

LA JOLLA DEMOCRATIC CLUB February 2010

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LA JOLLA DEMOCRATIC CLUB FEBRUARY 21st MEETING

FEBRUARY 21st MONTHLY PROGRAM AND 2010 CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS
LA JOLLA RIFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY, 7555 DRAPER AVE, LA JOLLA, CA 92037
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2010 AT 2-4:00 PM

“THE GREAT RECESSION OF 2007: THE LOSS OF THE MIDDLE CLASS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF AMERICA”

WITH

DR. JEOFFRY GORDON, MD,
OCEAN BEACH PUBLIC HEALTH FAMILY PRACTITIONER

The **La Jolla Democratic Club** will hold its monthly meeting on Sunday, February 21st from 2-4:00 pm, at the Riford Public Library in La Jolla. The meeting will include a presentation and discussion led by **Dr. Jeffry Gordon**, a medical doctor and a public health family practitioner in Ocean Beach, about **“The Great Recession of 2007: The Loss of the Middle Class and Implications for the Future of America.”**

Candidates running for election in 2010 will be present to discuss their campaigns and answer questions. Club members will consider endorsement recommendations. This will be the second of three endorsement meetings. The first was held on January 17, when a motion was passed to not take a position in January on the Congressional race in the 50th District. The third scheduled endorsement meeting will be held on March 21.

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CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY--PLATFORM

The La Jolla Democratic Club submitted recommendations for strengthening the California Democratic Party Platform in three areas: Education, Transportation, and Community Choice. We began our review of the CDP Platform last year and submitted our recommended changes to the CDP Platform Committee on February 1, 2010. The CDP will consider all recommended changes and will adopt a revised platform during the 2010 CDP State Convention in April. For questions and general information about the California Democratic Party Platform, contact Michael McQuary by phone (858-752-9544) or email michael_mcquary@yahoo.com.

2010 California Democratic Party Platform Calendar

February 1, 2010 5pm deadline to submit testimony
February 15, 2010 12 noon deadline for 1st draft from committee
March 5, 2010 Draft platform mailed to the DSCC
March 29, 2010 5pm deadline for amendments
April 13, 2010 Deadline for changes before convention

LJDC MARCH 21ST PROGRAM: SHERRI LIGHTNER

Sherri Lightner, San Diego City Council First District, will speak at the March 21st La Jolla Democratic Club meeting (La Jolla Riford Public Library, 2pm).

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LA JOLLA DEMOCRATIC CLUB NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2010 EMAIL EXPANDED EDITION

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THE LJDC SUBMITTED EDUCATION PLANK CHANGES TO THE CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

(Normal Type -no change, **Red-cut, Blue-added**)

California Democratic Party 2008 2010 Platform

Education Plank

From birth, California's children must have access to a free, individually appropriate, high-quality public education **from preschool through grade 12**. **The infrastructure to deliver high quality education for children 0-5 requires fortification. Post-secondary education must be accessible and affordable to all interested students.** Education must provide a well-rounded curriculum including **life skills**, the arts, music and physical education. Teachers **and support staff**, as the stewards of our future, should be well paid and work in safe learning environments with up-to-date equipment and **necessary** learning tools.

To help educate California's leaders of tomorrow, Democrats will fight to:

Provide linguistically and culturally sensitive educational opportunities;

Ensure equal and affordable access to vocational, technical, community college, or university-level educational opportunities of the highest caliber at minimal personal expense, including opportunities for lifetime learning and career retraining that enables Californians to participate successfully in the global economy;

Fund California's public education institutions to meet these requirements so that no person is denied opportunity due to an inability to pay;

Vest curricular decision-making responsibility in education professionals in

conjunction with content experts, including the means and methods of assessment and the decisions regarding the appropriateness of educational placement;

Ensure that California schools get full funding for any federally mandated programs;

Ensure that California's Child Care Licensing Division is adequately funded and staffed to support the safe operation of infant, toddler and preschool programs.

Assure the provision of **age appropriate** sex education, **for youth at ages that make sense for communities** confidential medical services, and access to nurses and counseling services;

Set per-student public education funding at a minimum of \$1,000 per student above the national average to keep California competitive in the global economy;

Close **all American-based** schools or facilities that engage in **a pattern of** mental, physical, or sexual abuse of our children, and hold accountable all responsible parties;

Cap class sizes at research-supported optimal levels, providing students from preschool through graduate school with access to sufficient educator attention, materials and space;

Follow IDEA or established program guidelines for educational placements, rather than relegate placement to school board or administrative discretion;

Follow California Standards for assessing students, setting learning goals, and increasing student learning, and do not use test scores exclusively to rate students, staff, schools or districts;

Use California Standards for the teaching profession as one measure of reforming teacher assessment and establishing a baseline for good teaching practices.

Provide teachers, administrators, and educational support staff with appropriate training for positions in which they are employed and provide appropriate monetary compensation;

Support collaborative partnerships between schools of education and local schools to reform teacher and administrator preparation programs that provide training, mentoring, and on-going support for professional growth; promote professional and personal qualities of successful teaching and learning practices; and meet diverse academic, social, personal and career needs of students;

Provide state of the art trade and vocational training to interested students;

Hold all publicly funded schools to the same standards of accountability;

Assessment and monitoring of student achievement shall be the professional responsibility of teachers, which includes setting learning goals and increasing learning opportunities commensurate to student learning ability;

Encourage collaborative partnerships between teachers, administrators, educational support staff, parents, and the local community members in planning, implementing and evaluating education programs;

Encourage parents and other community members to volunteer in schools to provide academic and emotional support of the school program;

Provide curricular articulation and communication between secondary institutions and post-secondary institutions to improve awareness and access to all students, including provision of options; and

Support immediate and robust educational reforms that result in a world-class education system that enables individual self-realization, entry-level job skills, civic literacy, community competence, and global competitiveness.

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LJDC SUBMITTED ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANK CHANGES TO THE CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

- ☐ Oppose utility, monopoly-protection referendums that change community choice state laws that allow local governments to contract freely for electric power

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LJDC SUBMITTED ADDITION OF NEW TRANSPORTATION PLANK TO THE CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

Transportation

Transportation emits about 40% of our state's green house gas (GHG) and is responsible for about half of our state's energy consumption. This consumption reduces our energy independence and creates a need for additional military expenditures. In many of our urban regions, transportation causes nearly 50% of the air pollution. Our current transportation system results in urban sprawl, which reduces our farmlands, wetlands, and wilderness areas. There are about 42,000 fatalities each year on our nation's highways. Often having only poor alternatives to driving, Californians are periodically harmed by large increases in fuel costs. Traffic congestion routinely causes frustrating inconvenience and economic loss. In an emergency, congestion can

cause serious consequences.

To fight for a more balanced transportation system, California Democrats will

- ☐ Support good alternatives, from “complete streets” and bicycle education, to high speed rail;
- ☐ Support strategies for smart growth and sustainable communities;
- ☐ Work for a variable and comprehensive road-use fee pricing system, that could still include a fuel tax or fee, and will (1) be accompanied by tax reductions, sized to achieve either a net-revenue neutrality or a near-net-revenue neutrality; (2) pay for all road-use costs, including environmental and health; (3) mitigate impacts on low-income users; (4) protect privacy; (5) include congestion pricing when feasible; and (6) keep the per-mile price incentive to drive energy-efficient cars at least as large as it is with today’s fuel excise tax;
- ☐ Support state development of a comprehensive and fair car-parking system, that has (1) unbundled parking costs, often implemented by pricing and distributing earnings back to potential users; (2) sharing of parking between user groups; (3) congestion pricing, to limit occupancy to 85%; (4) archived knowledge of each parking space’s use and earnings; (5) on-demand, parking-space price predictions; and (6) automatic statements of earnings and charges for each member of all member groups;
- ☐ Support successful regional SB-375 implementations, by urging the state to operate comprehensive and fair car-parking systems at all requesting developments;
- ☐ Support the large-scale adoption of battery-electric cars and light-duty trucks, to include the installation of charging infrastructure.

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The Worst of the Pain

By BOB HERBERT
Published: February 8, 2010

There is a great tendency in this country to refuse to see what is right in front of everybody’s eyes.

While there is now, finally, a great deal of talk among the politicians and in the news media about unemployment, there is still almost a willful refusal to focus on just who is suffering the most from joblessness and underemployment.

When it comes to employment, there are roughly three broad categories in the United States. The folks in the upper-income group are not suffering much, if at all, from the profound reversals in employment brought about by the Great Recession. Those in the middle have been hit hard. The job losses there have been severe and long-lasting. But for those in the lower-income groups, the scale of the employment crisis has been mind-boggling.

What you’re not hearing from the politicians and the talking heads is that the joblessness and underemployment in America’s low-income households rival their heights in the Great Depression of

the 1930s — and in some instances are worse. The same holds true for some categories of blue-collar workers. Anyone who thinks this devastating problem is going away soon, or that the economy can be put back on track without addressing it, is deluded.

There has been talk about income inequality over the past several years, but what is happening now is catastrophic. The Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University in Boston divided American households into 10 groups based on annual household income. Then it analyzed labor conditions in each of the groups during the fourth quarter of 2009.

The highest group, with household incomes of \$150,000 or more, had an unemployment rate during that quarter of 3.2 percent. The next highest, with incomes of \$100,000 to 149,999, had an unemployment rate of 4 percent.

Contrast those figures with the unemployment rate of the lowest group, which had annual household incomes of \$12,499 or less. The unemployment rate of that group during the fourth quarter of last year was a staggering 30.8 percent. That's more than five points higher than the overall jobless rate at the height of the Depression.

The next lowest group, with incomes of \$12,500 to \$20,000, had an unemployment rate of 19.1 percent.

These are the kinds of jobless rates that push families already struggling on meager incomes into destitution. And such gruesome gaps in the condition of groups at the top and bottom of the economic ladder are unmistakable signs of impending societal instability. This is dangerous stuff. Nothing good can come of vast armies of the unemployed just sitting out there, simmering.

When the data about underemployment is factored in — meaning individuals who are working part time but would like to work full time, and those who have stopped looking but would take a job if one were available — the picture only worsens. In the lowest group, the underemployment rate was 20.6 percent, compared with just 1.6 percent in the highest group.

The people suffering the most drastic employment reversals in this recession have been those who were in the lower-income groups to begin with — the young, less well-educated workers, especially black and Hispanic high school dropouts, and certain categories of service workers, such as food preparers and building cleaners. Blue-collar workers were also hammered, especially those in the construction industry.

This is not to say that the middle class has not been hurt badly by the recession. It has been. In last year's fourth quarter, the group with household incomes of \$40,000 to \$49,000 had a jobless rate of 9 percent, close to the disastrous national average. The \$50,000 to \$59,000 group had a 7.8 percent jobless rate, and households earning \$60,000 to \$75,000 had a jobless rate of 6.4 percent.

The point here is that those in the lower-income groups are in a much, much deeper hole than the general commentary on the recession would lead people to believe. And none of the policy prescriptions being offered by the administration or the leaders of either party in Congress would in any way substantially alleviate the plight of those groups.

bland, class-and-category-neutral solution.

That is so wrong. As the Center for Labor Market Studies explained in its report: "A true labor market depression faced those in the bottom two deciles of the income distribution; a deep labor market recession prevailed among those in the middle of the distribution, and close to a full employment environment prevailed at the top."

Those who believe this grievous economic situation will right itself of its own accord or can be corrected without bold, targeted (and, yes, expensive) government action are still reading from the Ronald Reagan (someday it will trickle down) hymnal.

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LA JOLLA DEMOCRATIC CLUB 2010 MEMBERSHIP

It is imperative that La Jolla Democratic Club members renew their club membership and continue to support our local effort to educate the community, support progressive issues, and elect strong Democratic candidates during the 2010 election year.

With your help, the work of many volunteers in our 2008 La Jolla Campaign Headquarters on Silverado Street, and the successful election of 2008, [La Jolla turned officially "Blue."](#) We want to maintain our momentum. Sadly however, during 2009, we learned that meaningful change might not come from the top. We need to build a strong grassroots movement that will push for the change we voted for in 2008 and make our voices heard.

[Please renew your 2010 membership by completing the membership form and inviting a neighbor or a friend to join. Your membership and active participation does make a difference. Let's keep La Jolla BLUE!](#)

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LA JOLLA DEMOCRATIC CLUB 2010 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mail this form to La Jolla Democratic Club, PO Box 288, La Jolla, CA 92038 with your dues. Circle One:

\$5 Student / \$20 individual/\$30 couple / \$50 sustaining / \$100 patron (La Jolla 2010 Campaign Headquarters)

Receive newsletter (circle one): Online / USPS Mail / Both On Line & USPS Mail

Identify top Three Issues you would like the La Jolla Democratic Club to cover during 2010 General Meetings:

Highest Priority: _____ Second: _____ Third: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

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