**Albany Democratic Club General Meeting**

Albany Senior Center

May 16, 2019

7 p.m.

* The [meeting](https://www.facebook.com/Albany-California-Democratic-Club-Events-196127101003749/) started with brief opening remarks from Bryan Marten and introductions of attendees.
* Brandon Harami, [Kimberly Ellis’ Bay Area Regional Campaign Director for California Party Chair,](https://www.voteforkimberly.org/) spoke on why Kimberly Ellis is running for party chair in the upcoming special election.
* Her four priorities:
  + Address the problems caused by [the former party leadership](https://www.latimes.com/politics/essential/la-pol-ca-essential-politics-may-2018-california-democratic-party-chairman-1543170712-htmlstory.html) and establish policies that will fix the culture of the party.
  + Hold on to and expand our gains from the 2016 election and get more Democrats elected to city, county and state seats.
  + With the presidential primary coming up, we need to get our house in order to be ready for the upcoming state elections.
  + Make sure we are using our state party organization to win back the White House and work to get officials elected in other states.
* Dean Wallace, District Director for Assemblywoman Buffy Wicks, gave an update on what the Assemblywoman has been working on in Sacramento, including bills she has voted for and sponsored.
  + Bills sponsored by the Assemblywoman that have passed the appropriations committee and are moving forward:
    - Three bills in the works in the CalFresh area:
      * AB-1022 California Antihunger Response and Employment Training Act of 2019  Remove harm of the federal 3-month CalFresh time limit and related work requirements
      * AB-1377 CalFresh Connect children and their families participating in free or reduced price meals at schools to CalFresh
      * AB-1229 End Foster Youth Student Hunger in California Act of 2019
    - Four bills in the works around children and health:
      * AB-875 Pupil health: in-school support services
      * AB-1673 Firearms: unfinished frame or receiver
      * AB-767 Health care coverage: infertility
      * AB-836 Wildfire Smoke Clean Air Centers for Vulnerable Populations Incentive Program
  + The Assemblywoman has sponsored seven bills that have passed the Assembly
    - AB-723 Low-income housing incentives: leased rental housing: Counties of Alameda and Contra Costa
    - AB-923 Bay Area Rapid Transit District: electricity procurement and delivery
    - AB-1423 Transfers to juvenile court
    - AB-1485 Housing development: streamlining
    - AB-1790 Online marketplaces: marketplace sellers
    - AB-1353 Classified employees: probationary period
    - AB-1153 Mandated Child Abuse Reporting Employee Training Act of 2020
  + Dean Wallace discussed the Assemblywoman’s stance on the housing. He says the housing debate is usually framed as renters vs. developers. Her position is, to find a successful solution, you need to embrace both sides: Build more housing *and* support the needs of the more vulnerable population, protect tenants and fight displacement.
  + The club discussed Kimberly Ellis and other candidates for California Democratic Party chair:
    - [Rusty Hicks](https://rustyhicks.org/)
    - [Daraka Larimore-Hall](https://www.darakaforcdpchair.com/)
  + The club chose to not make an endorsement for state party chair.
  + The club discussed the bill SB-50 Planning and zoning: housing development: incentives and the impact it could have had on Albany had it passed.
  + The club would like early in the next legislative session to take a larger hand in voicing local issues like SB-50’s next incarnation.
  + Albany committee member Bryan Marten and city councilmember Nick Pilch outlined recent decisions and upcoming issues before city committees and the city council.
  + The club discussed resigning officers Jennifer Radics-Johnson and Yali Lincroft and the process for filling those positions.
  + Bryan Marten adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.