

April 6, 2010 Meeting Minutes

1. Joni called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM
2. PHDC member and former DCCC member Bill Barnes gave a short description of the form and function of the SF DCCC, after which candidates in AD 13 Catherine Stefani, Melissa Apuya, and Chuck Hornbrook spoke to the club about their qualifications.
3. David Chiu, president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors gave an overview of local propositions. Secretary did not arrive to take notes until Prop E.
Proposition A, School Facilities Special Tax.
Proposition B, Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response Bond.
Proposition C, Film Commission.
Proposition D, Retirement Benefit Costs.
Proposition E, Budget Line item for Police Security for City Officials and Dignitaries. Supervisor Chiu stated that he feels dignitary security is very important that everybody involved should understand the cost, which is something we know for the President and the Governor but not for the San Francisco Mayor.
Proposition F, Renters' Financial Hardship Applications. Supervisor Chiu explained that if a tenant lost their job or 20% of their income and their rent then constituted over one third of their income, then any judge would be able to determine if a landlord could increase their rent. This law would apply for both rent-controlled and non-rent controlled dwellings.
Proposition G, Transbay Transit Center. This is a policy statement that the high-speed rail that links San Francisco to LA should go to First and Mission not the Caltrain station.
4. DCCC candidates Keith Barack and Hope Johnson spoke to the Club.
5. Sen. Leland Yee spoke on Props 14 & 17.
 1. Sen. Yee explained that prop 14 likely would lead to all candidates fighting each other in primaries which would be very expensive. The general election would be limited to the top 2, no matter what party. Minor parties would disappear.
 2. Sen. Yee stated that Prop 17, paid for by Mercury Insurance, would be a tremendous moneymaker for insurance companies since they would be able to raise premiums for more people.
6. Larry Aceves, candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction, explained his qualifications and education philosophy.
7. Gary Gartner spoke on behalf of Tom Torlakson, candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction, explaining Mr. Torlakson's qualifications and goals.
8. Hector De La Torre, candidate for Insurance Commissioner, explains his qualifications and background in cleaning up corruption. Mr. De La Torre expressed his interest in single-payer health care and education.
9. John Rizzo spoke against Prop 16. Mr. Rizzo explained that Prop 16 would protect PG&E from competition by preventing the expansion of municipal utilities. Mr. Rizzo explained that the proposition's campaign is funded solely by PG&E.
10. Patrick Doyle interrupted meeting proceedings to make a motion that the PHDC should not vote on endorsements for the DCCC since not all candidates were invited to be represented at the meeting. The motion was seconded. Ms. Eisen explained that well-known candidates were not invited in order to level the playing field in an obscure race that is usually won on name recognition alone. Members proceeded to discuss the motion. The vote was called to delay endorsements until an additional meeting could be held where all candidates for invited. 18 for the motion, 4 opposed the motion, 3 abstained. Ms. Eisen asked for volunteers to help organize the upcoming DCCC meeting.
11. DCCC candidates Linda Richardson, Rick Hauptman, Eric Quezada, Paul Currier and Alix Rosenthal spoke next.
12. Monisha Mustapha was elected to the position of PHDC 2nd VP, Political Action Chair by acclamation.
13. Ron Miguel spoke on Prop 13, which would postpone property tax reassessment for seismic

retrofitting until a building is sold. Mr Miguel explained that the cost of the proposition is low & that what it does is eliminate the difference btm masonry and nonmasonry buildings as far as earthquake safety is concerned.

14. Ms Eisen called for ballots to be submitted & adjourned the meeting.

Club Endorsements are as follows:

California Lieutenant Governor **_No position**

California Attorney General **_KAMALA HARRIS**

California Insurance Commissioner **_HECTOR DE LA TORRE**

California Superintendent of Public Instruction **_TOM TORLAKSON**

Superior Court Judge, Seat 6 **_No position**

Superior Court Judge, Seat 15 **_MICHAEL NAVA**

San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee, AD 13

Voting delayed to next meeting

California Propositions

13 – YES Limits on Property Tax Assessment. Seismic retrofitting of existing Buildings. Legislative Constitutional Amendment.

14 – NO Elections. Increases Right to Participate in Primary Elections.

15 – YES California Fair Elections Act

16 – NO Imposes New Two-Thirds Voter Approval Requirement for Local Public Electricity Providers. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

17 – NO Allows auto insurance Companies to Base Their prices in Part on a Driver's History of Insurance Coverage. Initiative Statute.

San Francisco Propositions

A – YES School Facilities Special Tax

B – YES Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response Bond

C – YES Film Commission

D – YES Retirement Benefit Costs

E – YES Budget Line Item for Police Security for City Officials and Dignitaries

F – No position Renters' Financial Hardship Applications

G – YES Transbay Transit Center

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Schapira, Secretary