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LAST MEETING

Sue Walker presented an informative and detailed presentation on the legislative process centered around the effort to pass of [SB 202 - Medi-Cal: beneficiary maintenance needs: personal needs allowance](#). The timeline (which covers three years) explained the steps needed. Guests who were not aware of Sue's dedication to the cause of treating our elderly with respect and dignity were appalled to learn that confined people were expected to handle their own personal needs with an allowance of only \$35.00 **PER MONTH!** The Club voted unanimously to endorse the legislation that would raise it to \$80 per month, just to adjust for inflation since the last time it was set – in 1984! Don't forget to send personal letters and ask your friends to do the same. [Samples on the website](#).

The remainder of the meeting revolved around Resolutions – and other pending legislation. As a result we discussed a LOT of vital issues that all Democrats should be working on. Check our [Website for the full list of Resolutions](#) and the issues we tackled!

Our own resolution to demand Nestlé stop harvesting ground water until the effects are known was referred to committee to be updated and returned next meeting.

[SB 54 - Law enforcement: sharing data](#) is before the Legislature as well. The club voted unanimously to resist the oppressive agenda of #45 by repealing provisions of the law that require a law enforcement officer to 'snitch' on a person in their custody to ICE, or to treat them differently or hold them for longer periods of time than required by the law they are suspected of violating WITHOUT racial profiling.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 23rd, as shown on our [Website](#). Please look at the list of open Chair positions just below the meeting notice in the right hand column – and remember to nominate a candidate to become our Vice President!

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DEMOCRATIC PARTY NEWS

[Senator Kamala Harris](#) has some advice for Democrats that might taste like medicine to some.



A [new Democratic club chapter](#) [has launched](#) in the High Desert aimed at cultivating the voices of young people in the region: the High Desert Young Democratic (HDYD) Club. Focused on the ideas of young liberals in the High Desert, the HDYD seeks to participate in local and state

government while building a network of like-minded individuals young at heart in the area. Our Charter will be confirmed with the California Young Democrats at its convention in May. The [mission](#) of the HDYD club is to bring together young democrats in the High Desert to promote and enact a progressive democratic agenda. The group is grounded in principles of political inclusiveness, transparency, and awareness, as well as the idea that a community-driven process is central to an empowered and engaged democracy. Democrats and independents of all ages are welcome to join the club, with members over 35 holding an honorary position.

The HDYD meet on the first Thursday of each month, while its committees meet at the convenience of their members. Made up of people 18 to 36 years old with three Assembly District 33 Delegates, [details are posted](#) on the website. Currently, there are five committees: Elections, Rules, Fundraising, Membership, and Direct Action. The Elections Committee, chaired by Steven Dayton, focuses on local, state, and national elections, voter registration, and campaigning. The Rules Committee, chaired by Brandon Asdel, focuses on internal procedures. The Fundraising Committee, chaired by Jonah Olson, focuses on raising funds via events for various club activities. The Membership Committee, chaired by Lyndsie Davis, focuses on building membership through events, canvassing, and school partnerships. Finally, the Direct Action Committee, chaired by Amanda Getchel, focuses on engaging in grassroots activism. Linking up with other activist groups and clubs in the area, the HDYD hopes to encourage civic participation and community building in the High Desert.

It's a lively group of young people who are passionate about getting involved, making a difference, and taking part in open discourse with their peers. To learn more, check out our [website](#) or find us on [Facebook](#).

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SUPPORT PLANNED PARENTHOOD

ACA Repeal:

The **WORST BILL** for Women's Health in a Generation

- ✗ Blocks access to care at Planned Parenthood
- ✗ Guts maternity care
- ✗ Forces new moms relying on Medicaid to work right after giving birth
- ✗ Kicks millions of women and men off their insurance
- ✗ Reduces women's access to no-copay birth control
- ✗ Bans private insurance coverage of abortion nationwide

#IStandWithPP

#ProtectOurCare

It will come as no shock to most that the AHCA (or the Republican denial of health care bill) eliminated coverage for any state that supported women's rights to self determination of health care. "This is the worst bill for women's health in a generation. This disastrous legislation once again makes being a woman a pre-existing condition." – Cecile Richards, President of Planned Parenthood. [Women you should Know](#) suggests you call, write and/or text your Senator. Make your voice be heard. Senate Directory [here](#).

[Cecile Richards](#) is the daughter of iconic Ann Richards, whose power and skill in public speaking were obviously ingrained. She [delivered a speech](#) just hours after the passage of the AHCA in the House, calling the legislation "a vampire resurrected". Richards said the equity "we fought for so hard under President Obama" had been "thrown out", gender ratings enabling insurance companies to charge women more would return, and it would be more difficult for women to have access to maternity coverage and family planning.

"Supposedly the pro-family party just passed a bill that will basically make it harder to not get pregnant, harder to have a healthy pregnancy and harder to raise a child," she added. "The more this gets out there, the more people hear about it, the less popular it is and the more people that, when these guys go back home, because of course they're mainly guys, they go back home and they have to deal with a lot of women in pink pussy hats, Planned Parenthood signs and patients telling their stories, and they don't like that."

In other words, RESIST. And then RESIST some MORE!

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CIVIL RIGHTS

The "report writing" [Executive Order for ICE](#) was destroyed by the Administration itself – not the courts. They were caught lying, you see. Don't expect the [#45 vs. California battle](#) over Sanctuary Cities to be over any time soon. The story of immigration is as old as the country itself, and the lie of 'job theft' too ingrained. California's geography has a lot of sand on its Eastern border, and AG Becerra just [drew a line in it](#) – "We are in the business of public safety. We're not in the business of deportation." Other members of the Courts have also had their say – and it is that [Sanctuary Cities are part of our Law](#).

At the juncture of civil rights and environmental pollution – the residents of West Oakland have [claimed officials have ignored their pleas](#) for emissions reduction – even in the face of mounting evidence it's harming them.

There's another juncture – that between free speech and hate speech. [Berkeley is on the front lines](#) of that battle once again.

Joseph Turner is a white supremacist. He came out to Yucaipa from Orange County to try to get a racist ballot initiative approved. He thought (as many do) that San Bernardino County is a redneck pushover. His initiative? To deny public education to children of illegal immigrants. The registrar of voters denied it. [Yucaipa INDIVISIBLE responded](#). Nicely done, resistance movement!

The history of [the SNCC and its founding](#) is a fine way to chart the course for the movement in this country to ACTUALLY make our country's citizens proud of this nation once again.

[McKinsey Global Institute](#) has presented some facts that point to the lack of available housing for low income families. Legislative efforts are underway to increase the supply of affordable housing in California. Among them are [Senate Bill 2](#) (Atkins), which would raise \$300 million a year to fund many things from permanent supportive housing to down payment assistance, and [Assembly Bill 71](#) (Chiu), which would eliminate the mortgage interest deduction for second



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Civil Rights (cont.)

homes and increase funding for the state Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program by \$70 million to \$300 million per year.

[“Filter Shift - How Effective People See the World.”](#) Unconscious biases block effective interactions, according to author [Sara Taylor](#). Her book explains why the “Golden Rule”, universally expounded by all world religions, may not be enough to deal with people raised utterly differently from you. *‘Critical to the process is the “Platinum Rule,” which is learning to treat people how they — not you — would like to be treated, because what works for you may not work for others.’*

WATER RIGHTS



California’s water rights laws may well be the source of the increasing conflict between water boards, corporations, and the needs of the public. At least that is how [Learn Liberty](#) of the Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) sees it. Meanwhile, a past lobbyist and sworn foe of the Department of the Interior has been appointed to the very department he once sued (sounds familiar, huh?). Most see this as a walking conflict of interest, and the numbers are there to prove that, according to the [Herald-Sun newspaper article](#) from North Carolina.

If you are determined (as many of us are) to get Nestlé to stop sucking all the life out of our mountain, you might want to check out the Facebook page that is the temporary home of [Inland Empire Water Defenders](#).

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LOCAL POLITICS

[AB 14](#) remains in committee since January 19th . . . you know, the bill introduced to give dark money in political TV advertising the star billing it deserves. One has to wonder if money is being paid to keep it there. Money won't keep this bill from passing if we [get petition signatures](#) and make sure it doesn't "die" in that committee.

#45 basically said he doesn't like California. We pretty much return the sentiment. Now what? This [LA Times article](#) has some suggestions.

It seems like a business announcement, but with friends in the industry, I can tell you that [NETFLIX's decision to move production](#) back to California means a LOT to actors and professionals who've been sent to far flung sites due to tax incentives (or the lack thereof). Plus, the money generated for our State's economy will be VERY welcome to the State government!

Charter schools are almost constantly failing their self-proclaimed "easy goals" of better educating students. They're also failing ethical benchmarks, as this [article by Bill Raden in Capitol and Main](#) describes – and this one is clearly a Union busting effort.

Senator Feinstein received a much warmer welcome from her constituents at one of her recess town halls. Not THE Town Hall. [SF Gate tried](#) hard to make their story dramatic, though!

A Must-Read:

Golden State's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

On March 29, Controller Yee [published](#) the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. Prepared by the Controller's team each year, the [CAFR](#) allows comparisons of financials between government entities, which is valuable to the public, financial experts, and investors. Ms. Yee sees difficulties ahead, thanks to the current resident of our White House.

The [NRA is putting up a fight](#) against the legislation recently enacted in California due to massacres with military grade weapons. Surprised?

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BUSINESS AND NATIONAL POLITICS

We've reached that 100 day evaluation point – and here is how the Republicans did, as seen by [Democrats in the Senate](#).

What starts out as an apology goes much deeper – into a possible explanation of the Republican Party's lukewarm acceptance of what some are calling 'fascism.'

” They built a “vibrant and remarkable political mobilization,” she wrote, in an effort to address political concerns that would soon be resonating nationwide – for instance, their anguish at “liberal permissiveness” about matters like rising crime rates and the teaching of sex education in public schools.”

[Rick Perlstein has written an essay](#) on how historians blew it and could help fix it.

While we're talking about a “fix” for our screw-up, maybe we should look at [France and THEIRS](#).

“Missed it by THAT MUCH” in Kansas' special election to replace Mike Pompeo . . . and that's actually a pretty big deal. This [NY Times](#) article explains how encouraging this should be to Democrats.

The best news is that the resisting activism to #45's administration is being acknowledged . . . and even better, we're demonstrating what being the “Smart Party” is all about. This [New York Times article](#) is just one describing the knowledge base we're learning and applying every day.

Purported terrorists in Afghanistan were bombed by U.S. military forces using a particularly nasty sort of weapon. A friend on Facebook has the expertise to write a very clear description of this weapon – [the GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast Bomb](#) or “MOAB.”



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FAKE NEWS AND RELIABLE SOURCES

[Steve Ballmer](#) might not be a household name today, but that's about to change. When he created [USAFacts.org](#) he may have answered not only his questions about how our government spends money, but pointed out that there are secrets we may simply not want to be kept secret any longer – like how many guns have been sold in the U.S.



Tinfoil hats. Bigfoot lives. The moon landing was faked. Where do you draw the line between conspiracy theories and investigative journalism? Some scholars hope to give you some tools, and [Victoria James, along with Cambridge University](#) leads off. Jimmy Wales, co-founder of Wikipedia, is adding to the armory [with Wikitribune – a cooperative effort](#) between journalists and the public.

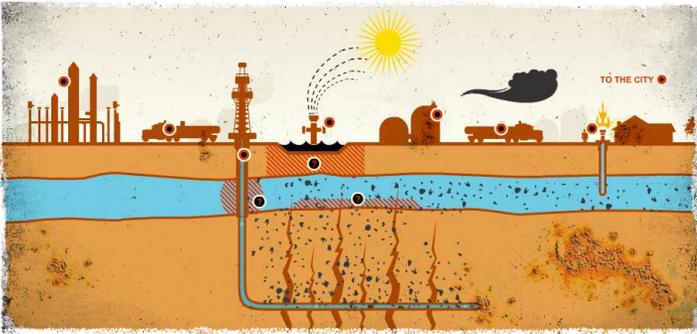
Do you dread being separated from your phone – for whatever reason – for however long? There's a reason for that. You're addicted, just like you're supposed to be. This [60-minutes Anderson Cooper episode](#) explains.

Words have power. They're mightier than the sword, and you won't be surprised that the white nationalists and other right wing nut jobs are [weaponizing them](#). Speaking of RWNJs – [Breitbart had a Convention](#) in Riverside last weekend. They had high hopes, according to Jeff Horseman of the Press Enterprise. Then he also gave us a run-down of the [Convention on April 30th](#).

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Environment and Climate Change

Club President Mickey Laws attended a Climate Change March on April 29th in Riverside – her first March ever. The results? Read the whole article [on the Website!](#)



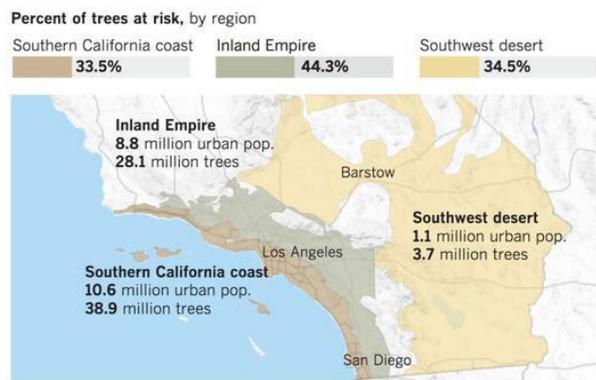
An update of a report issued in 2015, [Fracking Failures](#) finds that, in Pennsylvania, fracking companies violate rules and regulations meant to protect the environment and human health on virtually a daily basis. Using only renewable energy and keeping on track with worldwide carbon

reduction is, however, absolutely possible. This [VOX article](#) gets the discussion going.

Nuclear energy is suffering from economic woes with flat or diminishing production, while production is high and costs are falling for renewable energy production like wind generation and solar. This [LA Times article](#) explains.



Once again it is a Danish utility, this time a [wastewater treatment plant](#), that could lead the world in energy conservation and carbon footprint reduction.



Our trees are soon to be a LOT further apart, if this [LA Times article](#) is correct. And the culprit? About half boring beetles . . . and half the stupidity of Man, bringing in trees that require a lot more water than we have to give them.

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Environment and Climate Change (cont.)

Paul Stamets has [a better answer](#) than insecticides that kill harvest workers and helpful insects. Perhaps these many years later, the public's awareness is ready to put it into use.

Exxon, Vladimir Putin and #45 can't seem to get the [ball rolling on drilling](#) in the era of sanctions, spies and resignations. This Administration's first 100 days has certainly been [bad on environmental protection](#), though.

THE SUPREME COURT AND LAW

[Merrick Garland](#)'s influence on the Administration, regulations and the way government actually works is not QUITE over. His position in the "second most powerful Court in the land" until at least 2020 guarantees that. So we can expect him to have a lot to say about [#45's Executive Orders](#).

Tracing history yields some interesting connections. As does following the money. Sometimes in Law and Politics, they are the same. This [article on The Federalist Society](#) brings them BOTH together. [note this NPR information will only be available with citizen funding if #45 is able to defund all of NPR and PBS].

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THE WHITE HOUSE RESIDENT

“Trump appears to strut through the world forever studying his own image. He thinks out loud, and is incapable of reflection. He is unserious, unfocused, and, at times, it seems, unhinged. ” Does this sound like an opinion piece in [The New Yorker](#), that reserved, banner of polite discourse? Editor [David Remnick](#) shares his opinions about [A HUNDRED DAYS OF TRUMP](#).

I don't think #45 is going to like them.

Post 'honeymoon' blues are mostly on the part of #45 – those who are resisting his lies and bombast are a lot more celebratory – like [California's Secretary of State, Alex Padilla](#).

Day 100 — April 29, 2009 — President Obama enjoys a 65% approval rating.

Other Day 100 approval ratings:

Reagan — 60%

H.W. Bush — 57%

Clinton — 55%

W. Bush — 58%

Trump — 43%



The Huffington Post summarizes most of what the media is reporting about his rather [bleak first 100 days performance](#).

He didn't get where he is by himself. Here's a nice summary article that names some names. Have caution that this is a Politico article. [The Heritage Foundation and ALEC](#).

Some names not mentioned? Mike Morgan, Charles Koch, David Koch, but [THIS ARTICLE](#) certainly does. Give her time, and [Maxine Waters](#) will probably get to them as well; she's not prone to leaving anybody out of [her scathing truth](#).

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* EDITOR'S PAGE *

The trend lately is to clearly admit that these conservative actions are stopped (or slowed, at least) by activism - the kind of activism that Democratic Clubs and Indivisible groups are supporting. Of interest is that mostly it's Republican MoCs that feel threatened who [refuse to hold Town Halls](#).

Oliver Cromwell had this to say about the [Rump Parliament](#) (I'm not making this up, I swear!) "Is there a single virtue now remaining amongst you? Is there one vice you do not possess? Ye are a factious crew, and enemies to all good government."



Recently I had the distinctive privilege of being told to 'go away' by our Congressman's staff. Literally. When I arrived to drop off some material in advance of my scheduled constituent/staffer meeting with Jae Spencer in the Apple Valley office of Paul Cook, his senior staffer, Matt Knox, told me I wasn't welcome to visit the office. "We know you're a member of Indivisible, and that group is a partisan political organization, so

we don't have to talk to you."

Oh, really.

Stay tuned, Matt.

Stay tuned, citizens. That sort of opinion will be difficult to prove to a judge.

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Mountain Bears Democratic Club was founded in 2004. We are located in the San Bernardino Mountains of Southern California. We hope to do our part to inform and educate the public and bring newcomers to the party by registering new Democrats. The Democratic Party believes that the American Dream should be within the reach of all people. We welcome and encourage people from all walks of life to join us in discussion and debates regardless of your political affiliations.

Mountain Bears Democrats website:

<http://www.mountainbearsdemocrats.org>

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