**Albany Democratic Club General Meeting**

Albany Library

April 18, 2019

7 p.m.

* The [meeting](https://www.facebook.com/events/2693130930760583/) started with brief opening remarks from Bryan Marten and introductions of attendees.
* Preston Jordan spoke on the California Voting Rights Act and its possible impact on Albany elections. His talk, “Albany Election Method: Decade of History, Ramifications, and Current Status,” looked at various election systems -- including ranked choice, cumulative, and by district -- and whether another method would better capture the city’s voter wishes than the plurality-at-large voting method used now for city-council and board-of-education elections.
* As part of the discussion, the club discussed how to increase ethnically and economically diverse candidate and voter participation.
* Mayor Rochelle Nason spoke on Albany’s current election method, other systems under consideration, and pros and cons of some.
* Julia Chang Frank offered to talk with local ethnic and economic groups to learn their position on election reform and then report back to the club.
* The club voted to amend the bylaws for officer positions and member rates.
* Following the vote, Bryan Marten led a discussion on the just-released Mueller report.
* Albany city councilmember Nick Pilch and committee members Preston Jordan and Bryan Marten described recent and upcoming issues before the city council and committees, including housing, uses for the Sugar Sweetened Beverage Tax funds and other tax measures, the Ordinance to Prohibit the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products, the latest revision of the strategic plan, and the Codornices creek spill.
* Bryan Marten adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.