

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



April 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

APRIL MEETING

DATE: Sunday, April 17th

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPICS:

How the AQMD and the ARB Ensure Our Air is Safe to Breathe

Consumer Protection: Five Years After the Wall Street Reform Act

SPEAKERS:

Judith Mitchell, AQMD and ARB

Ann Stahl, Senior Investigator, Federal Trade Commission

MAY MEETING

DATE: Sunday, May 15th

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

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

SPEAKER: Martin Wachs, PhD, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, UCLA

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April Meeting

How the AQMD and the ARB Ensure Our Air is Safe to Breathe

Judith Mitchell is likely the most effective environmentalist in the South Bay. She has served on the Rolling Hills Estates city council since 1999, where she initiated the city's Environmental Advisory Committee, establishing both the George F. Canyon Nature Center and the Chandler Preserve, important habitat preservation sites.

Mitchell was the President of the League of California Cities in 2009, where she served as the chair of the League's Environmental Quality Policy Committee for two years and chair of the League's Climate Change Working Group, which drafted policy guidelines to address the challenges of global warming and greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2010 Mitchell was selected by her peers on the city councils of the western portion of Los Angeles County to serve on the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD). In 2013 she was appointed to serve as the AQMD's liaison to the state's Air Resources Board (ARB). The foregoing is merely a small portion of Mitchell's extensive public service résumé, but it aptly demonstrates why she is the perfect speaker for our April Earth Month meeting. She will describe the work of the AQMD and the ARB and answer any questions you might have for her about these two important boards that are charged with keeping our air clean.

Consumer Protection: Five Years after the Wall Street Reform Act

Five years after President Obama signed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act, how are

consumers faring under the new protections that Elizabeth Warren fought so hard for? Ann Stahl, Senior Investigator, Federal Trade Commission, (and PV Dem club member) will talk about the state of consumer protection being provided by the nation's newest and oldest consumer protection agencies: the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Federal Trade Commission. (ed. note: Although Elizabeth Warren proposed and established the CFPB, her name was removed from consideration for nomination as the bureau's first formal director after Obama administration officials became convinced Warren could not overcome Republican opposition.)



March Meeting Report

by Laura Hines-Jurgen

Motivating young voters

Palos Verdes Peninsula High School (PVPHS) students **Robert Magee, Matthew Doherty and Jonas LeBarillec** (photographer), represented

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Strategoi (www.strategoi.org) a company they started to recruit young voters. They have come up with a strategy of holding events and presenting speakers to attract students who will soon be voting. Their mission is to combat the degradation and inefficiency of our political system, starting with American youth. Their vision is to make the youth of America informed voters and inspire them to vote.

Speaker Robert Magee:
Students generally are low information voters. Social media is used as an outreach to bring political awareness to other students. High school government classes inform students about the rules of government, not about politics. Charismatic people are needed to sway students politically and others are needed to actually get them to vote. The political problems of today will be the problems of our country tomorrow.



Robert Magee
PVPHS Student

Speaker Matt Doherty:
Most high school colleagues are more concerned with their Facebook status than what is about to happen in American politics. They don't fully understand the topics that are being presented to them such as issues like the TPP (trade) deal.



Matt Doherty
PVPHS Student

Pointing out that President Barack Obama rode in on a ticket of hope and change, the last 7 years have been disappointing, particularly to the youth. Students want the majority of people to be represented rather than the

minority. Obama, by nominating a centrist for the Supreme Court, indicates to Doherty that liberals will not be represented.

All the information students need to become informed voters is available on the Internet, and Strategoi is trying to make the searching process easier. They want students to realize they can have a part in solving such problems as too much money in politics. Asked about the disparity in their membership (100 boys, 50 girls), Doherty felt girls don't appear to be as interested in politics.

Immigration

Alicia Molina is running for County Superior Court Judge seat 42 in the June 7th primary. There are those who need a voice to speak for them, and that is what UCLA law school grad Alicia Molina does *Immigration Attorney* and why she is running *running for County* for this judgeship. She *Superior Court Judge* holds Associate Justice of *Seat 42 in June 7th* the Supreme Court, Sonia Sotomayor, in high esteem. Sotomayor said, "We who are privileged to be educated lawyers, have a duty to represent the under privileged in our society, to insure they get both legal and economic justice for all." In practice with her sister who also is an attorney, law firm Molina & Molina focuses on immigration and domestic violence issues, assistance for legal dissolution, child custody, paternity and child visitation cases. Molina often serves pro bono, and she wants to be a judge because even as a child of legal immigrants, she has experienced many of the injustices the people she serves endure. Molina feels she can balance her education as a lawyer with her lived experience, to look at the



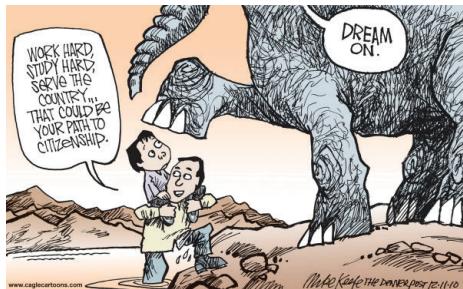
Alicia Molina,
Immigration Attorney

evidence and make fair and balanced decisions.

She spoke about the difficulties adults and their children from Mexico and other Central America countries experience in trying to get legal status as Americans. Why don't they emigrate the legal way? Many are trying, but the system is not helping them. An undocumented person can't always take the time or the gamble to maybe move the process to completion, so they don't apply, they stay undocumented and take the risks of being caught.

The easiest route is through a family member currently living in the U. S. legally. The hardest route is for people over forty years of age who first immigrated illegally, and then apply for citizenship. Anyone who applies who is here illegally gets a ten year ban placed on their citizenship status, must go back to their home country, apply for a waiver (which could take up to two years in the home country), and then wait there for ten years before returning. This applies equally to people from Mexico, China, Africa and the Philippines. The path is faster for Western European immigrants who are Caucasian, educated, hold property and have money.

The Dream Act targets children brought here illegally when they were very young, so don't have a social security number, which is usually needed to get into college. Even if they do manage to graduate from college they can't use their education to help the economy because they can't get a job without documentation.



DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) allows certain eligible undocumented youth to request deferred action and temporary relief from deportation. The **Dream Act** is a legislative proposal that would provide a pathway to citizenship for undocumented youth who have lived in the country continuously prior to the bill's enactment.

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Revival of Proposition 49

By Carol Moeller

In 2014, the legislature approved **Ted Lieu's** SB 1272, which called for an advisory measure to be placed on the November 2014 statewide ballot asking whether Congress should propose an amendment to the Constitution to overturn the Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission Supreme Court decision. Lieu's measure passed and was named Proposition 49. However, after a challenge by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, the California Supreme Court took the unprecedented step of removing Prop 49 from the ballot while they considered whether the legislature had the authority to place advisory questions on the ballot. Since the deliberation process takes time, and since this removal took place in August, this decision effectively served to remove Prop 49 from that 2014 November ballot.

Last January, the Court finally issued its decision and concluded that the legislature could pose this particular advisory question to the voters because it was related to potential federal constitutional amendments. The Court also said that since SB 1272 required the measure to go on the November 2014 ballot, and since that election had passed, the legislature would have to pass another bill to place it on a future ballot. So, just in March, our **Senator Ben Allen** and **Senator Mark Leno** (D – San Francisco) announced their authorship of SB 254 to once again place an advisory measure this time on the November 2016 ballot, urging the United States Congress to overturn the 2010 Citizens United Supreme Court ruling.

How the West Was Shunned

By Carol Moeller

Nationally syndicated columnist Froma Harrop wrote a compelling column entitled "How the West was Shunned in Primary Politics". She asks why is it that every southern state votes before western states even start? Since the Constitution is silent on the specifics of the political nominations, this process is left up to the parties. The presidential primary season is staggered to allow candidates to concentrate their resources in each area of the country one at a time instead of campaigning in every state simultaneously. This results in the primary season usually not being representative of the U.S. electorate as a whole: voters in Iowa, New Hampshire and other less populous states

which traditionally hold their primaries and caucuses in late-January/February have a major impact on the races, while voters in the west, including California and other large states which traditionally hold their primaries later, generally end up having little or no say because the races are frequently over by then. Harrop postulated that having primaries in more conservative states at the beginning tends to favor the status quo in the parties, and thus helps insure party-line continuity.

One possible solution called the American Plan still starts with small primaries, but gradually moves in 10 steps up to larger ones, with the states chosen at random. The idea is that fewer initial primaries, typically in smaller states, would allow more grassroots campaigns to score early successes. A possible negative to this plan is that the randomly chosen states might be geographically far away from each other, creating more difficulties for the campaigns.

Environmental Proponent Tom Steyer, the LACDP and the PV Democrats

By Carol Moeller

For years the LACDP has had a team of volunteers registering voters as Democrats at the Naturalization Ceremonies at the Los Angeles Convention Center. This year LACDP added more resources and personnel to the program using support from **Tom Steyer** and his NextGen Climate environmental foundation.

In addition to helping acquire more materials and hire paid staff, this support also will enable LACDP to contact every newly registered voter there personally after they become Democrats to keep them engaged and informed about the Party and endorsed candidates and measures.

At a chance last-minute opportunity, PV Democrats members Connie Sullivan, Dency Nelson, Al Muratsuchi and Carol and Ron

Moeller had the opportunity to meet with Tom Steyer in March. Hermosa Beach was the chosen venue, likely because they successfully fought Big Oil in that city. The crucial environmental votes cast by **Al Muratsuchi** while in office and the importance of reelecting Al to represent us as Assemblyman in the 66th AD this upcoming election were especially emphasized.

Assembly Bill 700

Our PV Dems membership voted to endorse AB 700 and the board voted to adopt the resolution language below to accompany that endorsement. On the subject of resolutions, President Carol Moeller read the PV Dems' resolution supporting high school climate change literacy (adopted at our Feb general meeting) at the 3/23 PVUSD board meeting.

RESOLUTION in SUPPORT OF AB 700

WHEREAS, the purpose of Assembly Bill 700 (also known as the DISCLOSE Act) is to establish transparency in political ads by requiring:

- ballot measure and candidate ads by outside groups to clearly and unambiguously display their 3 largest funders on the ads themselves
- original donors be identified by their true names instead of hiding behind misleading names or multiple layers
- all donor information be in a readable font and format

AND

WHEREAS, AB 700 endeavors to put a stop to Dark Money supporting political ads

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Palos Verdes Democrats endorses Assembly Bill 700

Do you have something you'd like to donate to our monthly fundraiser drawing; like a plant or memorabilia?

If so, please email Carol at rpvdem@gmail.com.

Palos Verdes
Democrats
Founded 1952



P.O. Box 2234,
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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:

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Voter Registration Campaign Work Website/Facebook Phone Tree

I might offer my home for a meeting or social event