

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



logo by
Paul Conrad

November 2016 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

NOVEMBER MEETING

DATE: Sunday, November 20th

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPICS: CA State Senate Accomplishments;
Is the Affordable Care Act Unraveling?

SPEAKERS: Senator Ben Allen; Shana
Charles, PhD, The ACA

DECEMBER MEETING

NO MEETING in Decemberenjoy the
holidays.

JANUARY MEETING

DATE: Sunday, January 15th

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPIC: An Alternate View of GMOs

SPEAKER: Tony Hale

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Per our bylaws, our board meetings are open to all members in good standing of the PV Democrats. Those interested in attending a board meeting, please contact us at least 1 week before the General Meeting at pvpdems@pvpdemocrats.org for board meeting date, time and place information.

November Membership Meeting

State Senator Ben Allen will be our first speaker. Allen, who was first elected to the 26th state senate district seat in 2014, is completing his first legislative session and has a number of accomplishments under his belt. Some of the bills he authored that were chaptered into law dealt with elections reform, vehicular air pollution, underground gas leaks, theater and dance teacher credentialing, University of California construction contracting, storm water compliance, and more. He's obviously taken on a myriad of issues on behalf of us, his constituents. You'll have a chance to ask him about his record and what he plans to put forth in the coming legislative session.

The second part of our program will deal with healthcare. We've been hearing reports about the unraveling of the Affordable Care Act. Is this great accomplishment of the Obama presidency in peril? We've invited a health care policy professor to answer our questions.

According to the UCLA website "**Shana Alex Charles, PhD, MPP**, joined the Department of Health Sciences at California State University, Fullerton in 2015 after six years as director of the Health Insurance Studies Program and nine years as a senior research scientist at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. Charles's research focuses on discontinuous health insurance, particularly among low-income children, and its impact on access to care, and underinsurance among those with coverage. She also specializes in political issues surrounding health care reform at both the state and the national levels. Her most recent work includes an examination of the differences of access to care between Medi-Cal enrollees and those with private health insurance; an evaluation of the availability of job-based coverage following the first wave

of the Great Recession; and a new conceptual framework of underinsurance that includes access to care.

Charles regularly appears on numerous NPR and other talk radio programs to discuss health care reform issues and their impact, including Take Two, Air Talk, Which Way L.A.?, The Pat Morrison Show, and Money 101. Her work has received national media attention, including NBC Nightly News, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and Politico.com."

Charles received her master's degree in public policy (health and regional development) from the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs and her PhD in health services (health policy) from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

So, please join us for this special program or come for the delicious goodies and the chance to socialize with like-minded Democrats on the Hill.

October Meeting Report by Carol Moeller

**PV League of
Women Voters
Explained the
November 8th
Propositions**



Pat Colby



Arlene Block

A **proposition** is a blanket term for any ballot measure, and can be an initiative or a referendum. An **initiative** refers to a new law or constitutional amendment whereas a **referendum** applies to existing law. One big reason we have so many propositions on the ballot this time is due to record low voter turnout in the 2014 gubernatorial election. Requirements regarding

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petitions stipulate 5% of the total votes for governor in the last election are required to get a statute listed, whereas 8% are required for a constitutional amendment, so our 2014 low voter turnout made it easier for interested parties to get the required signatures. Constitutional amendments require a 2/3 vote, while all others require a simple majority.

The speakers emphasized that the League of Women Voters (LWV) do not research all of the ballot measures, so they confined their comments only to those measures researched by the LWV. For sake of discussion at the meeting, the speakers did not divulge the LWV stand on the measures, but the LWV's recommendations obtained from the web are included, as is information on propositions not discussed.

Prop 51 – School Bonds: Would allow the state to sell \$7B for K-12 and \$2B for community colleges in new bonds for school construction projects. **Democrats (Dems), LWV and Republicans (Reps) recommend a YES vote** (although Gov Brown opposes it because he feels disadvantaged schools should get larger portions). Repayment of the bonds would come from the general fund.

Prop 52 – Medi-Cal funding to hospitals: **Dems and Reps both recommend a YES vote.** Contributing hospital money would insure matching federal Medi-Cal funding. Requires 2/3 voter approval.

Prop 53 – Would require statewide voter approval on Revenue Bond projects (those that are repaid by fees on the project, such as toll roads), so erodes local control. Funded by a Koch-affiliated family in Stockton. Requires 2/3 voter approval. **Dems and the Chamber of Commerce recommend a NO vote,** Reps say YES.

REMEMBER to Vote November 8th

For personal ballot info and Democratic Party Endorsements, go to: <http://www.lacdp.org/endorsements/>

Prop 54 – Would require a 72-hour posting of bills prior to voting so would hamstring last-minute changes that could enable passage of bills. Funded by Charles Munger, Jr. **Dems recommend a NO vote, LWV and the Reps say YES.** Requires 2/3 voter approval.

Prop 55 – Education Protection Act - Would maintain until 2030 the current tax rate on the wealthiest 2% established by Prop 30 that saved our schools in 2012. **Dems and LWV recommend a YES vote,** Reps say NO. Requires 2/3 voter approval.

Prop 56 – Tobacco Tax – Would increase tax on cigarettes, cigars and e-cigarettes by \$2.00/pack. Revenue generated would fund treatment, research and prevention of smoking-related diseases. **Dems and LWV recommend a YES vote,** Reps say NO. Requires 2/3 voter approval.

Prop 57 – Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act – Restores the authority of judges rather than prosecutors to determine whether juveniles should be tried as adults. Also allows nonviolent offenders to gain sentence credits for good behavior, so would help reduce the prison population in compliance with a prison population reduction court order. **Dems and LWV recommend a YES vote,** Reps say NO. Requires 2/3 voter approval.

Prop 58 – English language Proficiency – Removes the “English-only” barriers imposed by Prop 227 (a 1998 initiative) to education and helps the learning of foreign languages by native English-speaking students. **Dems and**

LWV recommend a YES vote, Reps say NO.

Prop 59 – Overturn Citizen’s United – Although the LWV wants Citizen’s United to be overturned, they feel this advisory measure is not the best path to that objective. They prefer to ask a new Supreme Court to revisit this decision. **Dems recommend a YES vote,** Reps and LWV say NO.

Prop 60 – Adult Film Condom Legislation – Condom requirements are currently mandated by CAL/OSHA, but this proposition would allow any individual to file a lawsuit if condoms are not visible in films and could require name and address of actors. **Dems and LWV recommend a NO vote,** Reps say YES

Prop 61 – Prescription Drug Pricing – This would tie the price of drugs for certain Medi-Cal, state employee and prisoner populations (about 5 million people total) to cost no more than what the VA system pays. Drug companies have threatened to raise VA drug prices or not offer some drugs to Veterans at all. Nearly \$15 million has been raised in support of this measure, while Big Pharma has contributed a whopping \$90 million against it. Likely due to veteran worry about the effect on the drugs they need, the **Dems and the LWV have taken no position on this proposition, while Bernie Sanders urges voting YES** and the Reps say NO.

Prop 62 – Abolish the Death Penalty – Repeals the death penalty and substitutes life without the possibility of parole (LWOP). It currently costs about \$55 million to put a person to death, or 18 times what LWOP costs. The death penalty was reinstated in 1978, but since then, of the 900 inmates on death row, only 13 have been put to death. This would save \$150 million/year and put California in agreement with all of Europe and 19 US states. **Dems and LWV recommend a YES vote,** Reps say NO. Los Angeles DA Jackie Lacey is in agreement with the Reps.

Prop 66 – Shortening Death Penalty Appeals – Poorly written measure that would require 400 more attorneys to implement. Likely intended to confuse Prop 62. **Dems and LWV urge NO on 66 and YES on 62.**

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Prop 63 – Safety for All Act – Strengthens gun regulations, prohibits large capacity magazines and requires instant background checks for ammunition purchasers. **Dems and LWV recommend a YES vote**, Reps say NO.

Prop 64 – Control, Regulate and Tax the Adult use of Marijuana – Would legalize reasonable amounts of marijuana for individual use by adults. Estimated tax revenue is over \$1billion/year. **Dems recommend a YES vote**, LWV has no opinion and Reps say NO.

Prop 65 – Sowing Confusion about the Plastic Bag Ban (this title was provided by LWV) – Would eliminate grocers from any benefits from Prop 67 (plastic bag ban). Because the proceeds would go to environmental groups, the Dems are not taking a position on this, but the **LWV votes NO**. This proposition was likely intended primarily to prevent Prop 67 from succeeding.

Prop 67 – Plastic Bag Ban – Maintains the single-use plastic bag ban approved by the voters in 2014. Opposition funded chiefly by out-of-state plastic bag manufacturers. **Dems vote YES**, Reps vote NO, and **LWV urge NO on 65 and YES on 67**.

LA County Measure A - Continues parcel tax

PV Democrats Attend the

Roosevelt Dinner, the Los Angeles County Democratic Party's main fundraiser of the year.

On Sunday, October 23, the Los Angeles County Democratic Party held its annual major fundraiser, the Roosevelt Dinner. Several members of our club attended along with other Democrats from the 66th Assembly District. The honorees this year were Redondo Beach city councilman Bill Brand (second from right in photo) and Susana Medina seated at a separate table.



Carol Moeller in red and Connie Sullivan in the foreground right

Lundquist Fundraiser for Al Muratsuchi a Success

The Melanie and Richard opened their magnificent Palos Verdes Estates home for the sixth time on October 23, in support of Al Muratsuchi's bid to retake the 66th Assembly seat. Many of our PV Democrats attended this event, which was very successful, with 75 people in attendance and raising over \$20,000!



Ben Allen, state senator of the 26th senate district



Al Muratsuchi, candidate for 66th state assembly district



Ann Stahl, Johnny Sight, Teresa Savo, Susie Boone and Carol Moeller



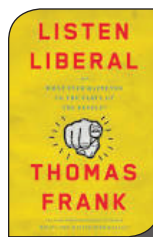
PV Dems member and PVP Library District Trustee Kay Jue & husband Reggie Jue

(about \$20/yr on a 1500 sq ft home) to improve parks, beaches, etc. Requires 2/3 voter approval. **Dems recommend a YES vote**, Reps say NO.

LA County Measure M – Traffic Infrastructure Improvements. Institutes a ½ cent sales tax to fund projects like road repair, bringing the Metro to LAX, earthquake retrofit, etc. Requires 2/3 voter approval. **Dems recommend a YES vote**, Reps say NO.

Book Review: Listen Liberal: Or Whatever Happened to the Party of the People?

By Ron Moeller



After several books excoriating the Republican Party for the messes they have made, **Thomas Frank** in his new book **Listen Liberal** this time takes an inward look at the failings of the Democratic Party. He cites a trend that started back in 1968 with the McGovern Commission and has carried forward ever since. This trend, very gradual at first, shows the Democratic Party turning away from their historic base (the working class and labor unions) and embracing the interests of the professional/managerial class consisting of lawyers, doctors, professors, scientists, and investment bankers. During the Clinton and Obama Administrations, although unions continued to support the Democratic Party, labor had virtually no decision-making position within the party.

From the McGovern Commission to current times, labor has shrunk from about 30% of the

work force to around 6%. Legislation favoring the business/corporate class has resulted in the United States sinking from of the most economically equitable industrialized country to one of the least. Thomas Frank believes that the evolved democrats now believe firmly in meritocracy and individual opportunity and shun the kind of social policies that once both supported and raised the hopes of the working class. In this respect the Democratic Party has moved closer to what the Republicans once represented, but with greater emphasis on education and academic achievement than corporate power and wealth. According to Frank, fundamental to both parties is the belief that individuals rise or fall based on their own abilities and work ethics.

Frank believes that the overarching problem of our times is economic inequality. Over the past forty years both parties have split time in the White House. During that time productivity has skyrocketed and as a result corporations flourished, but working class wages have stagnated.

Frank concludes that the answer to this problem would be a resurgence of solidarity and organized power within the working class, allowing them once again to have a greater voice in government. With the current election we see signs of growing discontent within both parties, and the question is open if the seeds have been sown that will lead to a resurrection of the working class.





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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

**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 _____ I am a registered Democrat
Name* _____ I am a registered Democrat

* Fill in if Applying as a Family - two memberships

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:

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 I might offer my home for a meeting or social event