



# Active Democrat

**General Meeting – March 12**

**Judy Alter: Election Integrity – Protecting Our Votes**

**Culver City Democratic Club  
Endorses Candidates for City Council**

# Christopher Armenta & Andrew Weissman

See candidate's statements on page 3



**President's Message:**

## A New Term, A New Spirit

As I begin my second term as President of our Club first let me thank you for the confidence you've shown for me by

electing me to a second term. We had a very successful year in 2007. We ended the year with over 250 members, and a full year of excellent general meetings covering issues as local as the proposed Sepulveda Development and as global as Global Warming. We contacted each of the approximately 7000 Democratic households in our city and registered voters. We had successful (and fun) fundraisers including our silent auction and a comedy night, and more.

This year will challenge us with three upcoming elections both for local and state offices and initiatives and of course the Presidential election. We will be conducting 3 major mailings,

Get Out the Vote efforts, continue to build membership, seek to set up a Presidential campaign office in Culver City, and most importantly activate Democratic and Independent voters. All of these will take significant commitment and resources.

Our biggest challenge will be bringing in new and younger members. To do that I believe we will need to tap into the renewed Democratic spirit I see developing in the young voters through the Presidential race. I'm finally seeing the sense of optimism and hope that's been missing in politics since the 1960's. As a member of Generation X, between the boomers and Generation Y, today's young adults, for most of my life politics has been about division and fear mongering. Let us take advantage of the return of optimism and purpose in politics and work to nourish the renewed

(See New Spirit Page 2)

Monthly General Membership Meeting:  
**7:30 PM Wednesday, March 12, 2008**  
 7:00 PM – Refreshments  
 Rotunda Room  
 Veterans Memorial Building  
 4117 Overland Avenue  
 Corner of Overland Ave. and Culver Blvd.

What's Inside?

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Club Notes

**Seeking a Newsletter Editor:**  
 After doing an excellent job as Editor, Gary Russell has stepped down. Interested in taking charge of our Democratic message? Please send inquiries to the President, Greg Valtierra at [President@CCDemClub.org](mailto:President@CCDemClub.org) or call (310) 204-1338.

**Electronic Newsletter:**  
 Submit your email address to [Info@CCDemClub.org](mailto: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.

**Join the Democratic Club!**  
 Work with other like minded citizens on issues that affect all of us. See the application on the back page.

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

**New Spirit continued:**

Democratic spirit that I hope we are about to see. We must work to make sure that Culver City is part of that renewal.

Toward that end I will be working with our board to reorganize our committee structure to become more issue and project oriented. I intend to conduct a workshop to discuss which issues we should take on and what projects we should undertake. If you are interested in participating in the workshop please contact me at (310) 204-1338 or President@CCDemClub.org. With your involvement we can ensure that the policies and decisions made in our city are expressions of the renewed Democratic spirit.

**Measure W on April Ballot:**

Compiled by Karlo Silbiger

Measure W is on the April ballot to update Culver City's Utility Users' Tax and maintain funding for vital city services. It will:

- Update the existing Telephone and Cable Utility Users' Tax (UUT) to ensure Culver City's laws keep pace with changes in technology, as well as state and federal law.
- Protect funding for vital City services such as police, fire protection and paramedics, street and park maintenance, and tree trimming, among others.
- NOT tax Internet access.
- Continue to allow an exemption for low-income

seniors and the disabled, regardless of age.

- Treat all technologies equally.
- Protect a source of funding which cannot be diverted by the county or state.
- Require independent financial audits to ensure all funds are properly collected and spent.

**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

At our February 13 general meeting we held Candidates night for 5 members of the club who are running for City Council.

The membership voted to endorse two people only. They were Christopher Armenta and Andrew Weissman and we congratulate both of them.

Sunday Feb 24, 2008 the Culver City Democratic Club held its annual Installation Luncheon at the Radisson Hotel for the new 2008 executive board.

We want to thank Ronnie Jayne for doing a wonderful job as Mistress of Ceremonies.

The new board was sworn in by State Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas.

Attending the luncheon were our two endorsed Candidates for City Council. Christopher Armenta and Andrew Weissman

**The Trudy Cherness Active Democrat of the Year Award for 2007 was presented to Tom Camarella and Ronnie Jayne.**

We also awarded Eric Fine a plaque for excellent service as our treasurer since 2005.

“We can perhaps remember, if only for a time, that those who live with us are our brothers, that they share with us the same short moment of life, that they seek, as do we, nothing but the chance to live out their lives in purpose and happiness, winning what satisfaction and fulfillment that they can. Surely this bond of common fate, surely this bond of common goals can begin to teach us something. Surely we can learn at the least, to look around at those of us, our fellow man, and surely we can begin to work a little harder to bind up the wounds among us and to become, in our hearts, brothers and countrymen once again.”

- Robert Kennedy

## Endorsed City Council Candidates' Statements

### Christopher Armenta

VOTE FOR CHRISTOPHER ARMENTA:  
"PROVEN EXPERIENCE & PROVEN RESULTS"

ARMENTA HAS...

...A HISTORY OF COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP:

- Elected City Clerk- 2 terms
- Professional State & Federal Government Financial Expert- 21 years
- Youth Commissioner and Coach, Culver City AYSO Youth Soccer
- State Response and Recovery Earthquake Volunteer

...A TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESS IN OUR CITY:

- Successfully managed a city department and 2 municipal elections
- Made annual budget savings recommendations to the City Council
- Brought transparency to the Clerk's office through greater use of the website
- Ensuring people are heard and accurate records of Council meetings are taken

...A VISION FOR CULVER CITY'S FUTURE:

- Open Government through better use of internet technology, town hall meetings, and public notification
- City Development process that includes early community involvement
- Public Safety and Security through new equipment, community policing, and youth diversion programs
- Increased support for senior & youth centers, and recreational programs
- Implementation of Local Animal Control
- Greening Our City through increased recycling, ballona creek renovation, and building standards

CHRISTOPHER ARMENTA REPRESENTS  
DEMOCRATIC VALUES

PROUDLY ENDORSED BY:

- The Culver City Democratic Club
- The Los Angeles County Democratic Party
- Congresswoman Diane Watson
- State Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas
- State Assembly Majority Leader Karen Bass
- California Board of Equalization Vice Chair Judy Chu
- Culver City Councilmember Gary Silbiger
- Former Culver City Mayors Jim Boulgarides and Albert Vera
- School Board Members Sandra Davis and Steve Gourley
- Former School Board Members Stew Bubar and Barbara Honig
- Culver City Democratic Club President Greg Valtierra and 4 Past Presidents

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

### Andrew Weissman

First, I want to thank the Culver City Democratic Club for endorsing me for City Council. The endorsement means a great deal to me because it comes from people who have long played an important role in our community.

During my more than three decades of service to Culver City, I have worked with many of you. Whether it was during my 20-plus years on the Parks, Civil Service, and Planning Commissions, Chair of the Charter Review Committee, or on the boards of community groups like the YMCA and the Downtown Business Association, you have shared my dedication to continuing to make our city even better.

I am proud to be the only candidate who is endorsed by all 5 current members of the City Council, the Los Angeles County Democratic Party, the Culver City Chamber of Commerce, Culver City Police Officers Association and the Culver City Firefighters Association and of course, the Culver City Democratic Club.

I want all of you to know that a vote for Andy Weissman on April 8 (or earlier for you absentee voters) will be a vote for someone who will provide leadership for this City that comes from understanding the complexity of the challenges we face.

We have sometimes been characterized as a fractured and cranky city. We have become so polarized that it seems that the impulse to harmonize divergent interests has almost vanished. I intend to bring a different attitude and sense of civility to public meetings. Listening is critical. There is no reason to resort to petty insults and name-calling.

Being respectful to all points of view is essential to good government. Leadership requires the desire, creativity and patience to engage in dialogue with those who disagree with you. And to do so respectfully and without being disagreeable.

We need economic growth and development, but not anything and everything a developer wants to build. We need to begin to make developers more accountable for their impacts. On the Planning Commission, I have taken firm stands to assure that development is done right. I have voted to approve projects that I thought were compatible with their neighborhood and I have voted to disapprove projects that I saw as incompatible and wrong. As a member of the City Council, I will continue to fight to protect our quality of life.

With your vote for Andy Weissman on April 8, I hope to continue working hard to improve our community

## **Club's City Council**

### **Endorsements:**

**Christopher  
Armenta  
&  
Andrew  
Weissman**

Renew your membership!  
2008 dues must be paid by  
renewing members before a  
vote to get a ballot at the  
general meeting. New and  
lapsed members must have  
paid dues at least 25 days in  
advance to vote at a meeting.

## **Upcoming Events**

### ► **Saturday, March 22**

#### **Monthly Board Meeting:**

9:00 AM at the Rosenberg's home.  
All members welcome. Call  
Ronnie at (310) 836-7557 or email  
FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

### ► **Tuesday, April 8**

#### **Election Day in Culver City:**

Don't forget to vote for the City  
Council and Measure W.

### ► **Wednesday, April 9**

#### **Monthly General Meeting:**

**County Board of  
Supervisors Forum &  
Endorsement Vote &  
County Central Committee  
Endorsements**

7:30 PM at the Rotunda Room,  
Veterans Memorial Building. All  
members welcome. Call Greg at  
(310) 204-1338 or email  
President@CCDemClub.org

Culver City Democratic Club  
P.O. Box 4254  
Culver City, CA 90231-4254

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### **March 12 - Meeting Program:**

**Judy Alter: Election Integrity  
- Protecting Our Votes**

### **Culver City Democratic Club Application/Renewal Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I declare that all the individuals listed for membership are registered Democrats.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Membership Dues:**

- Member \$30                       Student \$20  
 Supporting Member \$75         Sustaining Member \$125

Additional Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dues may be waived for financial hardship.

Please make your check payable to:

#### **Culver City Democratic Club**

P.O. Box 4254, Culver City, CA 90231-4254

For questions please call Membership Secretary Diane Rosenberg at  
(310) 398-5328

**Please renew for 2008 if you haven't already done so.**

The dues period runs concurrent to the calendar year.

Renewals are due by January 1, 2008.