



December Newsletter

2023

Welcome to Our First Newsletter!

If you missed our holiday card email last week, see it here on the right-hand side.

Want to submit a piece for a future newsletter? Click the button below to visit the submission link.

Write for CCDU's Next Newsletter!

Newsletter Submissions are due the first of each month.

Submissions will be selected one week before our monthly meeting.

Authors will be notified if their submission is chosen.

Newsletters will be published the Tuesday before our monthly meetings.

Meeting Reminder - Tomorrow, December 13, 2023

Please join us on the evening of Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. for our monthly meeting!

Agenda:

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks from President Eric Rudin;
2. Approval of Minutes from November 8, 2023 CCDU Meeting;
3. Report from Treasurer Judy Scott;
4. Report from VP of Membership Ron Ostrin;



Whether you're lighting candles on your menorah tonight, sitting around the Christmas tree in a few weeks, lighting candles on your Kinara through the New Year, or watching the Rose Parade on New Year's Day, Culver City Democrats United wishes you the best this holiday season.

5. Special Guest Speaker: **Senator Toni Atkins**, *President pro Tem of the California State Senate*;
6. Candidates for Los Angeles County District Attorney;
7. Bylaws Amendment as Proposed November 2023;
8. Announcements;
9. Items from the Floor;
10. Adjournment.

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86858894560?pwd=SmZhd3MzRIJ2cGJ2aHFESldSNkxXZz09>

Meeting ID: 868 5889 4560

Passcode: 626064

President's Message

WALKING AND CHEWING GUM FOR 2024

Dear Fellow Culver City Democrats United Members and Supporters,

Please, bear with me through this first paragraph. You may or may not have noticed but last month there was no message from me. The reason, as I mentioned in last month's meeting, was that I had written roughly 3,000 words about October 7 and the antisemitism that has erupted worldwide. I realized, with some help, that the message was more of a personal missive than one I should be delivering as your President. A month later, unfortunately, October 7 and antisemitism consume me constantly. It's hard to focus on anything else when, as a Jew, what is going on right now vis-à-vis antisemitism makes everything else seem miniscule by comparison. How am I supposed to put time into other government issues when we have so many people accusing Israel and Jews of genocide? Not only is the accusation factually inaccurate, but it is a disgusting accusation given that October 7 was the worst day for Jews since the Holocaust. But then I realized that I have to practice what I preach. I must be able to walk and chew gum at the same time politically. Two things happened that made me able to write about anything other than October 7 this month.

The first thing that happened was that as the school year has gone on, my daughter's CCUSD elementary school has been having more and more opportunities for parental engagement. While trying to fight off [antisemitism at the District level](#) has been onerous and is ongoing, I know you may find this shocking, but there are other things that go on at our local schools. I recently got involved in our school's Site Council and it has been quite invigorating. Instead of politics as usual, we're talking about things like fixing broken basketball hoops, creating an outdoor learning space currently occupied by rocks that serve no purpose, and STEM teaching tools that we need to pay for somehow so that our children can use them.

Suddenly, my energy and thoughts were going toward something positive instead of playing what has felt like months of perpetual defense in our community and on social media. I am not saying that fighting against antisemitism is something that I am abandoning or that I don't find it of the utmost importance, but rather, that there are other pressing matters requiring our attention as well. Moreover, some of those pressing matters can feel good to work on because doing so usually involves working together with people who have the same goals in mind. In the case of my daughter's school, making our school a better place for our children and staff is all that is on our minds.

The second thing that happened to make me realize that I can't be all antisemitism all the time was Ms. Kate Cox. Her plight, her case, and all that is encapsulated by her fight has me angrier and more vigilant that I can remember being in some time. For some context, Kate Cox is a woman who lives in

the Dallas area of Texas. She is a pregnant mother of two and was informed by doctors last week, nearing the 20-week mark of her pregnancy, that her baby was diagnosed with fatal disorder that would result in her baby dying either shortly before or after being born. If that wasn't enough, Ms. Cox also found out that if she did not have an abortion, should would be at risk of severe complications that threatened both her future fertility and possibly her life.

Now that *Roe v. Wade* has been overturned and our country has reverted 50 plus years, Ms. Cox had to get an emergency court order allowing her to have the necessary abortion. Amazingly, the lower court judge in Texas issued an order allowing Ms. Fox to have the abortion. The judge reasoned that "[t]he idea that Ms. Cox wants desperately to be a parent, and this law might actually cause her to lose that ability is shocking and would be a genuine miscarriage of justice." Amen. Sadly, the story doesn't end there.

The office of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton weighed in, issuing a statement saying that the judge's ruling "will not insulate hospitals, doctors, or anyone else, from civil and criminal liability for violating Texas' abortion laws." Let me see if I understand this. Being against abortion is purportedly a "pro-life" position per the anti-abortion position holders. However, in this case, not only does the fetus have no chance of survival but forcing Ms. Cox to carry the pregnancy to term will force the fetus to suffer, endanger the future fertility of Ms. Cox, and put her own life at risk. How is that pro-life in any sense of the term?

Thereafter, and accordingly for an all-Republican panel of judges, the Texas Supreme Court temporarily stayed the lower court ruling this past Friday evening, prohibiting Ms. Cox from obtaining the healthcare she so desperately needs. While the case will play out in Texas and possibly the United States Supreme Court, Ms. Cox does not have the time to wait for justice, or, in this case, injustice to prevail. She needs life-saving healthcare immediately. According to Nancy Northrup, CEO at the Center of Reproductive Rights, Ms. Cox's "health is on the line. She's been in and out of emergency rooms and she couldn't wait any longer." As such, she was forced to flee the state to obtain necessary and life-saving healthcare, as painful as this all is for Ms. Cox.

Take a look at where our country is and why Ms. Cox, and so many others, need us to walk and chew gum at the same time politically. And please, don't forget for a second about how we got here. In 2016, Hillary Clinton lost to Donald Trump in a Presidential election for many reasons. Two of those reasons were as follows: 1) People who were able to vote decided to not abide by their civic duty and stayed home rather than voting; and 2) People who wrote-in protest votes rather than voting for Hillary Clinton. The result? Justice Gorsuch, Justice Kavanaugh, and Justice Coney Barrett.

We cannot afford to make the same mistake twice. Too many people in the United States are already losing Constitutional rights because of the mistakes of 2016. And in case you didn't notice, Former President Donald Trump is running for the Presidency again and promising to be an even more destructive force than he was from 2016-2020. Right now, we're watching people who oppose President Biden's position on Israel say that they are going to "be silent in November of 2024." What's the point of that? So we can see just how inhumane Muslim Ban 2.0 will be?

I could go on, but you get the point. Elections have consequences. At a national level, we are voting to choose between democracy and autocracy. Here in Culver City, we will be voting on many issues as well, including whether we arbitrarily lose 50% of our police force as one candidate has already committed to reducing the CCPD budget by that amount. I know it's easy to focus only on an issue or issues that mean so much to us, especially when those issues are front and center every day. My Twitter feed since October 7 is a good example of that folly. However, we must stay disciplined, resolute, and do our duty as citizens by educating ourselves and our communities on what is at stake in 2024 and then getting out there and voting. It is not always easy, but I'm going to do my best to walk and chew gum at the same time as your President going forward and I encourage all of us to do the same.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. G. Barrett', written in a cursive style.

Joe Biden's Record of Achievement

By Darryl Cherness

Joe Biden has been an outstanding President whose record of achievement has been truly impressive. During his tenure in office, 13,000,000 jobs have been created, unemployment stands at 3.9%, one of the lowest rates of unemployment in the last 50 years; and wages are up, even adjusted for inflation.

In addition to the previously mentioned achievements, Joe Biden has steered more legislation through Congress than any President in recent years including the American Rescue Plan, the Pact Act, the Chips Act, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and the Inflation Reduction Act!

While I do not have the space to do an in-depth review of each of these laws, I would like to discuss two of these laws: the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Act provides \$1.2 trillion over 8 years and focuses on roads, bridges, railways, water, sewage, broadband, and electric vehicles. This legislation will create 2 million good-paying jobs!

The Inflation Reduction Act invests \$369 billion in energy security and climate change. In addition, it allows Medicare to negotiate drug prices with pharmaceutical companies, caps the amount Medicare recipients pay for prescription drugs to \$2,000 per year, and lowers the cost of Insulin to \$35.00 per month!

While the president's achievements are truly significant, most Americans are unaware of what he has accomplished. The press' fixation on negativity is partly to blame. It is up to loyal Democrats, like the members of this club, to spread the word. From now until election day, let your friends,

The Most Interesting Election You Have Never Heard Of

By Darrel Menthe
Endorsement Vice President

In the March 5, 2024, Primary Ballot, there will be an election for "Member of the Central Committee, 55th Assembly District, Democratic Party." This is informally known as LACDP Central Committee (Los Angeles County Democratic Party Central Committee). Each of the registered political parties in California is entitled to form a Central Committee whose members are elected every four years on the presidential primary ballot. The LACDP Central Committee meets monthly and is the general organizing body of the LACDP. This club is chartered by the LACDP and its charter must continue to be approved by the LACDP Central Committee regularly.

Each LACDP Central Committee member may also appoint an alternate who may participate in the meetings, but an alternate delegate may vote only when the voting member is absent. There are approximately 800 regular and alternate members of the LACDP Central Committee. Ultimately, the LACDP Central Committee determines who may be endorsed by the Los Angeles County Democratic Party. The election of members from the 55th Assembly District is consequential although not determinative of the outcome of any particular endorsement process. On the March 2024 ballot, there are sixteen candidates for LACDP Central Committee. The seven of those candidates with the most votes will be elected to the LACDP Central Committee. Below is the list of the candidates. Members of CCDU are indicated with an asterisk. If CCDU determines to endorse candidates, I will be recused from that process.

1. Mary Grace Barrios
2. Jasymne Cannick
3. Lindsay Carlson* [incumbent]
4. Vilma Dawson [incumbent]
5. Ilissa Gold
6. Darrel Menthe*
7. Aaron Ordower
8. Leah Pressman
9. Freddy Puza
10. Sara Roos [incumbent]
11. Joe Rose*
12. Rosa M. Russell [incumbent]
13. Jeff Schwartz

neighbors, coworkers, and relatives know what Joe Biden has accomplished. Working together, we can reelect Joe Biden as president next November!

14. Pamela Sparrow
15. Cristian Tafoya
16. Jimmie Woods-Gray* [incumbent]

Culver City - Happening This Month

DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE 12/13/2023

6:30 PM

Senior Center Room C75 & C77

FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE 12/13/2023 **CANCELLED**

PLANNING COMMISSION

12/13/2023 **CANCELLED**

CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION 12/19/2023

7:00 PM

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION 1/3/2024

7:00 PM

Mike Balkman Council Chambers 9770 Culver Blvd Culver City, CA 90232

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

1/8/2024

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting of the City Council, Successor Agency to the Culver City Redevelopment Agency Board, Culver City Parking Authority, Redevelopment Financing Authority, and Culver City Housing Authority Board Meeting

PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

1/9/2024

7:00 PM

Interested in playing a bigger role in the newsletter?

Email eli@culvercitydems.com

Email our Communications VP