

# Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club

Founded 1952



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Paul Conrad

## October 2013 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

#### OCTOBER MEETING

**DATE:** October 20, 2013

**TIME:** 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Pacific Unitarian Church  
5621 Montemalaga Dr, RPV

**TOPIC:** Three Progressive Issues

**SPEAKERS:** Lindsay Bubar, Brian Flannigan, and Chris Gantner

#### NOVEMBER MEETING

**DATE:** November 17, 2013

**TIME:** 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

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

**TOPIC:** The Affordable Care Act

**SPEAKER:**TBD

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#### October Meeting The Something for Everyone Program

We're going to be treated to a potpourri of progressive speakers at our next meeting on October 20 at the Pacific Unitarian Church.

Our first speaker will be Lindsay Bubar of Emerge CA, a group that is working to elect more women in California. Did you happen to notice what happened in the recent Los Angeles City Council elections? Only one woman now sits on the council. Emerge CA intends to reverse this backwards trend. (You may remember Lindsay in her prior role as Congressman Henry Waxman's campaign manager last year.)

Our second speaker is our very own Brian Flannigan. Brian graduated from Palos Verdes Peninsula High School in 2008 and UCLA in 2012. He currently works at the Los Angeles Environmental Learning Center at the Hyperion plant. He is uniquely qualified to describe this new, exciting venue just up the road from us.

Our third speaker is Dr. Chris Gantner. His topic is "From the Anti-Federalists to the Tea Party, Contemporary Conservatism in Historical Perspective." Dr. Gantner, who specializes in the history of ideas, has taught at UCLA, UCSD and the Claremont Colleges. Online student ratings for Dr. Gantner's classes rate him as very engaging.

Please come and hear from these three great speakers, socialize with like-minded Democrats and enjoy yummy refreshments on October 20.

#### September Meeting Report

By Marta Leipzig

#### Keeping Up With State Senator Ted W. Lieu

District Director Jennifer Zivkovic – one of Senator Ted Lieu's key staff members -- paid an informative visit and brought the Club up to date on Senator Lieu's legislative hot list.

Currently in the spotlight, is SB 1172. Authored by Sen. Lieu, California's landmark law bans the use of "gay conversion therapy" on minors. Good news – after being put on hold due to a legal challenge, the bill was just upheld by a federal appeals court. The August court decision protects children from psychological abuse by unethical treatments, a cause that Senator Lieu strongly advocates.

Additional issues of top priority to Sen. Lieu include:

- SB 209 aiming to eliminate retroactive taxes imposed on California entrepreneurs and angel investors. Sen. Lieu's goal is to undo a court decision that left thousands of California small business owners with unexpected capital gains tax notices at the end of 2012.

- SB 57 increasing the penalty for sex offenders who remove or disable their satellite-linked tracking devices.

- Just signed by Governor Brown, Sen. Lieu's SB 333 provides full restitution to taxpayers from "swatters" – pranksters convicted of reporting false emergencies to 911. The law aims at preventing the expensive and dangerous actions of those whose calls prompt armed response from law enforcement.

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Jennifer Zivkovic, Ted Lieu's District Director at PVP Meeting September 2013

• Investigation and follow up hearings regarding pollution risks from the lead content in aviation fuels

Jennifer thanked the Club for upholding democratic values and emphasized that it's an excellent time to bring legislative proposals forward. She reminded the crowd that Senator Lieu is a dedicated communicator and is easily accessible via email, Twitter and Facebook.

For additional information about Senator Lieu's legislation, visit [www.sd28.senate.ca.gov](http://www.sd28.senate.ca.gov).

### Brad Friedman Fires Away in His Battle for Election Integrity

Not one to mince words, Brad Friedman – fierce political blogger and voting rights warrior – launched his discussion by declaring that “problems with our voting system are worse than anything we’ve experienced in the 50 years since Jim Crow”.

This has been Friedman's mantra for the past decade and is the theme he constantly revisits with new ammunition and fresh observations.

In his spitfire delivery, Friedman hit on his major hot buttons:

• The problematic Diebold electronic voting machines — used by a third of American voters — that can be easily manipulated.

• Polling place photo ID restrictions that have prevented millions of legal voters from casting their ballots most notably in Texas and North Carolina

• Absentee ballots that are susceptible to signature fraud and other types of tampering

• The dangers inherent in online voting. Friedman believes these systems are easy to hack and are fraught with many other flaws.

Friedman's feistiest comments concerned California State Senator Alex

### Obama Speaking about Affordable Care Act Critics September 26, 2013

**“...one state representative called it ‘as destructive to personal and individual liberties as the Fugitive Slave Act.’**

**“Think about that. Affordable health care is worse than a law that lets slaveowners get their runaway slaves back. I mean, these are quotes,” Obama said. “I am not making this stuff up.”**

Padilla, the sponsor of controversial SB 360, Friedman implied that Padilla is misleading the public by touting the measure as allowing counties to develop, own and operate their own voting systems, thereby increasing voter confidence. What Padilla is neglecting to explain, according to Friedman, is that his unprecedented bill would end federal testing of new e-voting systems in California and grant unchecked



Brad Friedman, September 2013 Meeting

power to the California Secretary of State to approve these systems with no testing at all. Padilla happens to be running for California Secretary of State in 2014 and is considered a leading candidate.

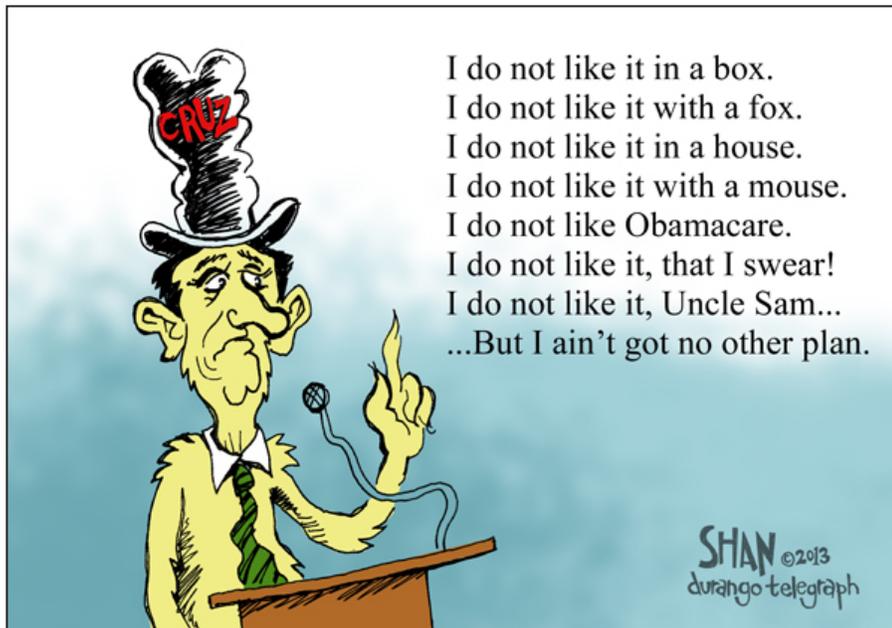
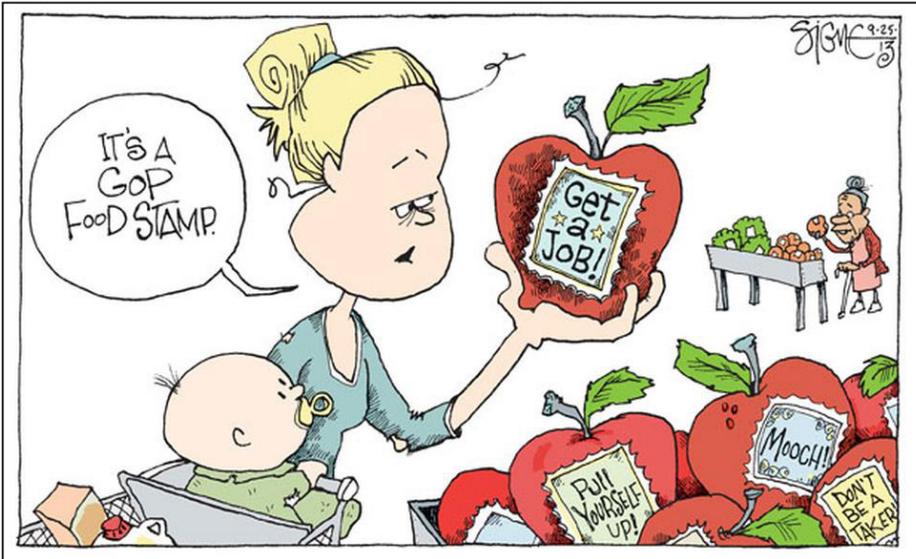
Friedman left no doubt that he feels uneasy about this -- especially since Los Angeles County is currently developing an all new “unverifiable” touch screen voting machine. Under SB 360 the new system could be approved for use in a real election without any independent testing just by having a Secretary of State agree to it. With Padilla in the running for this office, Friedman continues to question the Senator's true motives.

Carolyn Fowler, Co-Chair of the Election Protection Board, Los Angeles County Democratic Party, chimed in from the audience and was invited by Friedman to state her views from his podium. Wanting to reassure the audience, she stated SB 360 was not built in a vacuum by Padilla and that testing is part of the plan. “The Los Angeles County Voting System Assessment Committee actively seeks public feedback and citizen oversight. We know we need to gain your confidence and trust.”

So what can voters do to ensure that their ballots are correctly counted? Connie Sullivan, Club President, entered the discussion and expressed that she, herself, is a promoter of voting by mail and has

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always “felt safe using this method.”

grave concern to our democracy”.

Winding up the discussion, Friedman reminded his highly charged audience to “pay attention, make noise, and do anything you can to ensure your vote is protected. Your confidence in the voting process is of

Visit [www.bradblog.com](http://www.bradblog.com) for more news and commentary from Brad Friedman.

**The Latest From the Los Angeles County Democratic Party**

**by Brian Flannigan**

Held at the United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) headquarters on Wilshire Boulevard on September 10, the LACDP meeting was well-attended and covered a number of timely issues.

Highlights of the session were:

- An endorsement by the LACDP to support all Democrats running in the 66th Assembly District including candidates for the El Camino Community College Board of Trustees, the Torrance School Board, the Hermosa Beach School Board and the Hermosa Beach City Council.

- The review and endorsement of legislation related to fracking, prison overcrowding, gun control, and a Domestic Bill of Rights.

- Voting in favor of two resolutions. One condemned the use of anti-gay and anti-Semitic slurs by Stan Muhammad, a commissioner from the City of Lancaster. The other supported President Obama’s call for diplomatic efforts in Syria and putting Syria’s chemical weapons under international control.

**66th ADDC News**

**By Carol Moeller, 66th ADDC Co-Chair**

The 66th State Assembly district Democratic Council is chartered by the California State Democratic Party (CDP) to support Democrats throughout the Assembly district. Our September 29th meeting will focus on deciding the new members of the Strategic Planning Committee. In an attempt to represent as many people as possible, we have requested at least one committee member from each Democratic club in the district. It will be the Strategic Planning Committee’s goal to determine the master plan for the ADDC. The vision shared by the 66th ADDC is to achieve a majority of democratic representation among appointed and elected local officials. Hopefully we can re-elect our three great Democrats: Congressman Henry Waxman, State Senator Ted Lieu, and Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi.

*The 66th AD is one of 80 California assembly Districts. It currently is represented by Democrat Al Muratsuchi of Torrance. You can follow Assemblymember Muratsuchi at [asmcd.org/members/a66/](http://asmcd.org/members/a66/)*

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 Democratic Club  
 Founded 1952

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# Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club

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[www.pvpdemocrats.org](http://www.pvpdemocrats.org)

As a member of  
 the PVP  
 Democratic Club,  
 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

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