



**New Members**

Karen Harrington  
Jaime Leuschen  
Tara Torres  
Nicole Xavier

**Renewing Members**

Marsha Tellier  
Marisol Valles

**MCDC General Meeting Minutes  
July 21, 2024, 2:00 – 4:00 pm via Zoom**

**Zoom Link:**

**<HTTPS://us02web.zoom.us/j/6304996072?pwd=ZGVhcBZYVVUrQWFMRVd1MEZ5anNMdZ09>**

**Password: Orange**

- 1) **Call to Order** 2:04pm
- 2) **Agenda Review**
  - a) Changes to the agenda: Allow people to express what they are feeling given the news of President Biden's withdrawal as the Democratic nominee. Eight attendees expressed themselves.
- 3) **Approve Minutes of May and June Meetings**
  - a) Approve Minutes: Motion Elinor Bell X Second Joe Ely X Passed by Acclimation X
- 4) **Carolina Villaseca – President**
  - a) **Hijas del Campo** still has their back-to-school drive. They need new backpacks, lunch boxes, water bottles, pencils, pens, notebooks, crayons, markers, colored pencils, binders, scissors, glue, erasers, rulers, and calculators. You can buy the items and drop them off at Wanna Waffle? downtown next to the library, 104 Oak St, Brentwood, or donate via Venmo (@HijasdelCampo2020).
  - b) **Antioch Unified School District (AUSD):** The Antioch community supported Antonio Hernandez during the school board meeting on 6/26 and made their voices heard. Antonio clarified the codes incorrectly brought forward in the motion. The vote was 2 abstain (Lewis, Hack), 1 no to not permanently tabling the censure motion (Rocha), and 2 yes to permanently table the censure motion. The motion to censure Antonio failed. And Antonio is still president!
  - c) MCDC will continue to use the City of Brentwood Community Center for our meetings and pay the rental fee for 2025.

- d) Carolina needs help writing questions for the candidates running for office in Supervisorial District 3. The races include city council, school board, sanitary, and water district. Focus on issue-based questions.
- e) The first filing deadline is Aug. 9th. If the incumbent for a race hasn't pulled papers, the second deadline is Aug. 19th to turn in signatures.
- f) People in the room who are running:
- g) Susana Meyer for Mayor of Brentwood, Jovita Mendoza for Brentwood City Council, Dominique King for Antioch City Council, Thuy Dao Jensen for Brentwood School Board
- h) Carolina will publish a schedule of qualified candidates on the MCDC website, will send out to people in District 3.
- i) We have 47 seats for election in District 3.

5) **Ian Cohen – Vice President**

- a) July: Mark Foley, BART update
- b) August (note 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, 8/11): Daphne Muse, Lecturer, UC Berkeley, African American Studies, speak on Project 2025
- c) September: Loki Documentary, “Dying to Vote”
- d) October through November are currently open.
- e) December - Accomplishment party!
- f) If you have a person who would like to come and speak (speaker aligns with democratic values and the goals of the club) to our club, please contact Ian Cohen at (510) 650-6444 or via email: [ianscohen@hotmail.com](mailto:ianscohen@hotmail.com)

6) **Membership – Elinor Bell, Co-Chair**

- a) Membership stats: Membership total as of July 20, 2024: **98**. Since June 8, we have had two renewals, and 4 new members join.

7) **Voter Outreach: Linda Smith**

- a) Postcard/Letter Writing for Swing States starting NOW
  - i) Postcards for Nevada and Georgia and Letter Writing for November Elections in the Swing States of Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania has begun. Letters are due October 1, 2024.
  - ii) Postcard/Letter Writing Parties will be held on the following Wednesdays: July 3<sup>rd</sup>, July 31, Aug 14, and 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - iii) Contact Linda at [lismithtech@gmail.com](mailto:lismithtech@gmail.com) for an appointment to make a postcard sample or to pick up letters.
  - iv) Farmer’s Market – Help staff our booth on Saturdays from 9 am to 12 noon at the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> and Oak in front of Bank of America. Email [marshCreekDems@gmail.com](mailto:marshCreekDems@gmail.com) to volunteer. (weather-permitting)

8) **Webmaster – Joe Ely**

- a) Here is the information for 3 of the documents under the heading “**2024 Election**” on our website ([www.marshcreekdems.org](http://www.marshcreekdems.org) home page).
  - i) In the 2nd paragraph, the **LINK** points to an interactive website describing 50,000 projects approved as part of the American Rescue Plan, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, CHIPS and Science Act, and Inflation Reduction Act. The URL that readers can type into their browser is [www.whitehouse.gov/invest](http://www.whitehouse.gov/invest).

- ii) The 2nd LINK is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph. It points to an MCDC document with a detailed summary of **Project 2025**. Readers can access that document by typing [bit.ly/4ccJBR7](https://bit.ly/4ccJBR7) into the URL field of their browser.
  - iii) The 3<sup>rd</sup> LINK is in the sub-heading **Biden-Harris Accomplishments**. It points to a 15-page MCDC document list, entitled **Democrats Deliver Results for Americans**, that is color coded by the constituencies served. Readers can access that list by typing [bit.ly/3Wz6cTI](https://bit.ly/3Wz6cTI) into their browser URL field.
- b) Joe showed the MCDC website's listing of Biden's major accomplishments (15 pages of accomplishments!).
- 9) **Social Justice – Ray Cole, Chair**
- a) Finishing up reading and reporting on the top 10 banned books from 2023; Just finished reading:
  - b) conclusions:
    - i) none of the books are, by any stretch of the imagination pornographic or obscene
    - ii) some are absolutely wonderful pieces of literature
      - (1) The Bluest Eye
      - (2) Looking for Alaska
      - (3) Milk and Honey
    - iii) The primary motivation behind efforts to ban books is political and organized. In May 2023, an analysis of book challenges by the *Washington Post* connected 66 percent of over 1,000 challenges to just 11 individuals; in August 2023, the *Tampa Bay Times* also documented the [influence of two individuals](#) in challenging hundreds of books in Florida. Many of these individuals were directly connected to advocacy groups. We should be sensitive to concerns of parents influenced by these groups who sincerely believe either that these books are pornographic or obscene, or that they simply do not want their children exposed at all to topics they are uncomfortable with.
  - c) The next focus area(s) for the Social Justice Committee will depend somewhat on additional members, and there are two who have expressed their interest.
  - d) I am leaning toward the following for at least one more area:
    - i) Proposition 1 implementation: this impacts homelessness, mental health, and addiction and will have local effects.
    - ii) Criminal Justice--specifically property crimes: These are the kinds of things that we are likely to encounter and the subject of at least two propositions on this fall's ballot.
    - iii) Welcome input for what to investigate next.
  - e) Tractor Supply (we have a location in Brentwood) recently eliminated DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) staffing and initiatives as the result of right wing pressure and threatened boycott. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2024/06/30/tractor-supply-diversity-dei-climate/>
    - i) While I do not support a formal boycott, I do believe we should be aware of the political positions taken by companies and choose where we do business.

10) **Issues and Legislation – Bill Nusbaum, Chair**

- a) Meetings are held via Zoom on the first Saturday of the month at 11:30 am.
- b) The next meeting is Saturday, August 3rd, 11:30 a.m. If interested in joining, email Bill Nusbaum at [billnusbaum13@gmail.com](mailto:billnusbaum13@gmail.com).

- c) 3 issue papers, authoritarianism, immigration, and ?, Started looking at 2025 in last qtr of 2023. Was not being talked about by any media. Grateful that project 2025 has finally made it to mainstream media. Probably the most important issue that we are talking about and publishing. Urges you to have friends who are thinking of not voting, voting for trump, have them read this issue paper. (Again how to find it?) It will take anything we hold dear-protection of our bank accounts, clean air, medicine safety, car safety etc and dismantle it.

**11) DPCCC District 3 Update – Carolina Villaseca, DPCCC District 3 Director**

- a) **DPCCC** - we are starting to plan the district endorsement forum. We have to see how many people pull papers per race to see how many interviews we will need to have and how we will organize the forums. We may not have Dems pulling papers in all races. The total seats open are 47. The other 2 clubs, East Contra Costa County Dems and Delta Dems will help writing questions for Antioch and Oakley races. I'm looking for volunteers to help write questions for Brentwood, Discovery Bay, Byron, Knightsen, Bethel Island and Liberty Union High School District (LUHSD) races.
  - i) **City Council (12)**
    - (1) Antioch - 6 seats
    - (2) Brentwood - 3 seats
    - (3) Oakley - 3 seats
  - ii) **Education (12)**
    - (1) Antioch - 3 seats
    - (2) Brentwood - 2 seats
    - (3) Byron - 2 seats, 1 2 yr term
    - (4) Knightsen - 3 seats
    - (5) LUHSD - 3 seats
    - (6) \*Community College - 1 seat
  - iii) **Special districts (20 seats)**
    - (1) Bethel Island - 3 seats
    - (2) Byron Sanitary - 3 seats
    - (3) Byron Bethany Irrigation District - 1 seat
    - (4) Contra Costa Water District - 1 seat
    - (5) Diablo Water District - 2 seats
    - (6) Discovery Bay - 2 seats
    - (7) East Contra Costa Irrigation District - 3 seats
    - (8) Ironhouse Sanitary - 3 seats
  - iv) **\*Multi district seat**

**12) Carolina Villaseca, Chair of Publications and Social Media Committee**

**13) Swing Left – Doug McClelland**

- a) How to make a donation at Marsh Creek's crowdfunding page----  
<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/blueprint-marsh-creek-victory-fund> \$3,500 donated so far, goal: \$10,000
- b) Canvassing available weekly in Reno and CA-13 (various locales, just south of Manteca) and Discovery Bay

- c) 5000 letters completed to swing states and districts. (2024 goal now 5K)  
100 international letters completed
- d) Monthly letter meetings still going.
- e) Assisting in new Placer County Dems club being formed: purchased the voter mailing list to find people to join.
- f) I wanted to report mostly that I have assisted forming a new Placer County Dems club in Roseville and have purchased the Placer County voting roles to find people to join. They had their first meeting last Saturday with 11 members, and I presented our Issue's Committee report on Project 2025. They were all impressed with the report (not mine, the Issues Committee Report), and I have several people interested in writing letters. They will be meeting monthly.
- g) My demo of how to donate to our crowdfunding site obviously got lost, but the good news is we are up to close to \$4,000 donated. I can demo it next month. I am in contact (I hope, they are slow to respond) to update next month's list with donations to Tester and (rats, can't recall) one other we used to donate which Ray wanted to see back in there. Ray, can you inform us all? If anyone objects to those additions, please let me know. We have dropped CA-3, 13 and 10 from the list in favor of the candidates only recommended by Act Blue.
- h) We will be having canvassing opportunities upcoming for the rest of the election cycle every weekend in either Lathrop (flippable CA-13) Disco Bay and Brentwood (CA-10, Josh Harder), and Reno/Sparks.
- i) We now have almost 4,000 letters/postcards completed and have raised our goal to 5,000.

**14) Treasurer's Report– Thuy DaoJensen, Treasurer**  
**Marsh Creek Dems Treasurer's Financial Statement**  
**June 5 - July 9, 2024**

Date	Description of INCOME	Amount
	<b>BALANCE as of June 5, 2024:</b>	<b>\$4,768.05</b>
5-Jun-24	SQUARE deposit Membership Dues (1)	\$19.12
6-Jun-24	SQUARE deposit	\$494.61
10-Jun-24	Membership Dues (2)	\$40.00
10-Jun-24	Membership Dues (1)	\$20.00
9-Jul-24	SQUARE deposit Membership Dues (1)	\$19.12
	<b>Total INCOME</b>	<b>\$5,360.90</b>

Check #	Description of EXPENSES	Amount
1115	American Trophies	\$209.40
	<b>Total EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$209.40</b>
	<b>BALANCE as of July 9, 2024:</b>	<b>\$5,151.50</b>

**15) For the Good of the Order (comments/suggestions)**

- a) **Community Meeting dates:** 2024 MCDC Meetings: Jul 21, August 11, 2024 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday due to Quilt Show rented), Sep 15, 2024, October 13, 2024 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday due to full facility rented), Nov 17, Dec 15<sup>th</sup>
- b) Oakley wants a library. Holding a fundraiser Aug 16<sup>th</sup> at Oakley rec center to build a library. Website – Kristen Connolly, Jeff will be there
- c) Melissa Van Ruiten: Good news the Safety Act was signed into law by Governor Newsom -no forcible outing by school. Some pushback, fight's not over, but closer than before. Please keep writing to encourage our democratic representatives to support this fight.
- d) Board of Supervisors this Tuesday at 10 am Truth Act forum on civil immigration enforcement, how law enforcement interacts, ICE– one way we can support our immigrant communities is to attend the meeting. Zoom it or come to the meeting in person.
- e) Susana Meyer Running for mayor: National night out – Brentwood will have several different meeting points and you can meet with your representative. 483<sup>rd</sup> City Mountain House. Volunteer Opportunities for people running for office: canvass, call, meeting at your home, fundraising, endorsements, messaging, support, farmer's market booths.
- f) Seeno brought back "Bridlegate." Made zero changes except for the number of houses. Sued city council and Costco. The planning commission voted it down. Seeno has 10 business days to appeal the decision and bring it to the City Council.
- g) Tu city council meeting ethics in journalism. Please come – when, where Brentwood City Hall, 7:00 p.m. Tuesday. Visit the Brentwood City Council page to find the link for the zoom meeting.
- h) Jovita Mendoza mentioned an upcoming agenda item concerning how the city of Brentwood spends its advertising dollars. She cited an example of Antioch paying \$750 for a graduation announcement in a publication that has very negative posts about the city.

16) **Adjournment** \_\_3:59 pm\_\_ PM