

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



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Paul Conrad

May 2016 Newsletter

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

COMING EVENTS

Social time: 2pm

MAY MEETING

DATE: Sunday, May 15th

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPICS:

Paying the Freight: The Current Crisis in
Transportation Finance and What to Do
About It

Explaining the Water Replenishment
District

SPEAKERS:

Martin Wachs, PhD, Distinguished
Professor Emeritus, UCLA
Jim Kennedy, WRD candidate, Div 2

JUNE MEETING

DATE: Sunday, June 12th (meeting one
week earlier to avoid Father's Day)

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPIC: *Making a Killing: Guns, Greed, and
the NRA*, a documentary from Brave New
Films

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May Membership Meeting

Paying the Freight: The Current Crisis in Transportation Finance and What to Do About It

Martin Wachs retired as a professor of civil
and environmental engineering and professor
of city and regional planning at UC Berkeley,
where he also served as director of the Institute
of Transportation Studies. Prior to this, he spent
25 years at UCLA, where he served as chairman
of the Department of Urban Planning. He retired
as senior principal researcher and director of the
Transportation, Space and Technology Program
at the RAND Corporation.

Dr. Wachs is the author of 160 articles and four
books on subjects related to relationships
between transportation, land use and air
quality; transportation systems; and the use of
performance measurement in transportation
planning. His research addresses issues of equity
in transportation policy, problems of crime
in public transit systems, and the response of
transportation systems to natural disasters,
including earthquakes. His most recent work
focuses on transportation finance in relation to
planning and policy.

He is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship,
two Rockefeller Foundation Humanities
Fellowships, a UCLA Alumni Association
Distinguished Teaching Award, the Pyke
Johnson Award for the best paper presented
at an annual meeting of the Transportation
Research Board (TRB) and the Carey Award for
service to the TRB.

Explaining the Water Replenishment District (WRD)

The Water Replenishment District manages

groundwater for 43 cities in LA County and
has been designated as part of the California
Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring
(CASGEM) Program, which makes groundwater
information available. **Jim Kennedy, candidate
for WRD Div 2**, helped build community
support for water conservation for the Water
Replenishment District's Groundwater Reliability
Improvement Program. He has been involved in
building community support for public works
projects through policy formulation, project
advocacy, and by facilitating dialogue to expand
public engagement in project development
and implementation. His brief presentation will
describe how our various water agencies all fit
together and will bring us up to date on our
current water situation.

Jim has a background in business development
and has degrees in economics from the London
School of Economics and Political Science and
the College of William & Mary. He has worked on
several local, state, and federal campaigns, served
as a California Democratic Party State Central
Committee Delegate and served on the Board
of the Los Angeles County Young Democrats
from 2005-2007. Since 2007, Jim has been an
active Board member of the Los Angeles League
of Conservation Voters; and in 2014, he joined
the Board of the Friends of Ballona Wetlands. In
addition, Jim has served as a volunteer mediator
in the Dispute Resolution Program of the Los
Angeles City Attorney's Office.

April Meeting Report

by Laura Hines-Jurgen

Al Muratsuchi, endorsed Democratic
Candidate for the 66th Assembly District,
spoke briefly about his upcoming election and

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introduced his campaign manager, Marc Sussman who invited everyone to sign up to help in any way possible on Al's campaign.



Al Muratsuchi, endorsed Democrat candidate for the 66th Assembly District

The first guest speaker was **Judith Mitchell** from the Air Quality and Management District (AQMD) and member of the PV Democrats, explained how the AQMD and the Air Resources Board ensure our air is safe to breathe. The AQMD regulates stationary sources of air pollution and the ARB regulates moving sources, such as cars and trucks. Historically the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors set up the first air pollution regulatory board in 1947.



Judith Mitchell, member of the AQMD

After holding many distinguished positions in the community, Governor Brown appointed Mitchell to a seat on the California Air Resources Board. The California Senate approved her confirmation and she has been serving since 2013.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets overall federal standards and mandates criteria used in processing ozone, silver oxide, carbon monoxide, greenhouse gases and particulate matter.

The next level is State controlled: The California Clean Air Act. The Air Resources Board (ARB), which Mitchell works on is the governing agency that administers California regulations, establishes new policy and decides whether existing policy stands or

gets amended. The cap and trade program is a source of revenue for the state dedicated to reducing greenhouse gases.

Our LA pollution is caused by the basin's geographical conditions: surrounded by mountains; very little rain to wash away dust creating heavy particulate matter. Other major pollution contributors are airports, freeway traffic, oil refineries and shipping trade.

Last year the Governor signed laws to cut the use of petroleum 50% by 2030. And SB 350, which passed in 2015 will double the efficiency of existing buildings and make new construction green efficient by finding new sources of renewable electric energy.

Buses and trucks need to reduce the NOx (sounds like "knocks"), which is one of the primary producers of ozone. Recently the board was able to certify a new lower number of NOx for diesel engine trucks while maintaining engine efficiency. This is credited to natural gas. The low carbon fuel standard requires lowering the intensity of carbon in the fuel 10% by 2020, which the petroleum companies are fighting. Another is how ships reduce pollution with hood technology. This is a practical application, using covers that fit over ship stacks.

The ARB is requiring car manufacturers to produce more electric cars. This program combines rebates with scrap programs to allow more people to purchase electric cars at lower prices.

PV Democrat, **Ann Stahl** spoke on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

Ann is a senior investigator at the Federal Trade Commission and works to protect

consumers financially. Regulations in this area originally referred to anti-trust issues when capitalism was running amuck. In 1938 Congress added Consumer protection to the FTC responsibilities, which involved unfair or deceptive practices such as false advertising, Direct TV, interstate commerce and internet fraud, etc. Today they are working on cell phone charges that were never ordered, the 'national do not call' list, and credit card fraud.



Ann Stahl, FTC Senior Investigator

The FTC administers a number of programs originally mandated by Congress: The Truth in Lending Act compels Lenders to explain the credit transactions buried in the fine print: standardize credit charges; it's an equal credit opportunity act that prohibits discrimination; Fair Credit Billing Act dealing with credit cards (does not apply to debit cards); mortgage lenders; department store credit cards; Fair Debt Collections act, which deals with the harassment of debtors.

In 2010 the Dodd-Frank Regulatory Reform and Consumer Protection Act was a response to the financial crisis created by Republicans in 2007 and 2008 and the Great Recession that followed. The Federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau was the brainchild of Elizabeth Warren in 2007, meant to standardized many financial laws. She brought together 250 consumer, labor, civil rights and activist organizations to form the Americans for Financial Reform, which the FTC folded into the Dodd-Frank Regulatory Reform and Consumer Protection Act. This remedied enforcement problems of existing credit laws, fought at every turn by the GOP, fearing the agency would take regulatory power away from Congress.

[Background History] *Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act was signed into federal law by President Barack Obama on July 21, 2010. Passed as a response to the Great Recession, it brought the most significant changes to financial regulation in the United States since the regulatory reform that followed the Great Depression. The act promotes the financial stability of the United States by improving accountability and transparency in the financial system, to end "too big to fail", to protect the*

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American taxpayer by ending bailouts, to protect consumers from abusive financial services practices. It made changes in the American financial regulatory environment that affect all federal financial regulatory agencies and almost every part of the nation's financial services industry.

FTC was split to share authority with the new Consumer Financial Protection Agency (Dodd-Frank) to enforce the new consumer protection laws. Their duties set up and installed transparency reforms for consumers, who use mortgages, and write regulations when necessary to prevent the possibility of another foreclosure debacle.

The Fair Credit Reporting Agency, and the Fair Debt Collections Agency gives consumers new powers, as these agencies have the power to audit the businesses that consumers complain about and effectively police their offices and inspect their file systems.

New powers include the ability to resolve consumer complaints with companies through these regulating agencies, from investigating the parameters of student debt to elder abuse fraud scams.

New Refurbished PVP Democrats Website

Look at our refurbished website at www.pvpdemocrats.org and be sure to participate in the polls. Use the "Contact us" button to let new webmaster, Reggie Jue, know what you think of the website. If there are any events you want included in the calendar forward the info to him.

County Democratic Party Issues Endorsements in Judicial Races

By Kay Cooperman Jue

For many voters, judicial elections are among the most perplexing portions of the ballot. It can be a challenge to gather information about all the candidates and to determine the appropriate criteria to use when deciding whom to support.

The L.A. County Democratic Party offers a shortcut to voters with its candidate endorsement process. Members of the party's Judicial Interview Committee send a letter of invitation to all candidates for superior court judge along with a detailed questionnaire. The

members then meet with each candidate who is a registered Democrat and who requests endorsement consideration.

The committee presents its endorsement recommendations to the full County Democratic Central Committee, which must take a vote on the recommendations to officially endorse a candidate. A candidate must be approved by 60 percent of those voting to win party endorsement.

Here are the L.A. County Democratic Party's endorsements in the superior court judicial races appearing on the June 7 ballot:

- Office No. 11 - Debra R. Archuleta
- Office No. 42 - No endorsement made (unable to reach consensus)
- Office No. 60 - No endorsement made (candidates did not seek endorsement)
- Office No. 84 - Susan Jung Townsend
- Office No. 120 - No endorsement made (candidates did not seek endorsement)
- Office No. 158 - Kim L. Nguyen
- Office No. 165 - Kathryn Ann Solorzano

Kay, a member of PV Democrats, is co-chair of the county party's Judicial Interview Committee.

Stellar Campaign Kickoff for Al Muratsuchi!

By Carol Moeller

In a packed room on a rainy Saturday, Democratic notables like California State Treasurer John Chiang, Congresswoman Maxine Waters (43rd CD), Congressman Ted Lieu (33rd CD), State Senator Ben Allen (26th SD), Torrance Mayor Pat Furey, other elected officials from around the South Bay, and loyal Democratic Club members gathered to give former California State Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi a rousing campaign kickoff.

With his campaign office headquartered near the PV Peninsula (just behind TGI Friday's on Hawthorne Blvd) at least through June, volunteers from our club will be at a distinct geographical advantage to help put Al back in office where he belongs! You can come and make phone calls Mon through Thurs from 4-8pm and from noon to 4pm on the weekends. Precinct walks take place on Saturdays starting at noon, and Al usually participates on those walks. Visit his website at <http://www.alforassembly.com>.

Voting in the June 7th Primary

By Carol Moeller

With all the voting irregularities happening across the country, double check your party registration status at www.lavote.net. The designation "Independent" no longer applies, and there exists the possibility that those attempting to register using that old designation can inadvertently register for the far-right American Independent party. The designation Decline to State no longer exists either, and those registered under that category are now listed as NPP (No Party Preference). A registered NPP can vote in the California Primary for Democratic candidates (but cannot vote for Republicans). Those registered as NPP who vote by mail should have received a postcard with instructions on how to request the Democratic ballot. In order to vote in the Primary, the last date to register or change registration is May 23.

In honor of Earth Day, save paper and postage and elect to receive an electronic version of your sample ballot at www.lavote.net (click on Voting & Elections and under Voting Options choose Sample Ballot). You can also check out your voter status and even volunteer to become a poll worker at this website.

Palos Verdes Democrats' Slate of Officers

2016-17 officers as submitted by nominating committee members Rascha Hall, Judy Pang and Donna Buttram. We will be voting on the following slate of officers at our May meeting:

- President: Lynne Bommer
- 1st Vice President: Kathy Bradford
- 2nd Vice President: Connie Sullivan
- Recording Secretary: Rascha Hall
- Corresponding Secretary: Arline Korb
- Treasurer: Al Shadbourne
- Parliamentarian: Craig Williams
- Membership: Susie Boone
- Publicity: David Hall
- Newsletter Editor: vacant
- Newsletter Designer: Ann Nye
- Hospitality: Teresa Savo
- Precinct Captains: Connie Sullivan and DeeDee Gonzalez
- LACDP Associate Member: Stacey Michaels
- Webmaster: Reggie Jue
- Mailings: Ron Moeller
- President Emeritus: Carol Moeller



Palos Verdes Democrats Officers for 2015-2016

- President: Carol Moeller 310-541-5526
President Emeritus: Connie Sullivan 310-378-1554
Vice President: Lynn Bommer 310-374-1188
Recording Secretary: Judy Pang 310-375-5783
Corresponding Secretary: Sheila Papayans 310-373-7978
Treasurer: Al Shadbourne 310-326-4953
Parliamentarian: Maria Martinez 310-833-5083
Membership: Susie Boone 310-686-0455
Publicity: David Hall 310-377-7334
Newsletter Editor: Laura Hines-Jurgen 310-544-2424
Hospitality: Teresa Savo 310-541-1139
Precinct Captains: Connie Sullivan 310-378-1554
Dee Dee Gonzalez 210-367-9727
LACDP Associate Member: Stacey Michaels 310-377-0652

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:

- Hospitality Newsletter Membership Publicity Correspondence
 Voter Registration Campaign Work Website/Facebook Phone Tree
 I might offer my home for a meeting or social event