

**San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee**  
**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 19, 2021**

**7:00 PM - Speaker - Stop the Recall Panel**

- Member Muneeb Khan interviewed panelists Rudy Espinoza, Deepa Sharma, and Tiffany Wood on how members can mobilize in support of Gov. Newsom ahead of the Recall's election day.

**7:30 PM - Getting to Know each other - Break Out rooms**

**7:40 PM - Call to Order**

Adoption of August General Meeting agenda  
Approval of July General Meeting minutes

- Motioned by Diana Reddy, seconded by Ashleigh Evans. The minutes, including the recent vote on the funding of Anti-Recall mailers, passed unanimously.

**7:45 PM - Executive Board Reports**

**7:50 PM - Stop the Recall Activities**

- Chair Maki shares that:
  - The FPPC Complaint filed against the San Mateo County Central Committee was dropped by the State agency.
  - Congresswoman Jackie Speier will be hosting an Anti-Recall bus rally on August 20 from 8 am to 12 pm. The bus will begin its journey in Daly City and end in Redwood City.
  - Flyers went out to voters on August 16th to coincide with when ballots would be arriving in the mail. Flyer fundraising was thanks to local legislators and Democrats donating \$14,365.

- A Facebook Voter Pledge has been created to bring the upcoming election day to more peoples' attention; please share with your personal networks.
- Rudy Espinoza shared that phone banks in support of the Governor are being held Wednesdays and Saturdays , and encourages all members to join the volunteers.
- Member April Vargas shared that more than 300 Lawn Signs have been delivered by the Voter Registration Committee (about 50 volunteers). Volunteers have been targeting infrequent voters and Latinx democrats; and in the coming weeks, committee members will also be targeting new voters who just voted for the first time in 2018.

#### **8:10 PM - SMCDems Agreement**

- Chair Maki shared that a small committee has focused on crafting the behavior guidelines for a month. Member Ray Larios presented the different points of the SMCDems Agreement, as well as the rationale behind the individual guidelines.

#### **8:25 PM - Emergency Resolution in Support of Afghan Refugees**

- Authors Alex Melendrez and Denton Murphy presented the resolution they created after the fall of the Afghan government.
- Motion by Nicole Fernandez, seconded by Jon Woodell, to send the resolution to the Resolutions Committee for further edits. With a vote of 6 ayes in favor and 19 votes in opposition, the motion failed.
- Alex Melendrez moved to pass the resolution with suggested edits, and was seconded by Rudy Espinoza. With 21 votes in support, and votes in opposition, the motion passed.

### **San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee Resolution in Support of Afghan Refugees**

**WHEREAS** the ongoing uncertainty and violence in Afghanistan and the takeover of the Afghan government by the Taliban has created a humanitarian crisis, with rapidly deteriorating human rights and reductions in safety particularly for vulnerable individuals, including, but not limited to: women and girls, members of the LGBT community, those who have direct ties to the U.S. government and military, members of

ethnic minority communities, those who are Shi'a Muslim, adherents of non-Muslim faiths, including those of Sikh and Hindu faiths, and individuals who work for or have ties to aid organizations; and

**WHEREAS** refugees and their families face a multitude of challenges when arriving in the United States and transitioning to a new life, including but not limited to; resettlement, language barriers, financial hardship, accessing education, finding work and legal status; and

**WHEREAS** federal and state leaders in California, specifically in the Bay Area, home to the largest concentration of Afghans and Afghan Americans in the United States, have the unique and moral responsibility to welcome Afghan refugees in our communities, while honoring the commitments of the United States government, assisting in the evacuation of vulnerable groups, providing support to organizations who will serve the refugee community, and showing support for the Afghan community during this difficult time;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee supports and welcomes refugees from Afghanistan into our community and urges our state and federal leaders to act immediately and with determination, and rightfully bring at-risk and vulnerable Afghan peoples and their families to the United States for safety and prosperity and be afforded full benefits to transition into American life; specifically, SMC DCC encourages California to accept more, and house more, Afghan refugees than any other US State; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee supports access to significant opportunities and benefits to individuals and families arriving from Afghanistan, including, but not limited to: immediate eligibility for reception and placement afforded under Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) and refugee status conditions within a week of arriving on US soil.

#### **8:40 PM - Eboard Member Requirements Bylaws Amendment**

- Chelsea Bonini presented a resolution clarifying that alternates to ex-officios members could not serve on the Central Committee's Executive Board.
  - With 14 votes in favor, 8 votes in opposition, and 8 votes abstaining, the motion failed.
- Nicole Fernandez motioned to send the resolution language without the restriction of ex-officio alternatives to the By-Laws Committee, seconded by Ray Larios.
  - With 14 votes in support, the motion passed.

**9:00 PM - Standing Committee Reports, Regional Director and Legislative Reports, Club Reports** Please send reports to Recording Secretary Elmer Martinez at [elmermartinez17@yahoo.com](mailto:elmermartinez17@yahoo.com). Please provide information about meetings to [calendar@smcdems.org](mailto:calendar@smcdems.org).

- Brian Perkins, on behalf of Congresswoman Jackie Speier, invites all committee members to join the Congresswoman and local legislators on August 20th for the rally bus tour.
- April Northrup, on behalf of Assemblymember Marc Berman, shared that AB 132 was signed into law, creating a requirement for community colleges to host a basic needs center for students.
- Ashleigh Evans, shares that the next Democracy for America meeting will be entitled "Civilian Oversight of the Sheriff's Office in San Mateo County" on September 1. For Zoom invitation, contact Ashleigh at [asevans2002@aol.com](mailto:asevans2002@aol.com).
- Sarah Fields shared that the Peninsula Democratic Coalition will be hosting its annual picnic at Cuesta Park on Sunday, August 29th from 4-7 pm. More information available at <https://www.peninsulademocrats.com/>
- Ray Larios shared that the San Mateo County Latinx Democratic Club will be hosting a Latinx Heritage Month Celebration on September 17th at Cyclismo Cafe in Redwood City.
- Susan Pfiefer, on behalf of Regional Director Hene Kelly, apologized for Director Kelly's absence as she's on personal leave. She will also be sharing the emergency resolution regarding Afghanistan's fall to the San Francisco Democratic Central Committee for consideration.
- Rudy Espinoza, on behalf of Stonewall Democrats, shared that the club will be hosting an event "Preserve Lives of Transgender Women of Color" in collaboration with Every Town, CORA, Equality California and other community partners on September 8 from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

**9:15 PM - Lightning Round**

- Sandra Lang shares Streamless Bay Area's mission to create integrated fares. Sandra will follow up with more information on the organization. Sandra also adds that there's emergency labor activity pushing for transit agencies to

provide back pay to transit drivers and workers who worked throughout the pandemic.

**9:30 PM Adjournment**