

Albany Democratic Club General Meeting

Albany Library

September 19, 2019

7 p.m.

- Club Vice President Brian Beall started the meeting shortly after 7 p.m.
 - Attendees discussed possible topics that could drive attendance to club meetings, including local topics that could also drive participation in local government. We discussed how to increase exposure for the club, including backing local initiatives, supporting local issues and making endorsements.
 - After introductions of attendees, Dana Dean spoke on helping more democratic women get elected.
 - Dean is a graduate of [Emerge California](#) — an organization dedicated to training Democratic women to run for office — and is president of the California County Boards of Education and sits on the California School Boards Association board of directors.
 - Dean noted the higher up in the decision tree you go, the fewer women are involved. This is what Emerge is addressing: 31 percent of state representation of California is women.
 - Besides Emerge, other groups support women candidates, including [Close the Gap](#), a group dedicated to getting women elected to state positions.
 - Emerge California works to get Democratic women elections through an intensive training program on how to run a campaign.
 - Any woman who has thought about running for office should participate.
 - Next, we look at straw poll results from the Solano Stroll.
 - Then, we look at membership and club funding.
 - Finally, city councilmember Nick Pilch looked at recent city government activities and initiatives.
 - Vice President Beall adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.
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Albany Democratic Club General Meeting

Albany Library

July 18, 2019

7 p.m.

The meeting started with brief opening remarks from Bryan Marten and introductions of attendees.

The members in attendance then voted to fill the vacant seats for vice president and officer at large for the club. Brian Beall was elected vice president of the club to fill the seat vacated by Yali Lincroft.

Climate action

Eric Larson, a member of the the city's [Climate Action Committee](#) and member of the [Albany Climate Action Coalition](#) -- a grassroots public group -- started with an overview of the coalition and the differences between the two climate groups.

Eric discussed how the city's Climate Action Committee acts as an advisory to the Albany City Council. The committee also works on the Climate Action Plan 2.0, a guidance climate-action document for the city.

Eric also discussed the city's [carbon-free Albany website](#). Eric looked at the EBCE, or [East Bay Community Energy](#), and Albany's participation in the initiative.

Finally, Eric talked on [Albany's Climate Action Plan](#) and the work that goes into creating it and what the long-range goals are for the city.

[Berkeley Councilmember Kate Harrision](#) talked about this week's passage of the [Berkeley ordinance to remove natural gas from new construction](#) and how a similar ordinance might work in Albany to create new all-electric buildings. She looked at how it is already happening in Berkeley, including on campus. The ordinance also creates incentives to convert to electric. Seattle, Boston, Arcata are among the 50 cities that have contacted Berkeley about guidance on implementing a similar decarbonization ordinance in their area.

JP Ross, a senior director with [East Bay Community Energy](#), a local electricity supplier in Alameda County, including Albany, with the goal of providing cleaner energy and reinvesting profits back into the county.

JP discussed specific goals, initiatives, and programs for bringing renewable energy and electrification in buildings and vehicles and making communities carbon-free.

City government events

City councilmember Nick Pilch and committee members Bryan Marten, Preston Jordan, and **TGTKHousingPerson** discussed recent city activities and decisions.

Club president Bryan Marten adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Albany Democratic Club General Meeting

Albany Library
June 20, 2019
7 p.m.

The [meeting](#) started with brief opening remarks from Bryan Marten and introductions of attendees.

Bryan Marten reported that Julia Chang Frank intends to present at the club's July meeting on her discussions with local ethnic and economic groups.

Bryan Marten then reported on the recent California state party convention, which he attended. At the event, Rusty Hicks was elected California State Democratic Party Chairman.

Following a question on how the state democratic convention, the group discussed the state democratic party, its recent convention, and how state party delegates are appointed. City commission member Bryan Marten gave community updates on Albany [Parks, Recreation & Open Space Commission](#) activities.

City commission member Preston Jordan gave community updates on [Traffic & Safety Commission](#) activities.

City councilmember Nick Pilch discussed recent city council activities and decisions.

[Adena Ishii](#), the president of our Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville chapter of the League of Women Voters, spoke on the case for lowering the voting age.

She discussed the history of voting age.

The move to lowering the vote is taking hold in a handful of cities across the country, including Boulder, Colorado, and Washington, D.C.

She addressed common arguments against the issue, including teens don't care to vote and don't have the decision-making skills.

She presented data on reported voting ages from 1980 to 2016 and examined factors that can drive political interest and engagement, including gun violence. She also looked at the development of cognitive abilities for 16 year olds and they ability to make decisions at that age.

She then discussed how voting at 16 can occur with support and encouragement to vote.

She also looked at Berkeley's efforts to allow 16 and 17 year olds to vote in school-board elections.

And she examined the difficulty of allowing 16 years to vote by state.

As part of the discussion, she looked at the difficulty of having two ballots for elections: a limited for under 18 and a full for over 18.

Albany Democratic Club members in attendance held a straw poll and voted to recommend that the city council, city committees, and school board -- investigate adopting Vote 16 in Albany.

Bryan Marten adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Albany Democratic Club General Meeting

Albany Senior Center

May 16, 2019

7 p.m.

- ❑ The [meeting](#) 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](#), 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](#) 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](#)
 - ❑ [Daraka Larimore-Hall](#)
 - ❑ 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.
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Albany Democratic Club General Meeting

Albany Library

April 18, 2019

7 p.m.

- ❑ The [meeting](#) 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.
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Albany Democratic Club General Meeting

Albany Library

March 28, 2019

7 p.m.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1997635330544557/>

- ❑ The meeting started with brief opening remarks from Bryan Marten and introductions of attendees.
- ❑ Mayor Rochelle Nason spoke on The Exchange Club and its monument in Albany. Her talk, "A Torch in the Heart: Albany's Shrine of Freedom," looked at the history of freedom shrines across the US, including Albany's Shrine of Freedom at the corner of Key Route Boulevard and Solano Avenue.
- ❑ Mayor Nason also spoke on the role monuments serve in Albany and possible ways to reimagine the center of town.
- ❑ Mayor Nason then spoke briefly on the city's strategic plan and how to prioritize goals.
- ❑ Following the mayor's talk, Bryan Marten led a discussion on the Mueller Report and ways we can respond, including upcoming [events](#).

- ❑ Albany city councilmembers Nick Pilch and Pete Maas and Mayor Nason described recent and upcoming issues before the city council and committees, including the Sugar Sweetened Beverage Tax, the city's strategic plan, possible ways to reorganize our election process, transit corridors, the city's carbon-usage website, creek restoration, redistribution of various funds, and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), and local and regional housing issues.
- ❑ Bryan gave the treasurer status for Gabi Baty and reported finances are stable.
- ❑ Bryan invited members to volunteer for club positions, reviewed bylaws, and discussed membership rates, asking for input on the rates.
- ❑ Bryan adjourned the meeting at 9 p.m.