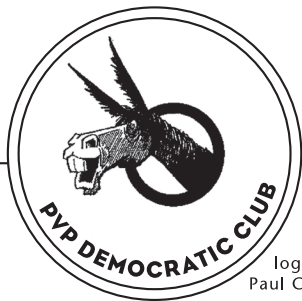


Palos Verdes Peninsula
Democratic Club
Founded 1952



May 2010
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

MAY MEETING:

DAY AND TIME: Sunday May 16, 2:30 -4:30 p.m.
NEW LOCATION: Pacific Unitarian Church, 5621 Montemalaga Drive, RPV
TOPIC: City Government 101 and Congressional candidate Marcy Winograd

JUNE MEETING:

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, June 13, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Condominium clubhouse in Rolling Hills Estates
TOPIC: Summer party potluck!!
Speaker TBA

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Get a Look Inside City Government and Meet Marcy Winograd at May Meeting

Ever wonder what's really going on at city hall? How are decisions made? Who decides what will be funded and what won't? How much money does the city have? What share of your taxes does it get and what does it do with the money? Who's really in charge?

And perhaps of most interest to us: is city government truly non-partisan? Even here on The Hill?

At our May meeting, three local city council members will guide us through City Government 101 and will take our questions.

We'll meet Sunday, May 16, beginning at 2:30 p.m. Please note the change in meeting location: we'll gather at the Pacific Unitarian Church, 5621 Montemalaga Drive in Rancho Palos Verdes.

Also at the May meeting, as requested by a number of our members, we'll hear from Marcy Winograd, running against Rep. Jane Harman on the June 8 primary ballot in the neighboring 36th Congressional District. If you aren't familiar with Marcy, she is a dynamic and thought-provoking speaker who will discuss her campaign and the future of the Democratic Party as she sees it.

On the topic of city government, we'll get an insider's look from three city council members representing two of the four PVP cities.

Tom Long has served on the Rancho Palos Verdes City Council since 2003, when he unseated an incumbent by running on a platform promising tax increases to help fund storm-drain repairs. Before being elected, he served on the city's View Restoration Commission and later, on the Planning Commission, serving as chair of both. Professionally, Tom is a trial lawyer with more than 27 years of experience in complex civil litigation. He earned his undergraduate degree in history and his law degree at Stanford University.

Brian Campbell was just elected to the RPV City Council last November. Brian rose up through the ranks of neighborhood homeowners associations, including serving as president of RPV's Council of Homeowners Associations and the RPV General Plan Update Committee. A former U.S. Army Infantry officer with service in Korea, Brian is the founder and managing partner of BC Urban Commercial, a commercial real estate brokerage, land use and consulting firm. He studied political science and international affairs in France at the University of Caen and economics at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he earned a B.A. degree.

Susan Seamans has served on the Rolling Hills Estates City Council for 17 years. Prior to serving on the council, Suzy was a member of the RHE Planning Commission. Suzy has served in numerous community positions including on the PV Library District Board of Trustees and as a past president of the PV Coordinating Council and the League of Women Voters of PVP – not to mention being a member of our club. She is a former chemist and currently owns an interior design business. Suzy earned her B.S. in chemistry at Duke University.

The cities of Rolling Hills and Palos Verdes Estates declined our invitation.

April Meeting Report
Connie Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

On April 10, 15 South Bay Democratic clubs held a candidates forum featuring Democratic candidates for statewide offices. More than 100 people attended the event held in UFCW Local 770 Labor Auditorium. The event afforded local Democrats the opportunity to hear candidates' messages and to question them about their ideas for moving California forward in these challenging times.

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Janice Hahn, Candidate for LT. Governor

The first to speak was **Jerome Horton**, candidate for the Board of Equalization. He is the incumbent and faces no opposition. Mr. Horton was a 20-year employee of the BOE, rising to the level of Chief Tax Counsel. Earlier this year he launched an initiative to train tax auditors to identify signs of human trafficking when conducting their audits.

Debra Bowen, Secretary of State, is running for re-election. She noted her accomplishments in three areas: voter registration; ability to vote; and accuracy in voting. In terms of ensuring that every registered voter has the ability to vote, Bowen described trips she took to Iraq and Afghanistan to see if California's military men and women faced any impediments to voting. She discovered that the Pentagon provides the troops with a 500-page book from which to find their state's information and ballots. She is working with the Pentagon to change this for California service men and women.

The next candidate for statewide office to speak was **Tom Torlakson**, candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction. Torlakson has an extensive seven-point plan that can be viewed at <http://www.tomtorlakson.com/> issues. He wants to restore California schools to



Dave Jones - Candidate for State Insurance Commissioner



Debra Bowen, seeking re-election for Secretary of State

their former pre-eminence. A member of the PV Dems, Darlene Loiler, a former teacher, told Torlakson the state's schools declined after Proposition 13 passed. Mr. Torlakson agreed and stated local control had been undermined by that initiative. He spoke further of AB 656 that would impose a 9.9% oil severance tax that would fund higher education.

Torlakson went on to say that some charter schools are not performing well and all are robbing neighborhood schools of funding.



Ted Lieu, Candidate for Attorney General

The last initiative Torlakson mentioned was one dealing with his green schools plan to teach kids to install solar panels and to enter the green jobs market.

Janice Hahn, candidate for Lieutenant Governor, spoke next. She began by saying the state is going in the wrong direction. She promised to be an advocate for people, kids and coastal waters.

Hahn took a question from the audience dealing with the State Lands Commission (the Lt. Governor serves as chairman of this commission) that is responsible for spending port revenue. She would spend more to mitigate negative impacts of cargo-related pollution. According to Hahn pollution was responsible for 350,000 lost school days.

Hahn pledged to attend the Board of Regents of the University of California meetings (a reference to poor attendance by past Lt. Governors) and to roll back tuition increases.

Asked why she is more qualified to be Lt. Governor than Gavin Newsom, she said she participates in governing a city of 4 million people, compared with San Francisco's 800,000; the position fits her background and experience and the position is not a consolation prize for her. Hahn says she actually wants to serve as Lieutenant Governor. She pointed out this is not a forced move to another position. She is not terming out of her current position for three more years.

Next, the audience heard from three of seven candidates for Attorney General. **Chris Kelly**, is an attorney who has worked primarily for technology companies, most notably Facebook. He feels his background provides him superior experience to combat crimes of the 21st century, such as identity theft and online sexual predation, and gives him the ability to deliver innovation.

Another candidate that spoke to the group was **Ted Lieu**, Assembly member from

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Torrance. He began by talking about his family's immigrant experience, his education at Stanford and Georgetown, followed by military reserves and his current work as a military prosecutor. Information on his positions can be found at www.tedlieu.com. Lieu feels the Attorney General's office is the place to uphold Democratic values. **Pedro Nava** was the third candidate for this position to speak to the group. He is a former Assembly member from the Central Valley.

Next, the group heard from two candidates for Insurance Commissioner, **Hector de la Torre**, Assembly member from Southgate and **Dave Jones**, a State Senator. De la Torre spoke of his record fighting corruption and then launched into his plans for Insurance Commissioner – to implement the new healthcare reform statewide, make earthquake insurance affordable and re-visit Prop 103. Dave Jones emphasized consumer protection from an industry that takes our money but doesn't provide a product when we need it.

The final candidate was **Peter Schurman**, who is running for Governor. Schurman is the founding executive director of MoveOn.org. More information about Schurman can be found at peter4gov.org. He wants to raise revenues from those not paying their fair share – corporations. He advocates removing the 2/3 rule for both passing the budget and for raising revenues (taxes).

June 8 Primary Election: For Your Information
By Kay Cooperman Jue
Club President and State Delegate

The state Democratic Party held its annual convention last month at the L.A. Convention Center and the JW Marriott Hotel at LA LIVE.

Among the items of business addressed at the convention were endorsements of candidates and ballot measures.

For your information, here are the official endorsements of the California Democratic Party:

- U.S. Senate, Barbara Boxer
- Governor, Jerry Brown
- Secretary of State, Debra Bowen
- Controller, John Chiang
- Treasurer, Bill Lockyer
- Insurance Commissioner, Dave Jones

Candidates for state attorney general chose not to seek a party endorsement. There was no endorsement for the state Board of Equalization District 3, which includes PVP.

Only two statewide races actually went to a vote during the convention:

- State insurance commissioner – between Hector De La Torre and Dave Jones; Jones won.
- Lieutenant governor – between Janice Hahn and Gavin Newsom. No endorsement was made in this race because neither candidate received 60 percent of the delegates' votes as required for endorsement.

Locally, incumbent Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal received the Party's endorsement for the 54th Assembly District; Lowenthal is running unopposed in the primary.

And candidate Ken Arnold received the Party's endorsement for the 46th Congressional District; Arnold is running against candidate Jay Shah in the primary.

The Party has taken the following positions on the five propositions appearing on the June 8 ballot:

Yes on Prop. 13, Limits on Property Tax Assessment. Seismic Retrofitting of Existing Buildings. Should the California Constitution be amended to provide that all earthquake safety upgrades be exempt from property tax reassessment until the property is sold?

No on Prop. 14, Elections. Increases Right to Participate in Primary Elections. Should the California Constitution be amended to require that all candidates for statewide or congressional office run in a single primary open to all registered voters, with only the top two vote-getters, regardless of their political party preference, advancing to the general election?

Yes on Prop. 15, California Fair Elections Act. Should California lift the ban on public funding of political campaigns and establish public funding for Secretary of State candidates in the 2014 and 2018 elections?

No on Prop. 16, Imposes New Two-Thirds Voter Approval Requirement for Local Public Electricity Providers. Should the California Constitution be amended to require two-thirds voter approval before local governments can start up or expand electric service?

No on Prop. 17, Allows Auto Insurance Companies to Base Their Prices in Part on a Driver's History of Insurance Coverage. Should insurance companies be permitted to reduce or increase the cost of auto insurance depending on whether a driver has a history of continuous insurance coverage?

By the way, at least three of our members worked as volunteers at the convention. A big thank you to them! Three of us were delegates, while a few others attended as observers.

Also last month, the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee voted on which judicial candidates to endorse in the June 8 primary election. Here are the results of that vote:

- Office No. 28, Mark Ameli
- Office No. 35, incumbent Judge Soussan Bruguera
- Office No. 107, Valerie Salkin
- Office No. 117, Alan Schneider
- Office No. 131, incumbent Judge Maren Nelson.

Candidates running for Judicial Office No. 73 did not seek a county Democratic Party endorsement.

Personal note, I served on the County Party's Judicial Interview Committee, which met with all of the candidates and recommended which should be endorsed. I think the endorsed candidates are all excellent.

Club Involvement Opportunity

Here's a chance for you to get more involved in your Democratic Club.

The second vice president position on the club's board of directors has opened up and we're looking for volunteers to fill it.

The member holding this position will play a leadership role in planning the programs for our monthly membership meetings – with assistance from the president and the rest of the board.

If you like to plan events, if you have ideas for programs or speakers or would like to play a larger role in setting the direction of the club, this is an ideal position for you.

The term of office runs through June 2011. All club officers are asked to attend board meetings, currently held on the Tuesday evening immediately following the club's monthly membership meeting.

Think about it! Take a chance! Contact Club President Kay Cooperman Jue to volunteer or for more information – pvedem@yahoo.com or (310) 377-3512.

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 Treasurer: Jerry Parker 310 377-7833
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 Recording Secretary: Mary Meade - 310 377-6108
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 1st V: Hans Grellmann 310 373-3066
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PVPDC Officers for 2010 Contact Info



P.O. Box 2234,
 Rolling Hills Est. Ca 90274

Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club
 Founded 1952

Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club

Founded in 1952 - One of the oldest and largest Democratic Clubs in California

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

Name _____ I am a registered Democrat
 Name* _____ I am a registered Democrat

* Fill in if Applying as a Family - 2 memberships

Residence Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ Zip _____ Cell _____

Mailing Address _____

(If different from residence)

City _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

*Select One: Individual: \$ 20.00/Year Family Membership \$30.00/Year
 Young Adult \$10.00/Year

Amount enclosed _____ Renewal New Member

Please contact me to help in the following areas:

- Hospitality Newsletter Membership Publicity Correspondence
 Voter Registration Campaign Work Website/Facebook Phone Tree
 I might offer my home for a meeting or social event