



MARCH NEWSLETTER

IN-PERSON Meeting: TOMORROW, Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Please join us tomorrow evening: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. for our monthly meeting, IN-PERSON at 33 Taps in Downtown Culver City.

We will hold an informal, condensed version of our normal monthly membership meeting, with special guest speaker, **CCUSD School Board Member Lindsay Carlson!**

Meeting Information:

Tuesday, March 18, 2025 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Meeting will be called to order @ 7:00pm

Guest speaker: CCUSD School Board Member, Lindsay Carlson

33 Taps

9739 Culver Blvd.

Culver City, CA. 90232

Membership Renewal

Your involvement is crucial as we continue our efforts to advocate for transformative policies and engage our community. By renewing your membership, you ensure that your voice remains part of the important conversations shaping our future.

To renew your membership, please visit this link:

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/ccdu2025members> and select your desired membership level. Remember, if you choose to become a Sustaining Member, simply check the "Make it monthly!" option and enter any amount of \$20 or more.

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GETTING INVOLVED IN THE CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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CCDU Candidates Prevail in ADEMs Elections

In the California Democratic Party, Assembly District Election Meetings (ADEMs) to elect delegates happen every two years. CCDU supported a slate of fourteen ADEMs candidates for Assembly District 55 called AD55 United. All fourteen won handily, establishing a clear voice for CCDU in the California Democratic Party and AD55. Five of the fourteen newly elected Democrats are CCDU members: Lindsay Carlson, Jay Greenstein, Kimberly Griffin, Darrel Menthe, and Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin. Keep in mind that AD55 has over 500,000 residents, of which Culver City is just 40,000. This is a big win for grassroots Democratic organizing in our district, and I expect our elected officials will take note.

Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin was also elected in this process to the Executive Board of the California Democratic Party as part of this election. By virtue of that office, she will have a vote on the Los Angeles County Democratic Party (LACDP) endorsements panel for AD55 in 2026, which includes Culver City. These endorsement panels usually have around a dozen voting members, so this is a key role for Wisnosky Stehlin in our local party.

AD 55 UNITED **VOTE** AD55 UNITED FOR DEMOCRACY!

Elect your 14 delegates to represent you in the California Democratic Party!

 JEANNINE WISNOSKY STEHLIN	 CRISTIAN TAFOYA	 ANDREW DEBLOCK	 ANA CARRION	 THUY HUYNH	 KEVIN LIAO	 DARREL MENTHE	 LINDSAY CARLSON	 ALLEN JAY ZIPPER	 JAY DAVID GREENSTEIN	 CONNIE THOMAS	 PAMELA BETH GREENSTEIN	 CARLOS (CHARLIE) VALVERDE	 KIMBERLY GRIFFIN
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How Our Democratic Party is Structured

The Democratic Party is organized at the Federal, State, and County level throughout the United States. Within a complicated Federal system of government, the Democratic Party seeks to balance local, state, and Federal input and voices. Direct voter input to the party is usually at level of the Assembly District. Elected officials and their appointees comprise much of the party apparatus at all levels. Political parties originated as groups of likeminded legislators, so it is natural that elected officials continue to have a substantial voice in the party. Direct voter input to the party began to rise in the 1960s in response to grassroots organization. California Democratic Party provides direct voter representation in the party, including the ADEMs process discussed above. The Republican party has no equivalent procedure for direct voter input.

Democratic State Central Committee

The California Democratic Party (CADEM) is formally managed by the Democratic State Central Committee (DSCC). The annual convention delegation is the full annual meeting of the DSCC.

The California Democratic Party has a complicated set of rules to select its convention delegates, and delegates are chosen in a variety of ways. (1) Each of the 80 Assembly districts in California elects 14 ADEMs delegates, for a total of 1,120 ADEMs delegates. Those are the elections in which CCDU candidates prevailed earlier this month. (2) Each Democratic officeholder at the state or Federal level is automatically a delegate. (3) Democratic officeholders at the state or Federal level also appoint five or six delegates each according to their rank. (4) A few high-ranking statewide Democratic officeholders (e.g., Speaker of the Assembly) appoint 30 delegates each. Thus, approximately 800 delegates are appointed by elected officials or consist of elected officials. Finally (5) Each of the 58 County Central Committees, whose members are elected quadrennially by voters on the primary ballot, chooses delegates from among their own members based on population size, resulting in about 1400 more state delegates. [Continued on Page 4]

GETTING INVOLVED IN THE CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONTINUED...

In sum, then, there are approximately 3000 delegates in a typical convention, about a third of whom are appointed, a third directly elected by voters in the ADEMs process, and a third elected by voters via the County Central Committees. This may not seem as participatory or democratic as we might like, but the California Republican party has no ADEMs equivalents: all their delegates are appointed.

DSCC Executive Board

The DSCC meets annually as a body, but regular governing decisions throughout the year are made by the Executive Board of the DSCC. The Executive Board has smaller membership also selected through multiple pathways. There are elected officials, County Committee representatives, and ADEM electees. As noted above, Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin will be our elected member of the Executive Board for AD55.

Los Angeles County Democratic Party Central Committee

As noted above in discussing DSCC selection, each county in California has its own Democratic Party County Central Committee. Much like the state DSCC, members of the County Central Committees are selected in a variety of ways, including Democratic party elected officials, appointees, and members directed elected by voters.

Each AD elects seven members of the LACDP every four years. The seven LACDP elected members for AD55 include CCDU club member Jimmie Woods-Gray. Each assembly delegation elects its own Chair and Vice Chair. For AD55, they are Chair Rosa Russell and Vice Chair CCDU member Aaron Ordower.

LACDP permits each regular member to appoint an alternate member who may participate in discussions and cast a vote when the regular member is absent. CCDU member Lindsay Carlson is currently the alternate member for Rosa Russell.

LACDP also permits each chartered club, including CCDU, to send a non-voting “associate” member to attend and participate in discussions (“voice but not vote”). That is a useful role for the club officer most closely involved in the endorsement process. Presently the LACDP associate member for CCDU is Darrel Menthe, but we will be transitioning that to Richard Martin, our new VP for Endorsements.

Democratic National Committee

Each state chooses a number of members to the Democratic National Committee. Not to be confused with convention delegates (those you see voting on television for president every four years) DNC members are charged with managing the national party apparatus year-round. Ken Martin is now the Chair of the DNC.

California selects 29 DNC members. Because of the interlocking nature of state and Federal party structures, these 29 members of the DNC also sit on the CADem Executive Board -- and also, therefore, vote on local endorsement panels in the assembly districts where they live. CCUSD School Board Member Andrew Lachman is a DNC member, thus he also has a vote on the local endorsement panel for AD55. Two other CCDU members, Hannah Cho and Analisa Swan, are also DNC members for California, but do not reside in AD55. They also serve on the CADem Executive board and vote on local endorsement panels in their home assembly districts.

Looking forward to Convention 2025

The California Democratic State Central Committee meets in convention every year, and the 14 newly-elected ADEMs delegates will be delegates to the conventions in both 2025 and 2026. The 2025 convention is May 30th through June 1st in Anaheim. To learn more about the organization of our state party, go to www.cadem.org.

Darrel Menthe

President

Culver City Democrats United

CCDU 2025 Executive Board

Meet Our New Board Members, Richard and Ross!

Richard Martin

Endorsement Vice President

Elected January 21, 2025 as Endorsement Vice President. Richard is a lifelong resident of Culver City. He is an alumnus of Farragut Elementary, Culver City Middle School, and Culver City High School. He stayed local for his postsecondary education by attending West Los Angeles College and graduating from University of Southern California with a degree in Business Administration. For the past 8 years, Richard has worked in the music industry and currently works as a data analyst. Since college, Richard developed a strong interest in politics and has done field organizing in both national and local races, including several campaigns in Culver City. He is often seen at various city events to support his hometown. Richard likes to play video games, traveling, and collect vinyls in his spare time. He speaks four languages and has traveled to 12 countries. Richard hopes to facilitate a friendlier environment that promotes civility and tolerance for everyone to express opinions.

Ross Piro

Community Outreach Vice President

Elected January 21, 2025 as 2025 Community Outreach Vice President. Originally from Connecticut, Ross has lived in Culver City since 2011. He attended Brown University where he earned a BA in Political Science. Having had careers in a number of fields over the years, including finance, music and advertising, Ross currently works as an actor, film producer, and real estate investor. He enjoys traveling, reading, watching English and American football, eating delicious food, and spending time with his amazing family and dog Henry. His wife Katherine runs a successful local business, and his daughters Carmen and Francesca attend Culver City High School. Ross previously served as Co-President of the Farragut Elementary Fan Club and is currently the President of the Lindberg Park Neighborhood Association. He is passionate about politics, policy, and quality of life in Culver City and honored to serve on the Executive Board of CCDU.

And Notes from Our Returning Board Members...

Darrel Menthe

President

I am looking forward to CCDU strengthening its role as an officially chartered LA County Democratic Club by building up our community within Culver City and Los Angeles County. For 2025, that means expanding our outreach in Culver City and networking within the Democratic Party. By that, I mean we must reach out to one another, in person, to add political consciousness and activity into our common bonds as friends, colleagues, and neighbors.

Judy Scott

Treasurer

Besides the ongoing campaign to increase our membership, I'm most eager to plan to hold more in-person meetings and events, and increase and strengthen our partnerships and relationships with other Democratic Clubs and other Southern California elected Democratic officials.

Jamie Wallace

Secretary

I am continuing as Secretary for CCDU because last year we grew and learned so much. This year with disruption at the national level and discontent at the local level we have to work at coming together to protect and support the common good. We a great team at CCDU and can't wait to encourage our members to participate in democracy, fairness, and good governance. Divided we fall, but united we stand to help make this world a better place.

Rafia Cooper

Membership Vice President

I am incredibly honored to step into the role of Membership VP, with my main goal this year being to concentrate on increasing our membership and making CCDU a strong force of a club. I'm also hoping and planning to have in-person meetings and events to build community within our club.

Eli Jones

Communications Vice President

I am incredibly excited to continue doing the important behind-the-scenes work that is pivotal to CCDU's success. My main goal for this next term is to improve our newsletter, with more stories, maybe even a committee. Additionally, I'd like to up our brand ID with more social media engagement, as well as, club merchandise with our logo.