

San Mateo County
Democratic Central Committee
General Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2019

Prior to Meeting

- Chair called order at 7:30pm. She introduced Francesca Segre, Chair of the Speaker Series committee. Francesca introduced Sen. Scott Wiener who spoke about various issues related to SB 50, housing, and transportation. He also discussed the gun show issue at the Cow Palace. He also spoke about criminal justice reform including the Governor's decision to no longer allow capital punishment. He took questions.
 - Diana Reddy: Last year's version of SB 50 had the concern of affordability. When you say that the buildings that are naturally affordable cannot be demolished, is there an opportunity to demolish and replace with more unit buildings?
 - Wiener: No Net Loss means that if you demolish and rebuild, the units that had been there have to be available at the same rate. Also, we had Right To Return. Allows renters to return at the same rent. If a renter has been there for 7 years, you can't invoke SB 50. If Ellis Act has been used in last 15 years, you can't invoke SB 50. The bill would put inclusionary somewhere between 15-20%.
 - Lisa Nash: When I hear concerns about SB 50, what's going to happen to traffic. There doesn't seem to be a lot of discussion about alternative options. Trains, bridges, etc. What does "job rich area" mean?
 - Wiener: Job Rich has an existing definition. There are experts who work in the area where they have predicted of what would be "job rich" areas. Contact my office and we can provide that website.
 - Wiener: Housing doesn't drive population growth. It's jobs. Or lifestyle. When I talk to people, they think that one hour after the bill is signed, apartment buildings will just appear. That's not how it works, of course. It takes years, decades. Some want lots of housing immediately. Some want their neighborhoods to not change. Regardless, housing changes slowly and it will continue to change. Huge immediate change doesn't really happen.
 - Wiener: We must do more to improve Transportation. SB 1 passed. Thank you for voting and defending that. There is a mega bill being considered.

- Sandra Lang: Measure W. When we look at the distribution of the population of people in the area. It seems that most of the development is around transportation. Isn't that unequal?
- Wiener: That's why we put the "high opportunity" component in SB 50. Putting it in, expands the areas that are subject.
- Elsa Shafer: Thank you for being here. Isn't it true that we've added 10-12x more jobs than housing units? The degree people have to drive to get to work is a major driver in traffic?
- Wiener: Job growth is outpacing housing units. We're #49 or something similar to units per population. People come here for lots of reasons. I came here as a young gay person. Jobs is the main driver. Tech of course. We aren't producing lots of housing. Some say we should not allow jobs to be brought here. Not sure how it could be done legally. If you make it inhospitable to create jobs, there's a risk that jobs would go elsewhere and that might be bad.
- Reddy: 60% of jobs come from out of the county and the lowest paid jobs people come the furthest. Jobs is the driver of traffic.
- Wiener: We need to have more housing. There are communities that have not allowed a lot of housing but have created huge number of jobs. Cupertino is prime example.

Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda & Approval of Minutes

- The call to order occurred at 8:04pm by Committee Chair, Nicole Fernandez.
- The April, 2019 meeting agenda was adopted.
- The March, 2019 meeting minutes were approved.
- New visitors were asked to speak.
 - Regina Islas from San Mateo, an ADEM Delegate, Peninsula Progressive, here to support the Taser resolution.
 - Pat Murray from SSFUSD.
 - Cory Wolbach from Palo Alto, former City Council member, Peninsula Democratic Coalition, might be supporting SB 50, might have resolution about public spaces for both SMCDems and Santa Clara.
 - Sally Lieber, candidate for Senate District 13, love how central committees take on big issues, here to talk about the Taser resolution.
 - Chris Sturkin, ADEM, glad to be here.
 - Roxanne from Santa Clara Dems. Running for chair of the progressive caucus.
 - Mike Dunham, candidate for Burlingame City Council. New alternate for Ashleigh Evans.
 - Belinda Arriaga, was here before giving the border relief talk, new alternate, glad to be here.
- Chair: Please check in on social media.

Executive Board Reports

Chair (Nicole Fernandez):

- Rep. Anna Eshoo had her activist event last night. Nancy Yarbrough, TJ Glauthier, Brigid O'Farrell, Harini Krishnan, were there and helped.
- Nancy Yarbrough: New voter from Half Moon Bay. Good program. Indivisible, Sister District and others talked about how we can work together.
- Elected members, others, Region 6 meeting on April 29, 7pm, IBEW hall, Hene will go over what you need to know to be a good delegate. Convention is May 31-June 2. Price goes up after April 30.
- Evans: Brigid and I will be taking our resolution about the crisis on the southern border to the resolutions committee at the convention.
- Chair: Call for proxies. Please ask someone or let us know and we'll find someone to go.
- Chair: Luncheon. Sen. Wiener is going to come. May 31 is beginning of Convention. Luncheon on the Saturday.
- Nancy Yarbrough: Sam is not here. But he asked us for a show of hands. 40 or so people raised their hands.
- Reddy: There was a huge security issue at the convention last year. Can we have it on site?
- SMCDems LEAD! Event was this week. If you want to join us, please email me. May 6th is about the cost of campaigns. May 19th will be on campaign ethics and will be given by Hene Kelly.
- Opportunity to inherit some furniture. Are there any volunteers who would help move it? We have to do it by next Wednesday.

Northern Vice Chair (Cliff Robbins):

- No report.

Southern Vice Chair (Karen Maki):

- No report.

Controller (Nancy Yarbrough):

- Thanks to TJ Glauthier for help for the format.

Recording Secretary (Mitchell Oster):

- Reminder that we're taking attendance. Please make sure to check in on the sign in sheet.
- Also, if you are not able to make it to the meeting, please let the Chair know in advance, if possible.
- If you got the minutes or roster and there was something wrong, please let me know.

Corresponding Secretary (Alexis Lewis):

- Chelsea Bonini: Sent thank you to Nancy and Jane.
- Brigid O'Farrell: Alexis also sent out the resolution to our local state reps. Let me know if you want to hear the responses.

Standing Committee Reports

Finance:

- Nancy Yarbrough: I move that we accept the budget.
- Jon Levinson: Seconded.
- All in favor: Aye, all by voice.
- Opposed: None.
- Abstentions: None.

Endorsements:

- Brigid O'Farrell: Committee met, then we had an open meeting that everyone was invited to. We also asked for written responses. We got a lot of responses. We combined the meeting and written responses. The committee will meet again next week. There will be a draft of recommendations to be proposed at the May meeting. It will go out with the announcement for the May meeting.
- John Woodell: Excellent meeting. There were four topics. And were only allowed to discuss those. Are there opportunities to discuss other issues?
- O'Farrell: Yes, people gave feedback on a broader group set of issues.
- Sandra Lang: So these will take effect for 2019. For the ones that have to go to Bylaws, how will that work?
- O'Farrell: Yes. These take place this year. If there are Bylaws issues, they will go to that committee.

Events:

- Harini Krishnan: We met to go over events. In addition to the luncheon, we're thinking of fun events. Especially ones that include youth. Make it more fun for them. Thinking of doing an event around July 4. Reach out to Dem clubs and do a trivia night. One idea was to reach out to the university and college dem clubs.

Bylaws:

- No report.

Resolutions:

- David Burruto: We have one second reading and one for urgent consideration. The Taser resolution we'll do first. This is the second reading. Committee reviewed it. There was no consensus on changes or a recommendation. Individual members can offer comment after a motion is on the floor. If authors would like to speak.

- Ashleigh Evans provided some general comments to introduce resolution.
- Evans: We've had 3 fatalities in San Mateo County last year. There was a 5 hour meeting in February where we had a 90 minute presentation. The Sheriff made there presentation. ACLU, Bar Association of SF, Cardiologists from UCSF also spoke.
- Evans: We heard the sales pitch and learned that they have made all kinds of disclaimers because there have been over 1,100 deaths around the country. Tasers are marketed as non-lethal. The company has been clever and made many disclaimers so that they are not liable. But millions have been paid out by cities and counties. The company say that children, the elderly, pregnant women, are not to be used. Mental issues either. Existing medical conditions. Not to be used on a person in an excitable state. Not to be used on the head, the chest, the face, the back. They are not regulated. There are questions about whether the training is adequate. Statistics show that Taser has not resulted in less gun use. I was left with the realization that this is not a non-lethal weapon since people are dying. It's being used as the first step in de-escalation. 60% used on black men. Equally important is that we are asking that there be increased training on de-escalation. Also more training on dealing with
- Evans made motion. Greg Loew seconded.
- Comments: Jon Levinson. I have issues with this resolution. It does two things. It calls for eliminating tasers and also training. Over 20 years, that's only 55 deaths per year. Given population of our large cities, that's not actually a high number. I would rather have a policeman pull out a taser than a gun. With a taser, it's less lethal than guns. I would like to see more evidence. Many who are tasered don't die.
- Sandra Lang: I don't have a problem with this. I laud the intent. I suggest a word change. I think "disabled community" should be included in the section about groups of people.
- Ashleigh Evans: I don't think I listed the groups in the resolution. If I was listing them, I'd included disabled. I think when you include the groups of people that the manufacturer limits, that's 2/3 of the population.
- John Woodell: These are being pointed at people and they are dying. It's not rich white people. It's a valid resolution. I'm supporting.
- Brigid O'Farrell: I want to thank the people who brought this and the county who held this long meeting. There is research that the taser has had some deterrent effect and reduced injuries to both law enforcement and people in the community. I suggest "permanent" to "temporary" until Board of Supervisors who are working with the Sheriff's office to consider banning. I would encourage them to halt the use until they reach a conclusion. ACLU is not recommending banning the Taser, but rather training, and other steps to reduce the negative effects.

- Chelsea Bonini: I want to address the issues Sandra Lang raised. The way this is drafted, it discusses racial bias, we have included specific status groups, we should include people with disabilities. Recommend a friendly amendment.
- Ashleigh Evans: I had mild congestive heart failure. If I was tased, that could be very damaging. Disability is sometimes hard to see. The UCSF cardiologist brought up the point that even healthy people can be affected.
- Diana Reddy: Since 2000, 1,081 deaths, and 60% are in communities of color and police are not being held accountable. This is a tool does not need to be in people's hands. I recommend support of the resolution.
- David Burruto: You can accept but we need language. I also have my own comments that could improve it.
- Greg Loew: I was not originally in support of this. I thought it was for de-escalation. After discussing it with Ashleigh, I changed my mind about it and now support. The fact that each of those groups is listed shows that this is a tool that should be not be used at all. San Francisco overwhelmingly supported a ban.
- Ashleigh Evans: Chelsea and I have come to an agreement. I am amenable to including "and disabilities" to the 4th line in the first Therefore.
- David Burruto: I flagged a few edits. "Taser" is a brand name. It actually doesn't reflect the device. CEW is the name. Conductive Electrical Weapon.
- Evans: Taser is more recognizable.
- Burruto: I think we should remove the "gun use" language.
- Evans: Does not accept the friendly amendment.
- Burruto: The sheriff is putting training in and they have mental sensitivity issues.
- Evans: Accepted some changes to language. "Handheld CEWs, such as Tasers". "Require de-escalation" and "sensitive issues with racial bias, disabilities".
- Burruto: "All county residents". Evans: Strike "all".
- Burruto: change "introduce" to "place on county ballot to amend" in the Be It Further Resolved.
- Karen Maki: Cities?
- Evans: County only.
- O'Farrell: Temporary instead of permanent?
- Evans: No.
- Question called. Motioned, seconded. Abstention: Burruto, Berman. Motion passes.
- A short recess was taken.
- Chair called for order at 9:09pm
- Burruto: There is a second resolution. Urgency consideration.
- Brent Turner: This bill has been worked on for 15 years. This is the moment of truth to put money up. SF has already supported this. This would be matching funds. Burruto motioned. Yarbrough seconded.
- Burruto: There are some typographical edits. Carriage returns and semicolons. "And" added. Friendly amendments accepted. Motion carries. Berman abstains.

Election Integrity:

- Brent Turner: Page 140 of the Muller Report about the meeting about polling data with the Russians, we believe that was used not just for Facebook but also the voting systems. It was considered wild minded before, but now.

Voter Registration:

- No report.

Speaker Committee

- Chair: Kimberly Ellis next month.
- Mike Dunham: Topics coming up: June, lowering voting age. July, Islamic community relations. New email: speakers@smcdems.org.

Welcoming Committee:

- Sharrie Kriger: Thank you to Brigid O'Farrell and TJ Glauthier for setting up room tonight.
- We had a great meeting.
- Hope to connect with Technology Committee
- Chair: Glad we're working together to help share what we do and who we are. Thank you.

Communication & Technology:

- Had a nice meeting with my committee on April 2nd. We're still working out the details, but we had a good discussion regarding the general scope of the committee and we fleshed out some of the details about the website update—both corrections/improvements to the current site for accuracy/usefulness & finding a new provider, the email system, and working with the Corresponding Secretary on outgoing communications. We'll have something more concrete to report next month. New mic.

Leadership Development

- Chair: Thank you to Robert Bernardo.

Clubs Liaison

- Chair: I need to connect with Chelsea Bonini.
- Chair: Club people in the room, get rosters to me.
- John Woodell: The July pre-endorsement meeting is for the March 2020 election.

New Business

- None.

Regional Director, Legislative, and Clubs Reports

Region 6 Director:

- No report.

Congresswoman Jackie Speier (CA-14):

- No report.

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (CA-18):

- No report.

State Senator Scott Wiener (SD-11):

- No report.

State Senator Jerry Hill (SD-13):

- Erin Chazer: Let you know on April 25th at 7pm will have a legislative forum at HMB HS. Outages on the Coastside. And the tunnel issues. Stakeholders together. Flyers on table. Mullin and Berman too.

Assemblymember Phil Ting (AD-19):

- No report.

Assemblymember Kevin Mullin (AD-22):

- No report.

Assemblymember Marc Berman (AD-24):

- No report.

Coastside Democratic Club:

- No report.

Hillsborough Democratic Club:

- No report.

North Peninsula Democratic Club:

- No report.

Pacifica-Daly City Democrats:

- No report.

Peninsula Democratic Coalition:

- No report.

Peninsula Young Democrats:

- No report. Alex Melendrez. Two meetings. Next Sunday, engage swing state voters, also drink beer. Belmont. 2020 race. General meeting May 2. Featured is Steven Booker. Topic is unions, challenges.

San Mateo County Democracy for America:

- Ashleigh Evans: Wednesday, May 1st at 7pm. Beyond Punishment. David Lim. Former Deputy DA in Alameda County. Costs are passed along to inmates. This is not what should happen.

Lightning Round (one-minute announcements/remarks)

- Jon Levinson: Tomorrow April 19 is a day of anniversaries. Columbine. Warsaw Ghetto. Patriots Day. Beginning of Revolutionary War.
- Ashleigh Evans: House party for Sally Lieber. Get to know her a little better. Hear stories about rescuing refugees in Greece. Have room for a few more. Sunday 28th.
- Karen Maki: PGE resolution passed Santa Clara and Alameda. We plan to bring it to the convention.
- Lisa Nash: Sister District focuses on state legislature seats and turning them Blue. Going back to Virginia again this cycle. Shelly Simon. She was up by one vote. They recounted and it was tied and they pulled a name out a hat. Then they found a lot of other ballots that came out in her favor but it was already too late. Please come support.
- Belinda Arriaga: After we talked about the problems on the border here, we wanted to give an update. Sister Norma is coming to USF and San Mateo County. Next Sunday. Talk at Our Lady of Angels in Burlingame. 4-6 next Sunday. Also at USF at McLaren Conference Center. Great opportunity. She will hear about all the great donations.
- Diana Reddy: Publicly thank Brigid for bringing Anne to our meeting. Good at trying to herd the cats. Reminding us about active listening. Big event and great experience.
- Roxanne: Here running for Northern California Vice Chair of the Progressive Caucus. Touch other topics. Fees for Sheriff Depts. Those are used as fines to keep people permanently in the Criminal Justice System. I was a judge until I was outed as a trans woman.
- Harini Krishnan: We are so lucky in this area to have such incredible candidates for State Senate. I have a fundraiser for Shelly Masur. Also, I am co-hosting a reception for Kamala on May 18. Flyers for both events.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 9:31pm.