

# La Jolla Democratic Club *May, 2014*

[www.lajollademocrats.org](http://www.lajollademocrats.org)



## 2014 Officers:

President - Derek Casady, 858-457-0246, VP of Communication - Carolyn Shadle, Secretary - Michelle Marzullo, Treasurer - Nancy Casady, VP-at-large - Jerry Wanetick, VP-at-large - Jim Evans, VP-at-large - Suzie Ditmars, VP-at-large - Michael Thomason, Webmaster - Ann Kennedy, Deadline Poet and Song Leader, John Meyer

## May Meeting will be on May 18

(the third Sunday in May)

**Sunday, May 18, 2014, 2-4 p.m.**

Community Room, AMC Theaters La Jolla 12  
8657 Villa La Jolla Drive, 92037

**Short movie entitled “Do the Math.”** It’s a climate-change movie featuring Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org. (350 parts per million of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is what is needed for life on this planet to continue as we know it. But we’re already at 400 parts per million!) “Do the Math is a life-changing short video giving positive solutions to the climate crisis we face. Guaranteed – your thinking will never be the same!

### Looking ahead -

Another change in date in **June** (to avoid conflict with Father’s Day)

The meeting will be the FOURTH Sunday, **June 22, 2014.**  
**Mark your calendar now!**

*“The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, it is whether we provide enough for those who have little.”*

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

*Action is possible on any item contained in this newsletter.*

## Club News and Announcements

### The Wealth Divide

Did you miss the February meeting at which Dr. Joeffry Gordon, M.D., MPH presented on the Wealth Divide? If so, you can catch up by viewing a posting of his presentation on the La Jolla Democratic Club Website ([LaJollaDemocrats.org](http://LaJollaDemocrats.org))

### News in Verse

by John L. Meyer

#### Pathways to Political Office

Streets and sidewalks pave the way  
When pols are making political hay.  
After election, not more than a day,  
They can't find funds for pavers'  
pay!

### Donations to Candidates:

The La Jolla Democratic Club, at its April meeting, voted to approve the following donations from the club treasury:

\$750 to Scott Peters, candidate for re-election to the U.S. Congress from District 52

\$500 to Sarah Boot, candidate for election to the San Diego City Council from District 2

\$250 to Jerry Brown, candidate for re-election as Governor of the State of California

\$500 to Dave Jones, candidate for re-election as Insurance Commissioner for the State of California

### Two La Jollans Honored as Women of the Year

LJDC member, Barbara Bry and District 1 Councilmember Sherri Lightner were among nine women honored for community service by California Assemblymember and speaker-elect Toni Atkins in March.

Barbara Bry, CEO of Blackbird Ventures, which invests in early stage technology companies, was honored for her public service in "leveling the playing field for women and girls in business, healthcare and policies," Atkins said

Bry is involved in organizations, such as Athena San Diego, which promotes women's involvement in life sciences and technology; and Run Women Run, a non-partisan political action committee that mentors and supports pro-choice women in elected and appointed offices.

(From La Jolla Light, 4/10/14)



*We can have democracy in this country, or we can have great wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we can't have both.*

## Clean Elections Campaign

We got a great commentary printed in the Union-Tribune in support of clean elections for San Diego on April 10, written by adjunct professor of political science at SD City College Mark Linsky. It is included below.

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Please write a letter to the editor of the Union/Tribune in support of Mark Linsky's commentary? We need a deluge of letters to the U/T. The more letters they receive, the more they will print. You can write a very deliberative letter or a short, off-the-cuff letter. The U/T will print the letters they want.

.....  
How to write a letter to the U/T

Put your thoughts together, e mail to: [letters@utsandiego.com](mailto:letters@utsandiego.com) and refer to Mark Linsky's commentary. Include your name, community of residence and a daytime telephone number. (The phone number will not be published.)

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*Want clean elections? Public financing is the answer*

*By Mark Linsky - APRIL 10, 2014*

*Bad weather and the influx of big money in political campaigns might appear to have something in common: Everybody complains about both but nobody seems capable of doing anything about either of them. In fact, while snow and ice may be the unstoppable product of Mother Nature, there is something which can be done to alter the influence of big bucks in our elective process.*

*There has been good news, bad news and good news again on this front. The good news is that public financing of local and state political races caught fire about a decade ago. From Oregon to Maine, New York to New Mexico, citizens in municipalities and legislators in state capitols enacted laws that limited the avalanche of private money pouring into campaign coffers. The bad news has been that with the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. FEC* and other related cases, many of these local and state laws have been wiped off the books because of the limits they put on contributions. So where do we go to find that second batch of good news? Right here at home.*

*A Clean Elections Initiative has an excellent chance of making it onto the local ballot in 2016, allowing the voters of the city of San Diego to decide if they want candidates running for mayor, city attorney and City Council to opt out of the race for large private donations and opt into public financing for both the primary and November election cycles. As written, the program would be overseen by the San Diego Ethics Commission, require scheduled debates by fund recipients, and adopt a logotype (a distinctive imprint for campaign materials) which would signal voters that the candidate has said an unqualified "no" to large private donations and the influence that inevitably accompanies the money. Support is already building for this effort. Twenty or so groups including community town councils from Rancho Peñasquitos to Linda Vista and civic organizations, such as the League of Women Voters, have given the effort an enthusiastic thumbs up. By keeping the emphasis on voluntary rather than mandatory compliance, San Diego would avoid a major pitfall of other such efforts across the nation. The law would permit candidates who reject public financing to raise private money in accordance with existing law.*

*But public financing of campaigns has several distinct advantages over the current system. First, voters know in advance the source of money coming to a candidate. Next, serious but under funded candidates who otherwise might not get a shot given the current system would receive the support necessary to make their platform known and so give voters additional choices at the polls. Third, with new and different office seekers in the mix, voters who have grown discouraged by the lack of exciting choices would again be inclined to participate in local elections. And finally it makes good sense that given the enormous time and effort now required to locate and chase down big private donations, the public option would have a liberating effect. Imagine aspirants actually spending the bulk of their time getting to know the issues and expectations of the people they seek to represent rather than worrying about meeting with fat-cat donors to fund their campaigns.*

*The late Tip O'Neill, former speaker of the House, once famously observed that there are four parts to any political campaign: The candidate, the issues, the campaign organization, and the money. And then he noted that if you don't have the money you can forget the others. A Clean Elections law in San Diego would make sure the last of these four elements doesn't get in the way of the other three. Over the past few decades voters have continued to show a dedication to the democratic process and the blessings it has bestowed upon us while at the same time growing more skeptical of the methods and the means used to influence voting itself.*

*If we can agree that big money has become central to the calculus of success at the polls, then it is only logical to find a way to limit its corrupting influence. If the citizens of San Diego get behind this initiative it will be a signal that they truly want the best candidates — not just the best funded — to become the future leaders of our community.*

## Get Ready to Vote - Primary Election - June 3, 2014

Watch for the following Democratic candidates. (Incumbents are marked with an asterisk (\*) and endorsed candidates are marked with a ©.)

### **Federal Offices:**

© U.S. Congress, District 52 - Scott Peters\*, [www.scottpeters.com](http://www.scottpeters.com)

### **State Officers:**

**Governor** - © Edmund G. "Jerry" Brown\*, [www.jerrybrown.org](http://www.jerrybrown.org)

**Lieutenant Governor** © Gavin Newson\*, [www.jerrybrown.org](http://www.jerrybrown.org)

**Attorney General** © Kamala D. Harris\*, [www.kamalaharis.org](http://www.kamalaharis.org)

**Controller** John Perez, [www.perezforcontroller.com](http://www.perezforcontroller.com)

and Betty Yee, [www.bettyyee.com](http://www.bettyyee.com) and Tammy D. Blair

**Treasurer** - © John Chiang, [www.electjohnchiang.com](http://www.electjohnchiang.com)

**Secretary of State** -Derek Cressman, [www.derekcressman.com](http://www.derekcressman.com)

and Alex Padilla, [www.padilla4sofs.com](http://www.padilla4sofs.com)

**Insurance Commissioner** © Dave Jones\*, [www.davejones2014.com](http://www.davejones2014.com)

Dave Jones was the keynote speaker at the Roosevelt Dinner in April. He seeks approval of a November ballot initiative to require review of proposed rate increases by health insurance companies, as is required for home and auto insurance.



**Superintendent of Public Instruction** - © Tom Torlakson\*, [www.tomtorlakson.com](http://www.tomtorlakson.com)

**State Senate, District 40** © Ben Hueso\*, [www.huesoforsenate.com](http://www.huesoforsenate.com)

**State Assembly, District 79** - © Shirley Weber\*, [www.dweber4assembly.com](http://www.dweber4assembly.com)

### **San Diego County**

**Superior Court Judge, Office No.19** © Hon. Michael J. Popkins\*,  
[www.electricjudgepopkins.com](http://www.electricjudgepopkins.com)

**Superior Court Judge, Office No. 20** - © Carla Keehen, [www.carlakeeheforjude.com](http://www.carlakeeheforjude.com)



**Superior Court Judge, Office No. 25** © Michele Hagan,  
[www.haganforjudge.com](http://www.haganforjudge.com) Michele spoke to the LJDC club in April. She is running to fill an open seat and seeks our votes. Members will be invited to vote to endorse her at the May meeting.

**Assessor/Recorder/Clerk** © Susan Guinn, [www.susanguinn.com](http://www.susanguinn.com).

Susan spoke to the LJDC club in April. She has a record of fighting for taxpayers and winning. She is well-versed in property valuations. She is running against three Republicans and seeks our votes. Members will be invited to vote to endorse her at the May meeting.



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## City of San Diego

Our District 1 is NOT up for election. Others of interest are:

© Sarah Boot, District 2; © Myrtle Cole \*, District 4;

© Carol Kim, District 6; © David Alvarez\*, District 8

## Educational Districts (You can vote in all of the districts)

County Board of Education, District 3, © Alicia Munoz

County board of Education, District 5 - © Rick Shea,

rickshea4countyboardofed.com

San Diego Community College Board, District A - © Maria Senour\*

San Diego Community College Board, District C © Peter Zshiesche\*

San Diego Community College Board, District E - © Rich Grosch\*

San Diego Unified School District Board, B © Kevin Beiser\*,

[www.kevinbeiser.com](http://www.kevinbeiser.com)

San Diego Unified School District Board, C © Michael McQuary,

[www.dmike4schools.com](http://www.dmike4schools.com) Former president of La Jolla Democratic

Club, Michael spoke to the LJDC club at the April meeting. Members

will be invited to vote to endorse him at the May meeting.



## Propositions

41 © YES (Statewide) Veterans Housing and Homeless Protection Bond Act of 2014

42 © YES (Statewide) Public Records, Open Meetings, State Reimbursement to Local Agencies

A © YES (San Diego City) Amends Charter Related to Elections

"A series of special elections last year made it apparent that the city's election rules don't always match state law. After rushing to make various mismatched deadlines, City Clerk Liz Maland proposed changes to the city charter that would give officials more time to hold an election to replace a mayor or City Council member after a vacancy, and to certify election results." (Lisa Halverstadt, Voice of San Diego 4/26/14.)

B © YES (San Diego City) Referendum on Barrio Logan Community Plan Update

C © YES (San Diego City) Referendum on Ordinances Related to Barrio Logan

Community Plan Update

"Shipbuilders were not happy with the City Council's narrow approval of an updated Community Plan that will eventually separate homes and industrial buildings in Barrio Logan. These opponents set about overturning the vote of the City Council almost immediately. The shipbuilders' industry and its supporters, including the Chamber of Commerce, gathered enough signatures to place two measures on the ballot. There's a wonky reason behind the need for two items: The City Council approved the community plan update in September and then tackled related ordinances, including new zoning concepts, in a second vote in October. One ballot measure would overturn the plan itself; the other would overturn the ordinances." (based on report by Lisa Halverstadt, Voice of San Diego 4/26/14.)

Corinne Wilson spoke at the April club meeting about the importance of voting YES on Proposition B and C which are designed to protect residents' health by creating a buffer between the residential area and the port/industrial area. The initiative would require businesses that use

**Dues for 2014 are now due.**

Membership is on a calendar basis and is not prorated.

Join with, meet and socialize with other Democrats.

Receive the monthly newsletter. Help cover meeting costs and help get Democrats elected!

**Today's**

# ★La Jolla Democratic Club★

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please print this form, fill in, and send with dues to:  
La Jolla Democratic Club, P.O. Box 288 La Jolla, CA 92038

**LJDC Membership Annual Dues:**

\$20 Individual  \$30 Couple  \$50 Sustaining  \$100 Patron  
 \$5 Student

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

The newsletter is distributed only by email:

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer:**  Phone  Precinct Work  Host Meetings  Raise Funds  
 Serve on Board

**Make your check payable to LJDC or La Jolla Democratic Club**  
*Dues are not tax deductible.*

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**La Jolla Democratic Club**  
**PO Box 288**  
**La Jolla, CA 92038**