



Active Democrat

General Meeting – Wednesday, August 13

Four More State Propositions To Be Discussed and Voted On



President's Message:

Getting Heard

One of the primary missions of our Club is providing a voice for all the Democrats of

Culver City. One of the ways we attempt to do this is through our General Meetings, especially when we have an issue that will be discussed. Last month we heard about and discussed six of the propositions that will be on the November ballot. After hearing about each proposition and getting some questions answered the members in attendance were able to come to agreement to take positions of five of them. We voted to support Propositions 1,2, and 3 and

oppose Propositions 4 and 8. We also voted to defer the vote on Proposition 10 until this month's meeting.

Additionally we voted to support the Greater Baldwin Hills Alliance and their draft of the proposed Community Standards District. Their work to bring needed regulation to the operations of PXP in the oilfield in Baldwin Hills is crucial considering the possibility of PXP drilling for 1000 new oil wells almost literally in our backyards.

The board and I work to make decisions like these known to the outside world but it's not easy getting heard. That's why your involvement in the Club is so vital. As you know people are influenced by their friends or colleagues much more than almost any other information source. As Democrats you need to be sure you're letting those around you know what the issues are and where you stand on them.

This month we will again be tackling propositions for the November ballot. I hope many of you will be able to attend and participate in the discussions. I count on all of you to get the word out on what the issues are and which position on each is the better choice.

Club Constitutional Amendments:

The text of proposed amendments is needed by the August General meeting.

The Club will be considering amendments to the constitution at our meeting in October. If you have changes you'd like to have considered please provide the text of your proposal to the Club President at a meeting or by email at President@CCDemClub.Org or by regular mail to P.O. Box 4254 Culver City, CA 90231-4254

Monthly General Membership Meeting:

NEW START TIME!
7:00 PM Wednesday,
August 13, 2008

6:45 PM – Refreshments
Rotunda Room

Veterans Memorial Building
4117 Overland Avenue
Corner of Overland Ave. and
Culver Blvd.

What's Inside?

- 2: 4 More State Propositions**
- 3: Obama vs McCain on the Economy**
- 3: Contact the Campaigns**
- 3: Di's Corner**

Club Notes

Sign up to help elect Obama! The Club has sponsored a new group on the Obama campaign website at <http://my.barackobama.com/page/group/CulverCityForObama896>. We will be organizing our Obama campaign efforts through this group. If you want to participate please sign up on the website.

Renew your membership! 2008 dues must be paid to get a ballot at our General Meeting.

Electronic Newsletter: Submit your email address to Info@CCDemClub.org and ask to get the newsletter by email! Save a tree and save our club the postage!

Join the Culver City Peace Vigil: Protest the Iraq war every Friday 5:30 – 6:30 PM across from the Culver Hotel.

August Meeting Sponsor:
Hal Chernes

Comments expressed in the Newsletter are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily represent the position of the Culver City Democratic Club.

Four More State Propositions for November:

There are now twelve propositions that have qualified for the November ballot. At our July meeting we discussed six of them and took positions on five of them while postponing discussion of Proposition 10. At our August meeting we will be discussing and voting on four more propositions. Additional propositions will be discussed at the September general meeting. The following summaries have been excerpted from the California Secretary of State web site. More detailed information is contained on the Secretary of State's web site at <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections>. The positions taken on these propositions by the California Democratic Party (CDP) have also been indicated.

#5 - Nonviolent Offenders. Sentencing, Parole and Rehabilitation. Statute: CDP Position = Yes

Requires State to expand and increase funding and oversight for individualized treatment and rehabilitation programs for nonviolent drug offenders and parolees. Reduces criminal consequences of nonviolent drug offenses by mandating three-tiered probation with treatment and by providing for case dismissal and/or sealing of records after probation. Limits court's authority to incarcerate offenders who violate probation or parole. Shortens parole for most drug offenses, including sales, and for nonviolent property crimes. Creates numerous divisions, boards, commissions, and reporting requirements regarding drug treatment and rehabilitation. Changes certain marijuana misdemeanors to infractions. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Increased state costs that could exceed \$1 billion annually primarily for expanding drug

treatment and rehabilitation programs for offenders in state prisons, on parole, and in the community. Savings to the state that could exceed \$1 billion annually due primarily to reduced prison and parole operating costs. Net savings on a one-time basis on capital outlay costs for prison facilities that could exceed \$2.5 billion. Unknown net fiscal effect on expenditures for county operations and capital outlay

#6 – Police and Law Enforcement Funding. Criminal Penalties and Laws. Statute: CDP Position = No

Requires new state spending on various programs to combat crime and gangs, and to operate prison and parole systems. Increases penalties for several crimes, including violating gang injunctions, using or possessing to sell methamphetamine, or carrying loaded or concealed firearms by certain felons. Eliminates bail for illegal immigrants charged with violent or gang-related felonies, establishes crime for removing or disabling a monitoring device affixed as part of a criminal sentence, and changes evidence rules to allow use of certain hearsay statements as evidence when witnesses are unavailable. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Net state costs likely to exceed a half billion dollars annually primarily for increased funding of criminal justice programs, as well as for increased costs for prison and parole operations. Unknown one-time state capital outlay costs potentially exceeding a half billion dollars for prison facilities. Unknown net fiscal impact for state trial courts, county jails, and other local criminal justice agencies

#9 - Criminal Justice System. Victims' Rights. Parole. Constitutional Amendment and Statute: CDP Position = No

Requires notification to victim and opportunity for input during phases of criminal justice process, including bail, pleas, sentencing and parole.

Establishes victim safety as consideration in determining bail or release on parole. Increases the number of people permitted to attend and testify on behalf of victims at parole hearings. Reduces the number of parole hearings to which prisoners are entitled. Requires that victims receive written notification of their constitutional rights. Establishes timelines and procedures concerning parole revocation hearings. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Unknown potential increases in state prison and county jail operating costs due to provisions restricting early release of inmates. To the extent that any such costs were incurred, they could collectively amount to hundreds of millions of dollars annually. A potential net savings in the low tens of millions of dollars for the administration of parole reviews and revocations if the changes related to parole revocation procedures were not overturned by potential legal challenges.

#11 - Redistricting. Constitutional Amendment and Statute: CDP Position = No

Creates 14-member redistricting commission responsible for drawing new district lines for State Senate, Assembly, and Board of Equalization districts. Requires State Auditor to randomly select commission members from voter applicant pool to create a commission with five members from each of the two largest political parties, and four members unaffiliated with either political party. Requires nine votes to approve final district maps. Establishes standards for drawing new lines, including respecting the geographic integrity of neighborhoods and encouraging geographic compactness. Permits State Legislature to draw lines for congressional districts subject to these standards. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Probably no significant increase in state redistricting costs.

Obama vs McCain on the Economy

by Darryl Cherness, from Information for Union Members.com.

In this article, I will compare and contrast the two candidates on key economic issues. After reviewing these issues, I am confident that you will conclude that Barack Obama is a friend of working people while John McCain is a friend of big business and the wealthy elite.

On labor related issues, Obama supported the Employee Free Choice Act, federal legislation that grants workers the right to join unions free from employer harassment or intimidation. Obama voted in favor of the motion to close debate on the Employee Free Choice Act. McCain not only failed to sponsor this legislation, he voted against the motion to close debate, effectively killing the Employee Free Choice Act. (H.R. 800, Vote #227, 6/26/07)

On another labor issue, protecting striking workers, Obama has opposed replacing striking workers with permanent replacements. McCain voted against ending debate on a bill that would prohibit employers from hiring permanent replacements for striking workers (S55, Vote #189, 7/13/94).

Finally, in regard to labor issues, Obama has supported raising the minimum wage and indexing it to inflation. Obama voted in favor of raising the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour while McCain voted against increasing the minimum wage (SA.44 to S.256, Vote #26, 3/7/05).

On the subject of tax relief for working families, Obama supports a

tax credit of \$500 per individual or \$1,000 per working family. In addition, Obama supports requiring the wealthiest Americans to pay a higher tax rate to finance these tax credits and other federal programs. McCain supports a summer gas tax holiday in which the federal gas tax and the diesel tax would be suspended. He also supports keeping the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy, where the top tax rate was cut from 39.6% to 35.0%, giving the very wealthy a tax windfall.

In regard to the so called summer "tax holiday," this proposal has been denounced by Obama as a "gimmick." The problem with this proposal is that it has no long term effect. The tax relief is limited and temporary. What happens when summer ends? In addition, a cut in the gas tax, even if temporary, would mean that state governments would lose millions of dollars in federal funding for highway improvements necessary for safety and the reduction of traffic congestion.

Another issue of major importance to this year's presidential campaign is trade. Obama wants to amend the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) so that it benefits American workers by including good labor and environmental standards. McCain is a strong supporter of NAFTA, which the AFL-CIO has stated has cost 1 million American jobs from 1993-2004 (Working Families Vote 2008). McCain has made it clear that he does not support amending NAFTA to create stronger labor and environmental standards.

In regard to the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), a free trade agreement that is opposed by the labor movement, Obama voted against it while McCain voted for

CAFTA (S.1307, Vote 170, 6/30/05).

Finally, in regard to protecting homeownership and cracking down on mortgage fraud, Obama supports the creation of a fund to help homeowners refinance their mortgages. The fund would be paid, in part, from increased penalties levied against lenders who act irresponsibly or commit fraud. Obama has also introduced legislation (Stop Fraud Act) that defines mortgage fraud, increases funding for state and local law enforcement, and increases penalties for mortgage fraud.

As for his plan to deal with this problem, McCain said the following: "...there is no substitute for faster economic growth. No government program is a substitute for the jobs provided by a growing economy." (Forbes, March 20, 2008) In other words, McCain's plan is to do nothing for those faced with the loss of their homes or for those who watch while the value of their homes decline. This should hardly come as a surprise to those who may recall that McCain was previously quoted as saying that he did not understand economics.

Contact the Campaigns

Mark Ridley-Thomas for County Board of Supervisors

Campaign Headquarters
2092 W. Jefferson Blvd.
L.A., CA 90018
Tel: (323) 733-2002
Fax: (323) 733-2128
Web: www.ridley-thomas.com

Barack Obama for President

Phone: 866.675.2008
Web: www.barackobama.com

Culver City for Obama

Our club's newly formed group to manage our efforts for the Obama campaign here in Culver City. Sign up at <http://my.barackobama.com/page/group/CulverCityForObama896>

Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

Every year the Los Angeles County Democratic Party chooses from each Assembly District two people a man and woman to be awarded the "Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Democrat of the Year Award" This year it will be held on Sunday August 3 on the Queen Mary in Long Beach in the Grand Salon.

The 47th Assembly District 2008 male and female recipients for the "Democratic Award of the Year" goes to our club members Barbara Honig and the Hon. Herb Wesson. Our congratulations to both of them.

Club member Barbara Rona has been in the hospital and is now home recovering. We wish her a speedy recovery.

