



Santa Monica Democratic Club

Newsletter

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Presidents' Address

by Jay Johnson and Maryanne Solomon

Election season is well underway! Our endorsed candidates were successful in the primary election and are now in the "top two" for the November runoff: Ben Allen for State Senate, Sheila Kuehl for Supervisor, Richard Bloom for Assembly, and most of the statewide offices as well.

Now the battle shifts to November. Having Ted Lieu win, the only Democratic candidate for Congress, is crucial to keep the district Democratic. The club will review the SM City Council, Rent Board, School Board, and College Board candidates. We ask for your input during this endorsement process, as well as on the issues and priorities that are important to you in this election season. We will certainly be calling on you to help support the slate mailer, candidate events, endorsement meetings and volunteer campaign efforts.

We can't take any of these offices for granted: just look to Eric Cantors' loss for an example. Locally, development and traffic are having candidates announce almost weekly.

Since the 1950's, our club has played a strong and respected role in advising SM Democrats of the preferred candidates. We are looking forward to your very much appreciated support, direction and advise.

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Primary Election Recap

by Jon Katz, Vice President of Political Action



Last month, California held its primaries for the 2014 general election. In the congressional election to replace retiring Representative Henry Waxman, the highest profile race in our community, the field of eighteen candidates was finally whittled down to two. Democratic State Senator Ted Lieu will take on Republican businessman Elan Carr in the general election. Other candidates in the race included former LA Controller Wendy Greuel, who lost to Eric Garcetti for the LA mayoral election last year; Independent candidate and motivational speaker Marianne Williamson, and KCRW talk show host Matt Miller. Lieu starts off as the heavy favorite for the fall.

In the race for State Senate to replace Senator Lieu, our district was faced with eight candidates- seven Democrats and one No Party Preference. Despite strong showings from Manhattan Beach Mayor Amy Howorth, former Assemblywoman Betsy Butler, and Independent Seth Stodder, the top two winners were public interest activist Sandra Fluke and in first place, Ben Allen, member of the Santa Monica Malibu Board of Education. Though Allen and Fluke are both Democrats, Allen has the overwhelming endorsement of the Santa Monica Democratic Club. He has been a valuable member of our club's Executive Board for years.

Statewide, the results were quite good for Democrats. Jerry Brown won his primary handily with 54% of the vote over Tea Party-affiliated Assemblyman Tim Donnelly and former Assistant Treasury Secretary Neel Kashkari. Kashkari won second place with 19% of the vote, though a Field Poll taken after the election shows Brown easily outpolling Kashkari by 20%.

Other statewide incumbents won their primaries easily. Democratic Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom will face former California Republican Party chairman Ron Nehring in his race for re-election. Democratic Attorney General Kamala Harris will face Ron Gold, who worked in the California Attorney General's office under Governor Ronald Reagan, in her race for re-election. Democratic Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones will face State Senator Ted Gaines, perhaps best known for his lawsuit against the Affordable Care Act, in his race for re-election. Democratic Controller John Chiang is running for Treasurer against Republican Greg Conlon, a retired accountant. Democratic State

Senator Alex Padilla will face off against Republican Pete Peterson in the fall in the race for Secretary of State.

One statewide race is still being contested as of press time: the race for Controller. The Republican Mayor of Fresno Ashley Swearengin took first place with 25% of the vote, but the race for second has been neck and neck for weeks between SMDC-endorsed Board of Equalization member Betty Yee and former Speaker of the Assembly John Perez, both Democrats. While Yee appears to have a narrow lead, Perez is considering asking for a recount in certain counties. Stay tuned! Unfortunately, Californians statewide set a record for the worst ever election turnout in state history with just 18% of registered voters turning up for the polls. The previous low was 28% in June 2008. Adding insult to injury, Los Angeles County had the lowest turnout of any county in the state at just 13.1%. This low turnout was likely driven by the fact that there were very few high-profile, statewide competitive races, which meant that low information voters tuned out.

This fall, Santa Monicans have many serious elections to consider. In addition to the statewide, congressional, and state legislative races, we will also be voting for 3 seats on our City Council and 6 ballot initiatives which will affect public policy in our state for years to come. Fellow Santa Monicans, let's get out to vote this fall. Democracy can only thrive when everyone's voice is heard!

Hello from the Editor

by Sion Roy, Editor



While I know many of you personally, I certainly don't know all of you yet. I find that when I meet people around town at various events, they're always wondering who it is that is sending them all these emails and writing the newsletter, so I thought I would take a moment to introduce myself.

My wife Kathy and I have been Santa Monica residents since 2010. We moved here from the east coast (Washington DC most recently) to complete our medical training. Similar to the experience I'm sure many of you had in your lives- now that we're here, it's impossible to leave! I'm currently a cardiologist at Harbor UCLA hospital up in Torrance, while my wife is currently a radiologist at UCLA Ronald Reagan in Westwood. We are hoping to be Santa Monica lifers. If you see us around, please come say hi!