

REDLANDS AREA DEMOCRATIC CLUB



The Progressive



Vol. 8, Issue 11: November 2020

redlandsareadems.org

President's message

As we've all witnessed the election of our lifetime, we all feel a sense of relief that the presidential election is behind us. But is it really, or has our work just begun for the next election season? Whichever it is, I hope that we will never elect someone like DJT to be our president again. Many of the pundits and some of my colleagues have posted amazing GIFs, memes and inspiring quotes which got me through the counting of the ballots from around the country.

My feeling was that this is all normal. We are a Democracy with two main parties, the House and the Senate, and a judiciary system that has made this country great. We have our difference of opinion, but that is the way we were built. We have withstood wars, depressions, pandemics, and yes DJT. We should all congratulate ourselves for stepping up to volunteer and staying strong through all of this. We should all go forward as a democracy and as a Democratic Club with heads held high.

All Democrats are focused on the two Senate races on January 5th in Georgia so that we will

have the majority in the Senate. We have to win those two seats, so we hope you can volunteer on phone banks and donate to Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff.

On the home front, we are updating our membership list so that we can re-charter with the San Bernardino County Democratic Central Committee. We will be working with our local elected officials on a slate card for the upcoming ADEM conference, and our bylaws committee will be asking for your input on the changes.

In January, we will begin our new membership term so please reach out to our Chair John Coley to renew your membership. I'm excited for all that we have done and look forward to keeping the momentum going! Please send us your thoughts and ideas to redlandsdems@gmail.com.

It's time to start right here at home within our own democratic club. We are gearing up for our club elections for president, vice president, secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer, and assistant treasurer. Once a new club president is chosen, she/he will appoint their hand-picked executive board. I have had the honor of working with a

Cont'd on page 2



In This Issue

| | |
|---|-----|
| President's Message | 1-2 |
| ADEM 2020; Renew Your RADC Membership | 2 |
| Who will take Kamala Harris' Senate seat in California? The options are many. | 3 |
| Black women saved the Democrats. Don't make us do it again. | 4-5 |
| The 3 questions that will determine the ACA's fate. | 6 |
| Speaking Out (Nancy Blastos, Joe Colella) | 7-8 |
| Just for Fun! | 8 |
| RADC Leadership/RADC Contact Information | 9 |

GENERAL MEETING SPEAKER

Our speaker will be Cristine Soto DeBerry, founder and executive director of Prosecutors Alliance. According to DeBerry, "We are forming the Prosecutors Alliance of California to be a new law enforcement association that can speak as a voice for reform and help maintain our safety while we do so." DeBerry previously served as chief of staff for the San Francisco District Attorney's Office.



great executive board to get the vote out, sent 2,000 mailers, delivered 150 yard signs, brought in great speakers, posted on our Facebook page, grew our membership to 109, and so much more. I'm humbled by our members who came out to volunteer on their own and work towards saving our democracy and healthcare.

We are looking to you, our current members, to consider running for one of these offices. Many exciting things are coming, and this is a great opportunity to get your voice heard on the future and the direction of this club, for the next two years anyway.

please email us at redlandsdems@gmail.com if you would like to serve on the nominating committee for our club's election at our December general meeting.

Lorraine Enriquez, President
Redlands Area Democratic Club



it's time to
**RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP**

January 2021 is upon us. RADC membership period runs from January 1 through December 31. Don't get left out of being a member of RADC.

You don't have to wait until January to renew. You can renew now! **NOTE: If you joined or renewed by or after October 1, 2020, your membership extends through December 2021.**

Contact us at redlandsdems@gmail.org for a membership renewal application and mail in your check, or you can pay your membership through ActBlue at the RADC Website: redlandsareadems.org.

Support RADC!

John Coley, Trustee
Membership Chair

ADEM 2021

Have you ever wondered how the Democratic Party chooses its priorities, endorses candidates and ballot measures, and promotes the democratic party agendas throughout the state?

These decisions are made by delegates- people who are either appointed or elected every two years to represent their constituencies. The Three Legged Stool diagram depicts the makeup of the California Democratic Party delegates. There are three sets of delegates: 1) delegates appointed by party leaders and elected officials, 2) delegates appointed by the county central committee, and 3) Assembly District Delegates elected by fellow democrats in the community.

This means that individuals who want to get involved in the Democratic party can have the opportunity to do so by running for Assembly District Delegate (ADEM). The application process to run for ADEMs is included in the link below and the deadline is December 15, 2020. The only qualification to run is that you need to have been registered as a Democrat by November 3, 2020. Additionally, there is a \$30 registration fee, although hardship waivers may be requested.

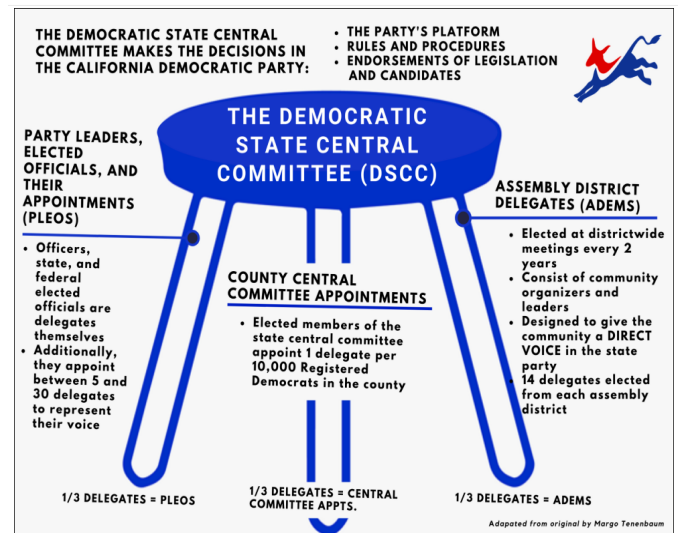
Don't want to run for delegate but still want to be involved? There is one more way that you can do so. Register to vote for the 2021 ADEM elections. You have the ability to pick representatives from your community to advocate at the state level for the issues that matter most to you. The deadline to register for a mail ballot is January 11, 2021 and there is no associated cost.

To summarize:

- 1) The California Democratic Party is made up of delegates.
- 2) One third of these delegates get elected through ADEMs.
- 3) You can run to be an assembly district delegate or you can register to vote for an assembly district delegate.

Questions? Come to our meeting on November 21, 2020 and learn more!

Registration links: <https://adem.cadem.org/>



Who will take Kamala Harris' Senate seat in California?

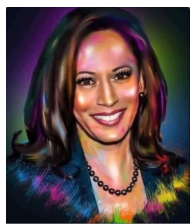


By Annah Aschbrenner and Rebecca Morin

November 7, 2020

Sen. Kamala Harris now the vice president-elect, California turns its attention to who will fill her seat.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom will have to make the appointment, and whoever holds the seat will be up for election in 2022.



Harris made history as California's first African American senator, and there will undoubtedly be urging that Newsom appoint another Black woman. She made history Saturday, too, becoming the first African American and Asian American

woman to be elected vice president.

Rep. Karen Bass is likely high on the list of possible replacements for Harris in the Senate. Bass, 66, has served California's 37th Congressional District, which represents Los Angeles, for five terms and endorsed Biden for president in mid-March. She is the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and was vetted for the vice presidential role.

Prior to being elected to Congress, Bass served in the California State Assembly. She made history in 2008 after being elected as the Speaker of the California State Assembly, where she became the first Black woman in United States history to serve as a Speaker of a state legislative body.

But California is also home to a slew of Latino politicians to be considered who, if appointed, would become the first Latino senator from California.

That includes California Attorney General Xavier Becerra. Becerra, 62, was appointed to fill Harris' role as attorney general in 2017, when she headed to the Senate. He was elected to the role one year later.

Becerra served several years in Congress, representing Los Angeles, and was the first Latino chair of the House Democratic caucus. Like Harris, he also is the child of immigrants, his parents from Mexico.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who was a co-chair of Joe Biden's vice president selection committee and helped VP candidates, might also make the list. Garcetti, 49, has held his current role since 2013 and was previously the president of the Los Angeles City Council. He also has immigrant roots, as the grandson of both Mexican and Russian immigrants.

Harris assumed Barbara Boxer's seat in the senate when Boxer retired in 2017, a position Boxer had held since 1993.

"We have a deep bench of potential candidates, of men, of women, of minorities," Boxer said. "Simply put, it's a huge job. I'd like to see the best candidate get elected."

Jenny Abbe, chair of the Democratic Central Committee of Shasta County in Northern California, said she isn't aware of who Newsom might select to replace Harris "beyond the general speculation that's already been circulating for the last few weeks in anticipation . . . There are so many potential candidates."

The possibilities include "any number of women, women of color and people of color" who would be "worthy appointees," said Abbe, naming Rep. Barbara Lee and Rep. Katie Porter.

In state government, Abbe identified Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis as a possibility, as well as former presidential candidate and U.S. Congressman Rep. Eric Swalwell.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2020/11/07/kamala-harris-who-takes-her-senate-seat-california-when-she-vp/6204059002/>

#

Black women saved the Democrats. Don't make us do it again.

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

By Taylor Crumpton, November 7, 2020

Without our support, the president-elect would be preparing a powerful speech about how despite his defeat, the nation needs to stand together as a united people to blunt the effects of President Trump's white supremacist reign. Instead, thanks to wins powered largely by the turnout in places like Detroit, Atlanta, Milwaukee and Philadelphia, Biden and the first Black woman to serve as vice president, Kamala D. Harris, are preparing to take office.

Forty-three years ago, the Combahee River Collective — a Black lesbian feminist organization, which is composed of members from the nation's various social movements of the time (women's rights, civil rights, the Black Panthers) — released their belief statement. "Our politics initially sprang from the shared belief that Black women are inherently valuable," it read. "That our liberation is a necessity not as an adjunct to somebody else's may because of our need as human persons for autonomy. ... We realize that the only people who care enough about us to work consistently for our liberation are us. Our politics evolve from a healthy love for ourselves, our sisters and our community which allows us to continue our struggle and work." Just 12 years after the passage of Voting Rights Act, this collective of Black women understood the necessity of unifying through a shared anti-racist and anti-sexist framework.

As their descendants, it's our responsibility

to embrace and share the teachings of our foremothers to improve the social conditions in our communities. This year, I've witnessed the collective power of Black women who took it upon themselves to uplift their communities, outside of political institutions, from a group of single mothers in Oakland who ushered in a new chapter of a historical movement for housing rights to the various Black women who are fighting against cash bail and the countless known and unknown Black women who held healing

spaces for us to mourn the loss of Breonna Taylor and Oluwatoyin "Toyin" Salau. While the world transformed their deaths into memes and trending topics on social media to garner attention, Black women did the vital work to sustain and nurture our communities.

We marched. We organized. We mobilized. We cried. We screamed. We wrote anti-racism book lists (that none of y'all read). We went above and beyond, and what did

we get in return? Numerous reminders that 94 percent of Black women voted for Hillary Clinton in 2016, and that we'd better replicate our previous voting behaviors if we wanted to head off another disaster.

Tuesday proved that racial groups don't vote as a bloc — with one exception.

Even now that the nation has elected a woman as its first Black vice president, Black women still have to swallow some tough choices. Harris is a longtime admirer of the late representative Shirley Chisholm (D-N.Y.), the first Black woman elected to Congress and the first to run for a major political party's nomination for the presidency, and she's invoked the political foremothers to inspire Black women to turn out in record



A "Black Lives Matter" sign hangs next to a campaign sign in support of Joe Biden outside a home in Philadelphia. Black voters there and in other swing states helped Biden beat President Trump. (Hannah Yoon/Bloomberg)

numbers. Alpha Kappa Alpha, the sorority she joined at Howard University, launched voter registration efforts, and the various Black Greek letter organizations have followed suit to make history. But before Harris got to the Senate, she was also “California’s top cop,” who prosecuted and incarcerated Black people. Do we ignore that now just because she is a Black woman?

Patrisse Cullors and Alicia Garza, the co-founders of #BlackLivesMatter (along with Opal Tometi), pledged to vote for Harris, but they also promised to hold her accountable for her “tough on crime” history in California. Charlene Carruthers, the founding national director of BYP100 (the Black Youth Project 100), voted for Biden — and promised to organize around actions to abolish the Supreme Court. Angela Davis, a world-renowned activist, scholar, academic and prison abolitionist, emphasized the need to vote Trump out, but she still expressed some disinterest in the Biden-Harris ticket, which contradicted her abolitionist political beliefs. “If we want to continue this work, we certainly need a person in office who will be more amenable to our mass pressure,” she said. “And to me, that is the only thing that someone like a Joe Biden represents. But we have to persuade people to go out and vote to guarantee that the current occupant of the White House is forever ousted.”

Because of those women and others like them, all through the summer and fall leading up to the election, I had faith. It’s an ancestral faith that exists within my bones; a faith not centered around political institutions, but in the collective faith of Black women who fight our liberation and freedom. Black women’s civic and political engagement extends beyond the polls — we’re organizing for a future where Black women don’t have to vote for the “lesser of two evils,” but none at all.

African Americans who sat out 2016 explain why they’re voting this year

Four years ago, I voted for Hillary Clinton. I didn’t want to — I knew her political career had been detrimental to my community, but I felt like voting for her was my only option. This year, I had the same eerie feeling as I filled my mail-in ballot out for Biden. By the time I voted, yes, he had apologized for the 1994 crime bill, but he’d also written a scathing statement condemning the actions of protesters in Philadelphia after the death of Walter Wallace Jr. at the hands of police.

I’ve had enough, and my life has only just begun. Every four years, the Democratic Party looks to me and countless Black women to save it. Our White women counterparts aren’t held to the same standard, especially not the 53 percent of them who voted for Trump in 2016. White women are granted forgiveness for their “infidelity,” and wooed all over again each election, while Black women are expected to remain loyal and faithful.

It’s not a burden I want to bear. My ancestors did not bear me into the world so I can put a White man into a position of power over a system that will inevitably harm me and my loved ones. The Black women who give me strength are not the ones in the halls of Congress, or even the one preparing to move into the vice-presidential mansion, but the ones in the streets.

The Black women’s movement has never centered exclusively on the ballot box in our journey toward liberation and freedom. We’re not your political mules. We’re not your monolith — so especially now, after we turned out all over the country to sweep Trump from office, Democrats had better support and listen to Black women even in odd-numbered years. We’re not here to save the world. We’re just here to protect ourselves.

#

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/11/07/black-women-joe-biden-vote/>

The 3 questions that will determine the ACA's fate



By Sam Baker, November 9, 2020

The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments Tuesday (November 10) over the future of the Affordable Care Act — the third time in eight years the ACA has been on the brink of life or death at the high court.

The big picture: For now, the smart money says that the court is likely to strike down what remains of the law's individual mandate, but is unlikely to go along with the argument — advanced by both red states and the Trump administration — that the whole law has to fall along with it.

But that conventional wisdom is based on a lot of guesswork. We'll get a clearer sense of the justices' thinking on Tuesday, and the answers to these three questions will give us a better sense of what's about to happen to 20 million people's health insurance.

1. Can the mandate survive?

Probably not, but if it can, this case will be easier than almost anyone expects. Red states and the Trump administration argue that because the Supreme Court upheld the mandate as a tax in 2012, it became unconstitutional when Congress zeroed out the tax penalty in 2017.

Blue states counter that it still functions as a choice between buying insurance or paying a \$0 penalty, and that no one is actually injured by the fact that the coverage requirement is technically still on the books with no penalty to enforce it.

2. Whose intent matters?

If the court strikes down the mandate, then the question turns to "severability" — how much of the rest of the ACA has to fall along with the mandate.

Severability is always a question of congressional intent. The courts try to figure out whether Congress still would have passed other

provisions without the one the courts are striking down.

Texas and the Justice Department argue that the whole law has to go, and to substantiate that case they point to 2010, when Congress passed the individual mandate, and 2012, when the Obama administration defended it in court.

On both of those occasions, it's absolutely true that Democrats believed the mandate was inseparable from protections for people with pre-existing conditions.

The blue states' counterargument: If you want to know whether Congress would have kept the rest of the ACA intact without the individual mandate, that's exactly what Congress did in 2017, when it zeroed out the mandate but left the rest of the law intact.



3. Who's going to save it?

Blue states' argument is based on the kind of textualist, congressionally focused principles that often work with conservative justices. But for the law to survive, at least two Republican appointees have to cross over and vote with the court's liberals to save it.

Most observers expect Chief Justice John Roberts to be one of them. And there are reasons to believe he might find a second.

Earlier this year, Justice Neil Gorsuch raised some eyebrows when his approach to the conservative legal principle of textualism led him to a liberal policy outcome. Also this year, Justices Samuel Alito and Brett Kavanaugh joined Roberts in an important severability decision.

And Justice Amy Coney Barrett also mentioned the "presumption of severability" at her confirmation hearings.

#

<https://www.axios.com/supreme-court-aca-lawsuit-arguments-284444b9-7d17-43b5-8d36-df283c3a9cfd.html>

-- SPEAKING OUT --

CALL THEM OUT

After Nixon, Reagan, Bush and Trump, it isn't clear and needs to be said: Today's Republican Party is the enemy of the people. Haven't we tolerated their anti-science, anti-government and anti-constitutional destruction long enough?

Local Republican office holders and defenders must be called-out to explain their allegiance to a political party that has demonstrated repeatedly that they are not the party of the people; rather a party of multinational corporations that have no allegiance to the working people of this country. Local Republicans can't name one single thing that the GOP has done to improve the lives of middle-class workers.

So, let's call out local, state and congressional officeholders to defend themselves. Make them tell us how and why they continue to be Republican and how that benefits the middle-class workers they're hired to represent.

Let's call out outspoken John Berry, State Coordinator of the Tea Party Patriots. It's time to defend your promotion of a criminal party and training local residents to vote against their own political interest.

Will we get a response, or will these gentlemen continue to do what all Republican leaders do when the crap hits the fan? Will they hide?

The problem is that they have no fear of the people. Jefferson expressed it well in the

quote most attributed to his writings: *"When people fear their government, there is tyranny. When government fears the people there is liberty."*

Joseph Colella, Past RADC President

OUR BLUE BEAUTIFUL CITY

It's been a long wait to see Redlands a "Blue City"..., let's seize the opportunity.

Much of my critique on the local Republican power structure has been refused by the *Redlands Community News*. It took a personal letter to the editor explaining that their refusal to print criticism of local "lost Republicans" was inconsistent with the new Blue majority.

I would like to hear them defend many issues, i.e., why a small city like Redlands needs a \$25,000,000 police department while the homeless sleep on the street.

Joseph Colella, Past RADC President

Editor's Note: Joe informs us that he is responsible for the club name change from Redlands Democratic Club by adding the word "Area" to the Redlands Democratic Club, because many members resided in our surrounding communities.

Welcome back, Joe.



Letter Writing Pays Off

I wrote letters to reluctant voters who are Democrats urging them to make a plan to vote. This effort was sponsored by Vote Forward and organized by Daily Kos. I mailed these letters on October 17 at the post office near Walmart.

I wrote to Democrats living in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Texas, Maine, Florida, and even Mississippi, New Hampshire, Iowa, Colorado, Missouri. Great stress reliever!

Nancy Blastos, RADC Trustee



RADC LEADERSHIP

~ OFFICERS ~

Lorraine Enriquez, President

Kristin Washington, Immediate Past President

Don Singer, Vice President

Gilda Gularte, Secretary

Carole Coley, Treasurer

Les Greenberg, Assistant Treasurer

~ TRUSTEES AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES ~

Nancy Blastos (Voter Registration)

John Coley (Membership)

Samuel Edison (Sergeant-At-Arms)

Frank Garcia (Voter Registration)

Kris Goodfellow (Programs)

Renee Kern (By-Laws)

Ana McNaughton (Precinct Development)

Priya Vedula (Publicity)

~ COMMITTEE CHAIRS ~

Eddie Sanchez (Campaign Coordinator)

Mario Saucedo (Community Outreach)

"The Progressive"

Carole Coley, Editor and Design

Les Greenberg, Club Photographer/MeetUp Coordinator

Send articles to: redlandsdems@gmail.com

ATTENTION: Unless otherwise noted, editorials and/or articles that appear in *The Progressive* are the opinions of named contributors and not necessarily of the RADC leadership or its members.

Redlands Area Democratic Club

PO Box 8861

Redlands, CA 92373

Website: redlandsareadems.org

"Corruption is just another form of tyranny."

~ President-Elect Joe R. Biden ~