**Albany Democratic Club General Meeting**

Albany Library

June 20, 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.

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 Commissio](https://www.albanyca.org/government/boards-commissions-committees/parks-recreation-commission)n activities.

City commission member Preston Jordan gave community updates on [Traffic & Safety Commission](https://www.albanyca.org/government/boards-commissions-committees/traffic-safety-commission) activities.

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

[Adena Ishii](https://www.berkeleyside.com/2018/10/23/first-woman-of-color-to-be-league-of-women-voters-president-marks-a-series-of-firsts), 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.