



Active Democrat

General Meeting – Wednesday, September 10
November Election Start-up/Activities
Also Propositions 1A, 7, 9, 11, 12 and Measure R
Plus Reading of Proposed Club Constitutional Amendments



President's Message:

You Must Be The Change

Did you watch it? Did you witness the history being made as Senator Barack Obama officially became

the Democratic Presidential Nominee? Did you hear his story and his agenda for change?

Thursday, August 28, 2008, forty-five years to the day after Martin Luther King delivered his speech at the Civil Rights March in Washington in 1963 we heard from the man who now carries our hopes and dreams forward into the future. His speech was a great start to the Fall Presidential campaign. Yet, everything that has happened up to now has just been the prelude.

Now it's time for all of us to take stock of what is at stake in this election and determine how much we are willing to commit to making sure that a Democrat becomes our next President. However, it's not just about Washington DC. Here in California and Culver City we have plenty to work on with State Propositions to support and oppose, along with supporting Mark Ridley Thomas for the LA County Board of Supervisors and working to support the Community College local measure.

Several of you have already volunteered to help with voter registration, tabling, phone banking,

GOTV efforts and more. I thank all of you who have put in their time and effort so far. We have more opportunities coming up, just check out the last page of the newsletter.

However, many of you have not yet committed to supporting the Club's efforts for this election. In fact many of you receiving this newsletter haven't even renewed your Club dues for 2008.

At our General Meeting this month we will make it easy to get involved. We will have postcards available for you to address to send to your friends and family regarding the Club's positions. Make sure you bring your address book. We will also have computers available so that you can write Letters-to-the-Editor in support of our positions and/or our endorsed candidates, Mark Ridley-Thomas and Barack Obama. Of course we will also have sign-up sheets for those of you who want to do other election activities like tabling, phone banking, precinct walking, etc.

I know we all have obligations and commitments that demand our attention. I know it is hard. Nonetheless, if there was ever a time our club needs your involvement it is now. We need your time and/or financial support if we are going to make a difference in this election. It is time to get fired up. Don't sit this one out. Be the change you seek.

Monthly General Membership Meeting:

7:00 PM Wednesday, September 10, 2008

6:45 PM – Refreshments

Rotunda Room

Veterans Memorial Building

4117 Overland Avenue

Corner of Overland Ave. and Culver Blvd.

What's Inside?

2: Help Elect Mark Ridley-Thomas

2: The Federal Reserve

3: Final Two State Propositions

3: Contact the Campaigns

2: Di's Corner

Club Notes

Volunteer for Tabling:

The club will be tabling to register voters. Various dates and times are available. See "Upcoming Events" on page 4 for more details.

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.

September Meeting Sponsor:

Sally Gardner

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

Help Elect Mark Ridley-Thomas

This November, Democrats across the nation will have the opportunity to chart a new course for our country by electing Sen. Barack Obama as President. As part of this sea change, we have the chance right here in Los Angeles County to elect Sen. Mark Ridley-Thomas to the County Board of Supervisors-Second District.

Senator Ridley-Thomas has a long track record fighting for Democratic values – as a community activist, civic leader, and member of the Los Angeles City Council, State Assembly, and State Senate. On issues ranging from women's rights to expanding school based health centers, from economic development and job creation to crime prevention and voter empowerment, Sen. Ridley-Thomas is a proven leader with progressive values.

Senator Ridley-Thomas has earned the support and endorsement of the LA County Democratic Party, the National Organization of Women, the Sierra Club, Congresswomen Diane E. Watson, Jane Harman and Hilda Solis, Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, Democratic leadership throughout California, LA's Police Chief William Bratton and LA County's teachers, firefighters and nurses among many others.

We will be working hard to elect Senator Ridley-Thomas to the

Board of Supervisors and encourage all of our members to volunteer and donate to his campaign.

For more information on how you can help, please contact Ronnie Jayne, Vice President, Culver City Democratic Club or visit www.MarkRidleyThomas.com for more information.

The Federal Reserve

By Lee Welinsky

The Federal Reserve System was created in 1913 because our economic system would have its highs and lows. The Democrats wanted it to be controlled by the government, but the banks and the Republicans dug in their heels to create a quasi-government system. The purpose and functions of the Federal Reserve Bank include:

Preventing banking panics
To serve as a central bank for the United States

- To strike a balance between private interests of banks and the centralized responsibility of government. (To do this they must supervise and regulate banking institutions)
- Protect the credit rights of consumers
- To manage the nation's money supply through monetary policy such as maximum employment, stable prices, moderate long-term interest rates.
- Maintain the stability of the financial system and containing systemic risk in the

financial markets.

A Board of Governors was established to be responsible for supervising the private banks.

The recent depression was not caused by the Federal Reserve Bank but it made it worse by contracting the money supply per Milton Friedman and agreed to by Ben Bernanke, the present Chair of the Federal Reserve. They did nothing to restrain the banks from their predatory tactics in the present housing crisis. State Attorney-Generals around the country tried to sue the banks but were stopped by the Federal Government. The Green Party as part of their platform wants the government to place the Federal Reserve System under the Secretary of the Treasury.

2008 Club Officers and Committee

Chairs:

President: Greg Valtierra
President@CCDemClub.Org

First Vice President: Ronnie Jayne
FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

Second VP: Laura Stuart
SecondVP@CCDemClub.Org

Treasurer: Eric Fine
Treasurer@CCDemClub.Org

Recording Secretary: Sally Gardner

Corresponding Secretary: Lee Welinsky

Membership Secretary: Diane Rosenberg

Web Editor: Brian Pogue
Webmaster@CCDemClub.Org

Newsletter: Greg Valtierra (Interim)

Publicity: Karlo Silbiger

Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

Club member Ruth Weisman was the recipient of the prestigious "Pat Eastman Volunteer of the Year" award on August 3, 2008 at the Queen Mary site of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party Award night of "Democrat of the Year" And we congratulate her.

"I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: - 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'"

Martin Luther King Jr., Speech at Civil Rights March on Washington, August 28, 1963

Final Two State Propositions for November:

There are now twelve propositions that have qualified for the November ballot, plus a local measure for the Community College District. At our July meeting we took positions on 5 of them. In August we took positions on 3 more along with the Community College Measure. That means we have 4 propositions to take positions on. Summaries of Propositions 9 and 11 have already been published in previous newsletters and discussed at August's meeting. Additionally, Proposition 1 which we voted on at our July meeting has been replaced by proposition 1A due to legal requirements. Proposition 1A may not be finalized until September 18 but we will discuss the current version of the Proposition in anticipation of no further significant changes.

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.

#7 - Renewable Energy Generation. Initiative Statute:

CDP Position = No

- Requires utilities, including government-owned utilities, to generate 20% of their power from renewable energy by 2010, a standard currently applicable only to private electrical corporations.

- Raises requirement for utilities to 40% by 2020 and 50% by 2025.
- Imposes penalties, subject to waiver, for noncompliance.
- Transfers some jurisdiction of regulatory matters from Public Utilities Commission to Energy Commission.
- Fast-tracks approval for new renewable energy plants.
- Requires utilities to sign longer contracts (20 year minimum) to procure renewable energy.
- Creates account to purchase rights-of-way and facilities for the transmission of renewable energy.

Summary of Legislative Analyst's Estimate of Net State and Local Government Fiscal Impact:

Increased state administrative costs of up to \$3.4 million annually for the regulatory activities of the California Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission and the California Public Utilities Commission, paid for by fee revenues.

Unknown impact on state and local government costs and revenues due to the measure's uncertain impact on retail electricity rates. In the short term, the prospects for higher rates—and therefore higher costs, lower sales and income tax revenues, and higher local utility tax revenues—are more likely. In the long term, the impact on electricity rates, and therefore state and local government costs and revenues, is unknown.

#12 - Veterans' Bond Act of 2008:

CDP Position = Not Considered

- This act provides for a bond issue of nine hundred million dollars (\$900,000,000) to provide loans to California veterans to purchase farms and homes.
- Appropriates money from the state General Fund to pay off the bonds, if loan payments from participating veterans are insufficient for that purpose.

Summary of Legislative Analyst's Estimate of Net State and Local Government Fiscal Impact:

Costs of about \$1.8 billion to pay off both the principal (\$900 million) and interest (\$856 million) on the bonds; costs paid by participating veterans. Average payment for principal and interest of about \$59 million per year for 30 years.

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>

