

**Progressive Democrats of Benicia (PDB)
Membership Meeting**

April 10, 2017

PDB Officers: Ralph Dennis, Craig Snider, Kathy Kerridge and Maggie Kolk

Steering Committee attendees: Jack Kolk, Steve Young, Pat Toth-Smith, Roger Straw, Lisa Reinertson,

Meeting called to order by chair, Ralph Dennis: 7:05 pm

Quorum – met.

Membership: Not addressed.

Meeting Minutes: Not addressed

Esteemed attendees: (not acknowledged during meeting)

Steve Young, Monica Brown, Christina Strawberry, Deanna Dupont, Steve Gizzi, candidate for Solano County Judge

Treasurer's Report delivered by Kathy Kerridge: \$106 spent on the website; balance account: \$973 (some money left over from the March for our Lives – donated by Monica Brown - \$500 was donated)

Ralph reminded members that it's time to renew dues – renewable at the end each calendar year (\$20 per person annually)

Event Announcements:

- Tim Grayson - coffee on April 18 in Vallejo;
- April 19 forum for judge candidates in Fairfield;
- Mike Thompson – Pasta Feed in Vallejo on Sunday, April 22 Dan Fogel Center.
- League of Woman Voters – forum on 4/19 in the Dona Benicia room at the Library - discussion on propositions and one on one debate between Supervisor Brown and Jim Spering on Regional Measure 3.

Supervisor Monica Brown: At the State Convention, Supervisor Brown supported Tony Thurman for CA State Superintendent of Schools; Senator Bill Dodd voted for Marshall Tuck. Marshall Tuck is pro-charter schools (raised over \$2M on races to take public money for charter schools). Senator Dodd is supporting Marshall Tuck. Supervisor Brown distributed a letter to Senator Dodd, requesting that he rescind his endorsement of Marshall Tuck and support Tony Thurman. *This issue has been referred to the PDB endorsement committee for review and discussion. The letter has not been forwarded to Senator Dodd.*

Superior Court Judge candidate Steve Gizzi: Family Law, Dept. 3 candidate spoke asking for support. Left bio and other collateral.

Featured Speaker: State Senator Kevin deLeon, candidate for U.S. Senator, introduced by Steve Young.

Former member of the CTA (CA Teachers Association)

Among other bills, Sen. de Leon authored the California Values Act with Eric Holder (State Sanctuary Bill) SB 54

deLeon Discussion Questions posed by audience:

- CA SB 562 – Single payer health care system
- Jobs – workplace of the future
- Corporate donations – no; PACs – no corporate donations
- Immigration
- Equal Rights for Women
- SB 1144 – triple fines on refineries for failure events

- Foreign affairs – Israel, middle-East – One vote solution? deLeon supports the two state solution.
- Budget Deficit – repeal GOP Tax cuts

“Democrats play from a position of aspiration rather than strength.” Kevin deLeon

Endorsement Committee – Roger Straw ran the endorsements portion of the meeting. Ballots were distributed and members voted on the following:

Proposition and Measure (endorsement committee recommendations)

- *Proposition 68: (Support)*
- *Proposition 69: (Support)*
- *Proposition 70: (Oppose)*
- *Proposition 71: (Support)*
- *Proposition 72: (Support)*
- *Regional Measure 3: (Oppose)*

26 ballots were turned in by membership. Votes were reviewed and calculated by PDB Secretary, Maggie Kolk. Results to be announced at May meeting.

Adjourn: 8:38pm

Next Meeting: May 8, 7:00 pm. – **Senior Center (changed to due anticipated large attendance)** – Guest Speaker: Xavier Becerra, AG-CA

Submitted by: Maggie Kolk 04/10/18