

# Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



## March 2020 Newsletter

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

### COMING EVENTS

**Join us at 2 pm to socialize!**

#### MARCH MEETING

**DATE:** Sunday, Mar 15th

**MEETING TIME:** 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

**TOPICS:** HOMELESSNESS is a State Emergency

**SPEAKERS:** Leonora Camner, Abundant Housing LA, Grace Farwell, SBCCOG, Asm Al Muratsuchi

#### APRIL MEETING

**DATE:** Sunday, Apr 19th

**MEETING TIME:** 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

**TOPIC:** Climate Change

**SPEAKERS:** Frazier Perkins, retired doctor, CA State Senator Ben Allen, and Steve Zuckerman, Clean Power Alliance / RHE Councilmember

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### March General Meeting

**Homelessness is a State Emergency is the theme for our March 15th meeting.**

**Leonora Camner, Managing Director of Abundant Housing LA** will speak about how using smart, data driven planning can help transform Southern California into a place where people can find affordable housing near where they work or where they want to live — without destroying the planet.

**Grace Farwell, Homeless Outreach Director for South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG)** will talk about how they are working with Harbor Interfaith to confront this homelessness emergency.

**CA Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi** will discuss what the state legislature is doing to confront the homelessness emergency and also provide commentary about the March 3rd primary.

### February General Meeting Report

**by Tex Yamada and Ann Nye**

*Historic Moments* was the theme of our February meeting.

### Historic Passage of AB 857 Public Banking Act

**Mark Gonzalez**, Chair of Los Angeles County Democratic Party (LACDP) introduced **Trinity Tran**, co-founder and lead organizer of California Public Banking Alliance (CPBA), to speak on public banking and Assembly Bill 857. However, before relinquishing the podium, Gonzalez pumped us up on the March 3rd Primary Election and described the new voting process. As the

Co-Chair of the Election Protection Committee, he exclaimed our voting is safe and that amazingly Los Angeles County is 1/3 of the CA voting base with 2/3 of voters using vote by mail ballots.



**Mark Gonzalez**  
Chair of LACDP

AB 857, also known as the Public Banking Act, provides a pathway for local governments to form public banks regulated by the CA Department of Business Oversight (DBO). The bill was passed by the California State legislature on September 13, 2019 and signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom on October 2, 2019. Gonzalez serves as District Director to Assemblymember Miguel Santiago, Los Angeles District #53, who co-authored AB 857 with Assemblymember David Chiu, San Francisco District #17.



**Trinity Tran**  
CPBA Co-founder

The only public bank in the U.S. is the Bank of North Dakota, which is 100 years old. Globally, 40% of banks are publically owned. LA County's Public Bank initiative, Measure B, failed to pass a few years ago. But then CPBA, led by Trinity Tran, took it to the state legislature and won this historic vote. CPBA is a coalition of public banking advocacy groups intent on bringing a public banking license bill to the state of California. AB 857 is the result of broad support and work by governmental, educational, labor, business, and various public-interest groups.

Tran explained a public bank is a financial institution with public ownership by a city, county, or joint powers authority. Public banks

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leverage their deposit base and lending power to benefit public interest. The deposit base consists of tax revenue raised and fees collected (parking meters, traffic violations, building permits, etc.) by the municipalities.

In the area of lending, Tran contends, a public bank is likely to be more responsive to local area needs, such as small business loans, public infrastructure projects, affordable housing, rebuilding after wildfires and flooding, and renewable energy projects. Private commercial banks have less to little incentive to invest their assets, derived from local community sources, for the betterment of the local community.

When a public bank is created, it will go through a vetting process. The Public Banking Act requires a public bank to apply for a bank charter from the California Department of Business Oversight (CDBO), using similar guidelines as private commercial banks. Also, public banks will be subject to the regulations set forth by the Brown Act and Public Records Act to ensure transparency and a commitment to the public interest.

In addition to the oversight regulations mentioned above, AB 857 has set up the same guardrails that govern the operation of any private commercial bank in California. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) will oversee the insurance and collateralization of deposits made by public banks.

The Public Banking Act requires a local agency sponsor of a public bank to submit a viability study/business plan, approved by local governing bodies, to the DBO. In the pilot program, no more than two licenses will be issued to public banks each year, up to a maximum of ten licenses, over a period of seven years.

In responding to the question, "What's happening since the bill passed," Tran said cities are moving ahead with their business plan proposals. Some of the banks are expected to be regional and cover multiple cities, like the one for Oakland, Berkeley and San Francisco. Even Los Angeles' plan may include adjacent cities. The Los Angeles consultant's contract is expected to be completed by March 2020. In general, Tran says it takes at least a year before a business plan is submitted. At the end, someone asked, "What do you need from us?" Tran responded

the California Public Banking Alliance (CPBA), is an all volunteer movement and is always in need of technical expertise. Here's their website - [californiapublicbankingalliance.org/](http://californiapublicbankingalliance.org/)

## Schools and Communities First (SCF) Ballot Initiative

**Linda Herman**, representative for the League of Women Voters (LWV), informed us about the Schools and Communities First (SCF) statewide ballot initiative that LWV has been gathering signatures for to include in the November 2020 ballot.



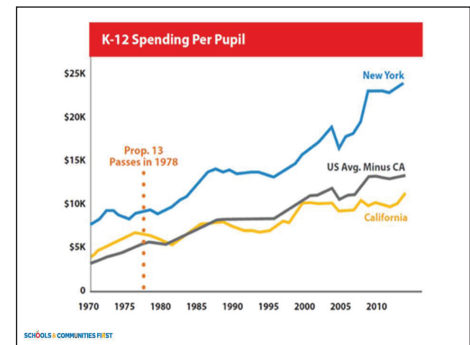
Linda Herman, LWV

Before getting into her presentation, Herman wanted to get the record straight on State Measure 13 on our March 3rd ballot. Measure 13 authorizes a Bond for capital improvements for all public schools. There's been a lot of misinformation that it's related to Proposition 13 that was passed in 1978. They're NOT related. It's just that the Proposition numbers get reused every 20 years and the numbers are randomly chosen.

Herman explained SCF will reclaim roughly \$12 billion annually for our schools and communities by assessing commercial and industrial properties at fair market value and will prevent wealthy investors and big corporations from using a loophole to avoid paying their fair share of property taxes. The initiative protects homeowners and renters by maintaining "tax protection" for residential and agriculture properties and small businesses worth less than \$3 million per year.

According to Herman, the newly generated funding will be distributed to public schools at 40% and to local government at 60%. The public school's distribution will be allocated to K-12 schools at 89% and to Community Colleges at 11%. The funding of local government will be allocated to public transportation, affordable housing/homeless services, health clinics and trauma centers, libraries, parks & recreation, fire department, and first responders, and infrastructure, such as roads and bridges.

Herman illustrated California's lackluster education spending K-12 per pupil with the graph shown below. The top line (blue)

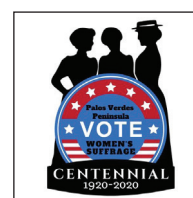


represents New York, the middle line (black) depicts the U.S Average (minus CA), and the bottom line (yellow) represents California. The California line used to be above the national average before Prop 13 passed, but then after almost 10 years it dipped below and has been going down ever since. New York's spending was chosen to show how their spending increased above the national average.

There are a lot of myths about the SCF initiative as Herman illustrated in the chart below.

MYTHS	FACTS
<p>❌ "This is the first step in repealing Prop. 13 and the essential protections for homeowners and businesses."</p>	<p>→ SCF PROTECTS homeowners, renters, and family farms. It also provides new tax relief for small businesses!</p>
<p>❌ "The \$12 billion will only go towards funding pensions and government, not helping students or our communities."</p>	<p>→ SCF revenue will fund schools and local services - with transparency requirements so people know how it's spent.</p>
<p>❌ "With these new taxes on businesses, costs will go up for Californians."</p>	<p>→ Costs of goods and services depend on the market - not how much a corporation pays in property taxes.</p>
<p>❌ "This will cost jobs and force businesses to close down."</p>	<p>→ Most businesses in California already pay their fair share! SCF would affect a handful of very wealthy corporations exploiting the loophole.</p>

Herman claims they've already achieved the 1 million signatures to get the SCF initiative qualified for the November 2020 ballot and it needs 55% of the vote to pass. To help spread the word - go to <https://www.schoolsandcommunitiesfirst.org/>



## PV Library's Women's Suffrage Centennial 2020

**Leticia Polizzi**, Palos Verdes Library Adult Services Manager,

discussed the library's plans to celebrate the historic 100th anniversary of the women's right to vote.

In 1920, the U.S. Congress passed the 19th Amendment, legalizing women's right to

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vote. To honor the Women's Suffrage Centennial, the Library plans to host the Peninsula's Suffrage Reenactment Parade on March 14. The parade walk will start at 10 a.m. at the Peninsula Center Library at 701 Silver Spur Road and walk through the Promenade. Join PV Dems in the parade and check out the details of how you can participate in Rascha Hall's President's Report.



Leticia Polizzi

Besides the parade walk, the Palos Verdes Library will host a series of events celebrating the ratification of the 19th Amendment. During the month of March, guests can attend art exhibits, book lectures, film viewings, and political workshops at locations in the Palos Verdes area. Please visit their website to see all the events, including making your own sash to wear in the parade at Miraleste Library on March 7, 2-4pm - <https://pvld.org/celebrate/ws2020>.

Of special interest is the reception and opening of the "Suffragette" Exhibit at the PV Art Center, March 14, 12-3pm, following the parade. The exhibit will include a photo booth and art activities. Also, a book lecture, featuring Author Susan Ware via Skype, will be held March 11, 10am at the Peninsula Center Library Community Room. Ware will talk about her book, *Why They March: Untold Stories of the Women Who Fought for the Right to Vote*. PV Library is offering a limited number of FREE copies of Susan Ware's book. Reserve your free copy on their website or come to the PV Dems March 15th meeting where we'll be giving away the book as our FREE door prize.

## Announcements

### Sherry Powell, candidate for Superior Court Judge Office #97,

asked for our support and vote in the upcoming March 3rd Primary. Powell, endorsed by the LACDP, believes diversity is our community's greatest strength and should be reflected in our judiciary.



Connie Sullivan, PV Dems 66th ADDC Rep, reminded us she's running for the County Central Committee and gave a shout out to Angelica Scherp and Paul Seo in the audience, who are also running.



## President's Report

By Rascha Hall

I am pleased to announce that our membership continues to grow. We now have 201 members. Our 2nd Vice President, Ann Nye, continues to schedule interesting meetings and attendance has shown that the membership approves. We had 61 attendees at the February meeting; the room was packed. I encourage those of you who haven't been attending, come try us out. We welcome your participation. It feels so good to meet with other Democrats in these depressing times. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday of the month (except for June because that date conflicts with Father's Day and December when no meeting is scheduled).

I also want to remind everyone that the Library is planning to kick off their celebration of the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote with a suffragette march and a reception on Saturday, March 14, beginning at the Peninsula library at 10 a.m. Everyone is encouraged to wear something white. The march is not long. It will go from the library entrance up to the fountain at the Promenade. Come visit Palos Verdes Democrats' table in front of the library entrance. A reception will follow at the Palos Verdes Art Center at the corner of Crenshaw Blvd. and Crestridge Rd.

Remember to continue to check our website for opportunities to help get out the vote -- phone banking, precinct walking, postcard writing -- all volunteers are needed.

Early voting has started in California and primary day is fast approaching. I have voted, have you? No matter who wins the nomination of the Democratic Party next summer, I pledge to vote for that candidate. We must all work hard to get out the vote. The Democrats can't win if the Democrats don't vote.

## Book Review - A Warning

By Anonymous

Reviewed By Carol Moeller

A Warning  
Anonymous

The author of this insider's account is described as "a senior official" in the Trump administration. Descriptions put the author in the room during many of Trump's tirades. Yet he or she states, "For now, if asked, I will strenuously

deny I am the author of this book, including when the president demands we each disavow it. Removing my identity from the equation deprives him of an opportunity to create a distraction. What will he do when there is no person to attack, only an idea?"

The author describes Trump as uninterested in learning anything about the job as President, and unwilling to adapt from a business perspective to that of the head of a government. Trump does not care to understand even the most basic features of his job; for just one example, whatever bubbles to the surface of his disjointed consciousness, no matter what meeting he is in, he will make an imperious command that is completely outside the expertise of one of his minions, and that demand then becomes the responsibility of that unlucky official. He also dictates that briefing papers be reduced to a single bullet point!

His favorite source of news analysis is Fox host Lou Dobbs. Attempts by the "adults in the room" to impose some discipline on the decision-making process in the White House have become "just a wet Band-Aid that wouldn't hold together a gaping wound."

The pivotal moment that weighed larger than all the other inept and dysfunctional aspects of the Trump administration, and that culminated in the writing of this book, was Trump's dissing of John McCain after the Senator's death. Neither the Charlottesville massacre, nor migrant children in cages prompted a book, but the behavior that outraged this Republican enough to write this account, was Trump's disdain for one of their own.

In trying to score conservative political points, one of the final arguments made is that Democrats have an obligation to show "restraint" and not choose a nominee who might make people like Anonymous uncomfortable (i.e. don't nominate progressives). "I believe firmly that whatever benefits we may have gained from individual Trump policies are vastly outweighed by the incalculable damage he has done to the fabric of our republic," the author wrote toward the end of the book. "I cannot overstate the consequences of reelecting Donald Trump."







### Palos Verdes Democrats Officers for 2019-2020

President: Rascha Hall 310-377-7334

President Emeritus: Lynn Bommer 310-374-1188

1st Vice President: Kathy Bradford 310-265-9812

2nd Vice President: Ann Nye 310-373-6805

Recording Secretary: Asha Shahed 310-709-0264

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

Parliamentarian: Carol Moeller 310-541-5526

Newsletter Editor: Tex Yamada 310-329-3694

Newsletter Designer: Ann Nye 310-373-6805

Newsletter Mailings: Ron Moeller 310-541-5526

Hospitality: Nancie Silver 310-941-4501

Web Master: Reggie Jue 310-433-8189

66th ADDC Rep: Connie Sullivan 310-567-2210

## Palos Verdes Democrats

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

[www.pvpdemocrats.org](http://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), and have the opportunity to be elected to the PV Dems board

**Please send your membership form and check 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 registered No Party Preference  
\* Fill in both names if applying as a family - two memberships ☐ 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 **Check payable to: Palos Verdes Democrats**

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

Please contact us to help in the following areas:

☐ Hospitality ☐ Newsletter ☐ Membership ☐ Publicity ☐ Correspondence  
☐ Voter Registration ☐ Campaign Work ☐ Website/Facebook ☐ Annual Picnic Committee