low-income families, and transfer of funds from the prison system to schools for truancy reduction programs. Between 2008 and 2012 he served on the West Contra County Unified School Board overseeing truancy prevention programs, supporting school-based mental health programs, and he launched a program called CEO Youth to teach entrepreneurship and life skills to disadvantaged students. Thurmond graduated from Temple University and Bryn Mawr College, receiving dual Masters Degrees in Law and Social Policy and Social Work.

August Meeting Report by Carol Moeller

The 2017-2018 Supreme Court Review

Using [UC Irvine's annual Supreme Court Review](#) moderated by [Rick Hasen](#), Chancellor's Professor, UCI Law, our own PV Democrats' member and **Superior Court Judge Tom Long** elaborated on the following:



Tom Long
Superior Court Judge

> Dean and Jesse H. Choper Distinguished Professor of Law, Berkeley Law, Erwin Chemerinsky lamented that there will no longer be an apparent swing justice. He felt this likely will mean that cases such as **Abood v. Detroit Board of Education**, a 1977 labor law case wherein the Supreme Court upheld 9-0 the right of a union shop to exist in a public workplace, will eventually be overruled.

> **Gill v. Whitford** 9-0 decision, SCOTUS vacated and 7-2 remanded a U.S. district court decision that had struck down a redistricting plan of the Wisconsin state legislature as an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander. Judge Long mentioned principal tactics used in gerrymandering: "**cracking**" (i.e. diluting the voting power of the opposing party's supporters across many districts), "**packing**" (concentrating the opposing party's voting power in one district to reduce their voting power in other districts) and "**stacking**", as in stacking the deck, when district lines are redrawn to make minorities win in as many districts as possible. This last technique is similar to packing but the goal of packing is to concentrate a group to reduce its

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power whereas stacking concentrates a group to increase its power. The justices in this case were unanimous that defendants neglected to show that gerrymandering harmed them personally, so there remains some hope that a better case will result in the abolishment of this practice. Gerrymander prevents **partisan symmetry**, which is the principle that a particular share of the total votes received by a party should translate into a specific number of legislative seats, regardless of which party received that share of the total votes.

> **Trump v. Hawaii (aka Muslim travel ban case)** 5-4 decision – Ignoring the dubious motives Trump made public in his tweets, the conservative majority found that Trump’s travel restriction fell “squarely” within the president’s authority. The court rejected claims that the ban was motivated by religious hostility. Although this court in this very term finally overruled the infamous WW II Korematsu decision that presumed people were dangerous because of their Japanese ancestry, ironically this new contradictory decision presumes some are dangerous because they are from certain Muslim countries. Judge Long urged us to read [Sotomayor’s eloquent dissent](#).

> **Kennedy’s legacy:** In order to get Kennedy’s vote, it was felt some justices tempered their remarks, so now that incentive to shade their opinion is gone. To this argument, Kennedy remarked “I don’t swing; the cases do.” Totenberg remarked that Kennedy took time to make decisions, and didn’t make decisions unless he absolutely had to. Chemerinsky noted Kennedy favored affirmative action, so the new make-up cuts off liberal chances of winning here, and he predicts Roe will be “defeated by 5000 cuts”.

> California Justice Goodwin Liu claims **Roberts’ legacy** will involve political issues

vs judicial ones. He also noted that “the atom of sovereignty is split” and “state courts are still open for business”, so many important decisions will remain in the hands of state courts. Totenberg called Roberts an “incrementalist” and predicted he will swing further to the right, despite his statement that “rights once established won’t be abrogated”.

> **Could the number of justices be increased?** Both the UCI panel and Judge Long indicated this is a possibility, but that might cause an ever-increasing number of SCOTUS justices to be appointed, depending on the party in power.

> **What does the panel see in 5 years?** Summed up best by Chemerinsky “I’m an optimist, but it’s hard to feel anything but pessimism at the moment.”

Supreme Court Review Moderator Speaks to the 66th ADDC

By Carol Moeller

On July 18th, the 66th Assembly District Democratic Council hosted UC Irvine legal scholar **Rick Hasen** to speak. This was fortuitous as Dr. Hasen is the legal scholar who moderated the Supreme Court Review that Judge Tom Long used to help explain the 2017-2018 decisions made by the US Supreme Court.

Aside from numerous books written primarily for students of law, some of Hasen’s recent publications can also be appreciated



Rick Hasen

by laypersons. These books include *Justice of Contradictions*; *Antonin Scalia and the Politics of Disruption*, *The Voting Wars* (wherein he points out the increased difficulty in getting court intervention in cases of apparent voter suppression), and *Plutocrats United: Campaign Money, the Supreme Court, and the Distortion of American Elections*.

Hasen noted three areas most politically problematic: gerrymandering, voter ID laws and lack of oversight in campaign finances. Another discouraging issue he noted: under Roberts, affirmative action is likely on the chopping block.

Trying to give some measure of hope, he did mention the 18-year term limit idea for Supreme Court appointees, changing the way we vote to include ranked choice voting (although this would not allow for write-in votes), and adding Washington DC and Puerto Rico as states.

(Editor’s note: I strongly recommend Dr. Hasen’s highly informative website electionlawblog.org)

PV Dem Teachers Attend NEA Annual Meeting by Stacey Michaels

On the first day of the 2018 NEA Annual Meeting and Representative Assembly (RA) in Minneapolis, NEA President, Lily Eskelsen Garcia used her keynote address to stress the challenges facing educators and public schools. While the climb ahead is steep, she assured the more than 6,000 delegates that a growing army of activists – educators, parents and students – are showing a way forward.

There is something different about this particular moment in our history, Eskelsen Garcia said. “Billionaires, like Betsy DeVoss and Koch Brothers, have never been more embedded in political power. Billionaires are trumping the rights of working people to organize.”

The recent Supreme Court ruling in “Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, case bankrolled by corporate interests, dealt an

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Palos Verdes Democratic Club Members, Megan Crawford and Stacey Michaels served as elected California State Delegates for the National Education Association's 2018 Representative Assembly held in Minneapolis, Minnesota around the 4th of July

undeniable blow to the ability of educators to come together and bargain collectively on behalf of students.

In 2018, educators in West Virginia, Oklahoma, Kentucky, Colorado, Arizona and North Carolina have been speaking up and advocating for their students. In the first for the RA, Eskelsen Garcia then yielded the RA stage to one of the most visible student leaders, David Hogg, recent Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School graduate. "We have been speaking up, mobilizing and standing strong because our friends and family mean the world to us," Hogg told the delegates. "We are young, and that means we don't have to accept the status quo. And we never will. We intend to close the gap between the world as it is and what it should be. Arm educators?" "Yes" said Hogg. "Arm them with books, papers, pencils, computers, and the supplies and resources school staff need to help all students succeed."



Stacey Michaels with fellow NEA Hispanic Caucus members marching in the 'Families Belong Together Minneapolis Rally'

Palos Verdes Club Members, Stacey Michaels and Megan Crawford were elected to represent South Bay public school teachers. Both marched in support of 'Families Belong Together Minneapolis Rally' walking with over 750 fellow California State delegates, as the convention offered opportunities to bring to the forefront these national issues. Stacey Michaels teaches for Los Angeles Unified School District in West Carson and is elected to the Los Angeles County Democratic Party for CA Assembly District #66, and Megan Crawford teaches Science at Redondo Union High School and is running as a candidate for the upcoming Palos Verdes Unified School Board.

Two Events on September 22 By Connie Sullivan

THE WOMEN'S MARCH, SOUTH BAY

The Women's March is coming to the South Bay, thanks to the efforts of our very own Carmen Schaye, president of the local chapter of the National Women's Political Caucus and member of the PV Democrats.

This march is being coordinated with the organizers of the original Women's March of January 21, 2017. **The location is Columbia Park, 4045 190th St., Torrance from 10 am to 2 pm.**

Attendees will hear from Supervisor Janice Hahn, Manhattan Beach Mayor Amy Howorth, NBC legal analyst Lisa Bloom, and others. Congresswoman Waters has been invited, but as of this writing her office hasn't yet confirmed.

Registrar Dean Logan will speak and his office will be registering new voters.

AQMD REFINERY COMMITTEE HEARING

Also on September 22 at 10 am, the AQMD refinery committee will hear from experts and the community about the upcoming Rule 1410 relating to the storage and usage of hydrofluoric acid by the two South Bay refineries that use it (Torrance and Valero in Wilmington).



Many thanks to Nelly & Jim Bertolina, Irene Silver, Rascha Hall, Kathy Bradford plus Carol and Ron Moeller for manning our PV Democrats booth at the RPV July 4th Fair



PV Dems highly successful fundraiser for Al Muratsuchi in Teresa Savo's lovely garden

AL MURATSUCHI

STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER

Join Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom in supporting
Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi
for Reelection!

Tuesday, September 11th
12:30PM - 1:30 PM
Rally, lunch, and volunteer!

Muratsuchi for Assembly HQ
2055 Torrance Blvd, Unit B
Torrance, CA 90501

To RSVP or for more information contact us at
jake@alforassembly.com or (424) 350-8896

The 10 am meeting will take place at the Wilmington Middle School, 1700 Gulf Ave., Wilmington.

If you have concerns about these two refineries' usage of this terrible toxin in our crowded South Bay, please attend this hearing.



Palos Verdes Democrats Officers for 2018-2019

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Newsletter Designer: Ann Nye 310-373-6805

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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

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☐ Voter Registration ☐ Campaign Work ☐ Website/Facebook ☐ Phone Tree