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# LAST MEETING

## ***Before AB 14 (California DISCLOSE Act)***

Actual Yes on 26 TV Ad Disclosure from 2010



## ***After AB 14***

***New disclosure for full five seconds***

**Yes on 26 TV Ad**



In an informative and inspiring presentation by Jeff Villepique, this member of the [Democratic Club of Big Bear Valley](#) and [Represent.us](#) described a nationwide effort to remove bribery and 'dark money' from politics. From grassroots actions to State and Federal efforts to repeal existing laws and enact good new legislation, this work is supported by 80% or more of the population – regardless of political affiliation.

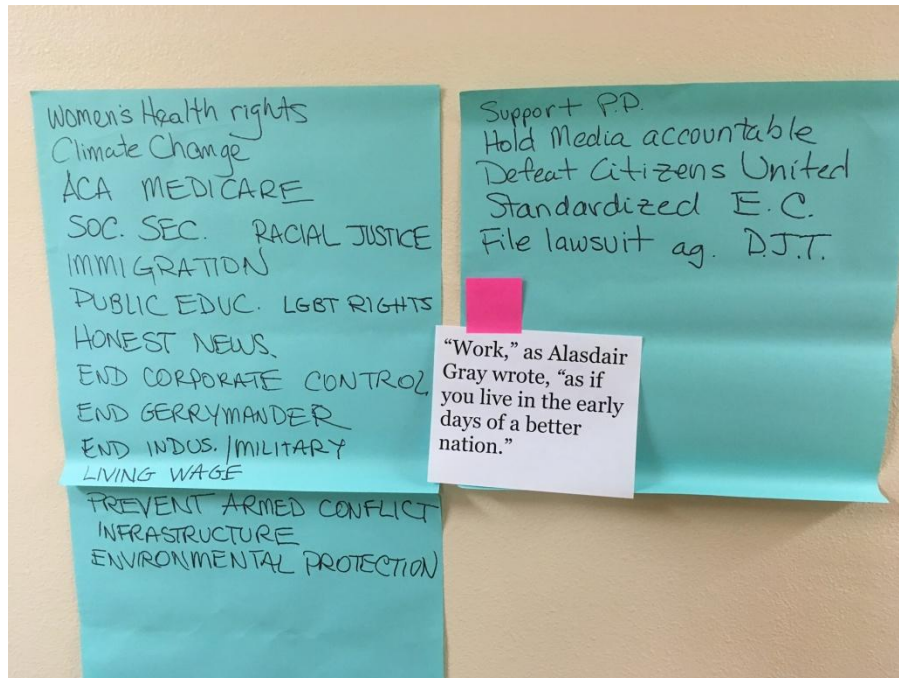
Here at home, [AB 14, the California Disclose Act](#), seeks to make decent TV donor disclosure a reality. In the last legislative session, the prior version, ([AB 700](#)) failed by only one vote. The tremendous spending on the part of Health Care mega-

corporations, the tobacco industry and big oil corporations was the cause it was defeated, but the reality is that the overwhelming support of the voters will prevail.

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# NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, February 28, 2017 in the Community Meeting Room of Alpine Escrow, Blue Jay Mall at 7:00 p.m.



We are planning to complete our [list of needed actions](#) and decide which group we'll support in taking them. If there is none right now, we hope to finalize the most important issues to our members and establish a committee and committee members to organize and coordinate the actions needed.

No presentation has been scheduled as of this date of publication, so recommendations are welcome!

**One thing that is important – to you – is that your discount of \$5.00 off your yearly dues is only available until February 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Individual, \$25 (20) –

Couples, \$40 (35) –

Students or Seniors (60+), \$15 (10)

Student/Senior Couples, \$25 (20).

Make sure you include your current e-mail address and/or phone number!

Mailing Address: Mountain Bears Democratic Club

PO Box 3514, Blue Jay, CA 92317

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# SUPPORT PLANNED PARENTHOOD



January 21<sup>st</sup> was the event, which outnumbered attendees of the Inauguration by double. Worldwide, it was an eloquent statement that the Resident most certainly

does NOT have a mandate to create the sweeping changes we've been subjected to. In Riverside alone, the attendance was 5,000+, but each venue was attended by many times the numbers expected. For more info, and to support women's rights and [Planned Parenthood](#), visit the [website](#).



## A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

A few days before publication, it was learned that [Mike Neufeld](#), the community pillar and publisher of ROTWNEWS.com passed away suddenly. We offer our most sincere condolences to his family in this time of great sadness.

## WATER RIGHTS



This past Sunday afternoon (Jan 29th) the [League of Women Voters](#) and the Save Our Forest Association ([SOFA](#)) co-sponsored a community hearing at the Twin Peaks Community/Senior Center. The standing room only crowd came out to hear more about the Nestle Waters North American ground water removal operating under a 30-years expired permit from the US Forest Service.

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## Water Rights (cont.)

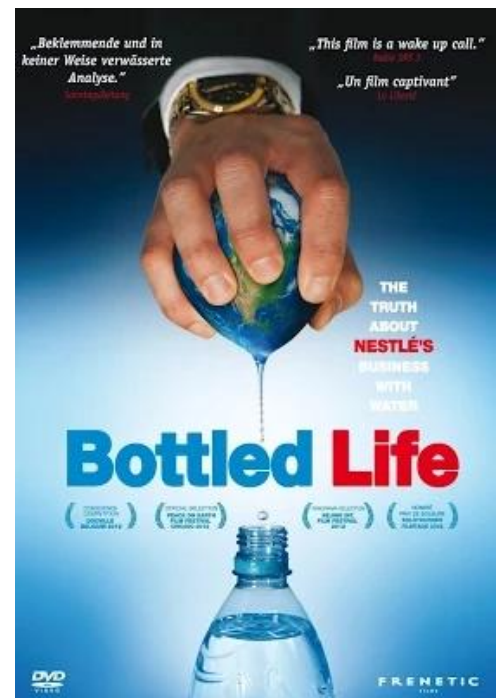


Sadly, the [US Forest Service](#) and Nestle Waters decided not to appear and instead provided written statements. The [CA State Water Resources Control Board](#) provided a written statement about their efforts to determine if Nestle Waters has any rights to remove state water on public land. The following day, an additional meeting was held, focusing on [the Story of Stuff Project](#) and [the Courage Campaign](#), focusing on viable activism.

The large crowd agreed on a need to educate public about the destruction of habitat & generate support & participation for taking action. The group voted to protest and/or march in front of stores, urging shoppers to boycott both Arrowhead water and [other Nestle' products](#). In addition, it was decided that activists would talk to schools and write letters urging them to take Nestlé candy bars and water out of snack vending machines. In addition to posting to social media sites, [Votesmart](#) and similar sites will be used to urge action in our State and Federal legislative bodies. Banners and pamphlet drops are to be scheduled and ideas for picket lines, demonstrations and campouts were discussed. "This is our local stand against the largest corporation on the planet. We've got to protect our water tables from destruction and pillage, and the impacted people downstream, all the way to Corona, are firmly on our side."

**Nestlé is as determined to keep every penny of profits as they are to take every drop of water they can.**

See the preview for the film "[Bottled Life](#)." In researching this film, journalist Res Gehriger came to a sad and sobering conclusion. It is that Nestlé is a company intent on amassing resource (water) rights worldwide. Why? So they can [dominate the global water market](#) of the future.



Almost as frightening is the fact that the parent corporation views water bottling as a small part of its overall plans.

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# LOCAL POLITICS

Early in January a Democratic District election was held in Victorville. From the list of candidates (which is, this year, healthy and welcome!) seven (7) women and seven (7) men were chosen to act as our delegates to the Party's various gatherings. These are not funded, name-only political positions, but elected (some might say 'entry level') positions in the Democratic Party. The [post on our Website](#) has all the details to date. Upon confirmation of the vote, these delegates, their responsibilities and their contact information will be made available.



(R)epresentative Paul Cook's [recent newsletter](#) included his justification for supporting the recent Executive Order banning travel from certain countries. His (Tea) party lines intended to placate voters didn't work on the local [INDIVISIBLE group](#), however, and his office was [paid a visit](#) by about 60 members last Tuesday. A letter of objection to his stance and a clear demand he reverse it was delivered to one of his reluctant staff. But a running video camera made them eventually agree to meet. His contact information is [on our website](#), if you are interested in expressing your opinion.

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# BUSINESS AND NATIONAL POLITICS

Almost universally, as the draconian efforts of the Administration, the Legislature and (no doubt fairly soon) the Judicial branches of our government are taken over by Bannon and Williams, people advise us to reduce what we spend, purchase only what is needed and protect ourselves by buying down our debt.

By giving a little thought to how you shop, you can reduce the associated packaging, emissions, and other environmental costs. Here are five things to consider before you hit that checkout button (or aisle).

- 1. Make a list; check it twice.**
- 2. Consider letting someone else do the heavy lifting.**
- 3. Remember that good things come in small packages.**
- 4. Give up instant gratification.**
- 5. Ask yourself whether you're shopping to satisfy a need or a want.**

If you don't know why each of these is vital to reducing our impact on the planet, check out this excellent [article by NRDC](#) (National Resources Defense Council)

[Shannon Coulter](#) decided it was time to resist the nepotism and support for misogyny being planned for the family in the White House. Upset by an apparent willingness to submit to sexist attacks in exchange for a push of Ivanka's line of clothing and accessories, she started a one-woman Twitter campaign to "[Grab your Wallets](#)" and boycott stores that carry her line. Two hold-outs were [Nordstroms](#) and [Nieman-Marcus](#). Now, it seems, both are dropping the line. Macy's remains, but it is thought by experts that the obvious design thefts, outsourced fabrication and dubious materials purchasing may even bring that bastion of consumerism in line.



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# RACISM AND CIVIL RIGHTS



Laila Lalami in *the Nation*, 1-29-2017 - - -

In the two weeks since he raised his right hand and swore to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, Donald Trump has shut down the entire refugee program for 120 days; pledged that Christian refugees would be given priority when the program resumes; blocked

visas to visitors from seven Muslim countries; granted immigration officials power to deny entry to green-card holders from those Muslim countries; promised to publish a weekly list of crimes committed by immigrants; redefined the category of "criminals subject to deportation" to include people who [ICE](#) considers a security risk even if they haven't been charged or convicted of a crime; and threatened to withhold federal grant money from [sanctuary cities](#) if they don't comply with his executive orders.

We are living under a form of shock and awe. The goal of this administration is to overwhelm us with so many punitive orders, racist policies, outright fabrications, and silly controversies that we lose the spirit to fight. The worse the news gets, the more tempting it is to turn away from it. But what we're facing is the rapid dismantling of political norms and the destruction of an open democracy.

If Trump can do all this and face no opposition, he'll do more. Silence will not protect you. If you think what is happening to Muslims will never happen to you, you're mistaken. We will either survive together or perish separately. ([full article here](#))

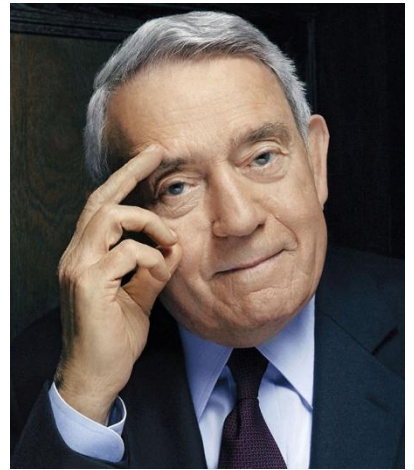
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# FAKE NEWS AND RELIABLE SOURCES

One of the most agreed upon “things we need to fix” at the Club meeting was fake news. It seems a large majority of us are dismayed at the blatant lies being splattered all over our TVs and newspapers. But how to ‘fix’ that?

There are lots of suggestions (legitimate ones) from [authors of books](#), [Wiki Edu](#), [online news sources](#) from [reputable reporters](#), and even a [charity](#) – established as such to make SURE the government and [Rupert Murdoch](#) himself weren’t able to influence it. Russian propaganda has muddied the field, but that was, after all the goal. [American propagandists](#) worked on their skills during the campaigns, and came close to “[disinformatzya](#).”



Somebody with a keen nose for investigation and the patience of a sculptor should step up and become the Club’s Chair of this effort. Come on – it’s going to be FUN! Besides, it’s a skill that a [computer can’t](#) wrap a microchip around – at least not yet.

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# Environment and Climate Change

Governor Brown has 'drawn the line in the sand' when it comes to clean energy development and the rights of the immigrant population our state relies upon. The remaining pristine [environments](#) are under constant attack from developers and the politicians they lobby and pay to elect. Oil companies ask for drilling rights in our parks, and devious stepped plans that start as recreational use quickly lead to derricks and mining operations where playgrounds and offroad trails used to be. Representative Paul Cook is a HUGE fan of [this tactic](#).

While President Obama was able to (at least temporarily) protect offshore areas from drilling and exploration, the drive to produce oil and make our place in the international fossil fuel industry has been revitalized since January 20<sup>th</sup>. The [Keystone](#) and [Dakota Access](#) pipelines are both being considered in the light of rapacious and environmentally [deranged department appointments](#).

The major stumbling block to using solar collectors, solar cells and wind generators is that their peak times of production don't match the peak hours of demand. Some sort of storage method was needed to bridge this disparity, and that need told 'big oil' to keep drilling.

Well, sorry, Exxon and [Secy. Tillerson](#) – Tesla just killed your argument and devalued your arrangements with Russia and Vladimir Putin, and they delivered their [battery pack in record time](#), too.

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# THE SUPREME COURT AND LAW

WASHINGTON — Twelve days into the new administration, Democrats in Congress and Minority Leader Charles Schumer are forming an especially fierce wall of opposition to the Administration's nominees and agenda powered by grass-roots protests in the streets of major U.S. cities and a flood of constituent phone calls, emails and letters, [reports USA Today](#). Neil [Gorsuch's nomination](#) is expected to be as heavily opposed, if not more.



[Cloture](#) (simply, insisting on a 60-vote majority to guarantee public support for an action or nominee) and '[the nuclear option](#)' (requiring only 51 votes on a Congressional decision) are two procedures which satisfy different Constitutional guarantees. Cloture makes sure the majority can't oppress any minority. The nuclear option keeps the gears of the Legislature turning. It should be obvious to any thinking person that if the 'other party' is in power, the common use of either or both changes things drastically. That is from where the hesitancy to use them comes. "Hang the bastard" doesn't sound so appealing when you are the 'bastard,' does it? At that point, the less cutting [choice of filibuster](#) sounds a LOT more attractive.

## THE WHITE HOUSE RESIDENT

Twenty-two. That's how many Executive Orders have been issued since Inauguration Day. For a list and a well-linked description of each, read this [Business Insider article](#).

As to the rest of the coverage of the new administration, scroll down to the next page.

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## **\* EDITOR'S PAGE \***

From a Facebook buddy, Doug Wright, who writes so much more brilliantly than I, but sees our dilemma from the same perspective:

"It's no great secret that the election was something akin to a national trauma; everyone on either side of the aisle is feeling it. I've been trying to articulate "why" I'm awash in so much profound, unsettling despair.

This particular election hasn't divided us by ideological stripe; it cuts much, much deeper. I think it challenges us at our moral core, both as a nation and as individuals.

As children, most parents we would traditionally praise as "good" work to instill certain precepts in their children that form a moral center that will enable them to function productively in the larger world. These are elemental in Western culture and hardly controversial; in fact, they are the stuff of Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood. They include (a) honesty, (b) that boys should respect girls, and girls should respect boys, (c) that we should show compassion for the disabled, the weak or the suffering, (d) that we should not judge others by their faith or ethnicity but work for common understanding, and (e) that knowledge is a powerful force for advancement.

From childhood, we're taught to hold these conventions up for nothing less than peaceful cohabitation and the steady forward thrust of a civil society.

To say that Donald Trump scorns all of these teachings is not merely my opinion; it's empirical fact. In fact, he does so with a kind of unrelenting, Twitter-based brio, proud to flaunt moral convention. Again, this is not my interpretation of his behavior, but a simple, straightforward reading of it:

He is dishonest.

He has lied about his contacts with Russia, lied that his tax returns cannot be released because they are "under audit," lied about the worth and expanse of his real estate holdings, and lied about "winning the election in a landslide." He lied about thousands of Muslims cheering after 9-11. He has

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## Editor's Page (cont.)

cheated countless vendors out of equitable payment, and has thwarted nepotism laws and the emoluments clause. He lied about making a one million dollar donation to charity, until news organizations made him accountable and he shamefacedly made the gift. Again, these are not allegations. They are facts.

He is a misogynist.

This hardly needs repeating; he speaks disparagingly of women, from his very public insults directed toward Carly Fiorina and Rosie O'Donnell, to his off-the-cuff remarks to Billy Bush aboard the now-infamous tour bus, to salacious remarks to Howard Stern about the anatomy of his very own daughters. If the newly released dossier is to be believed (and to date, in fairness, we've no idea if it should be), he has a few predilections straight out of the works of the Marquis de Sade. Again, to call Trump a misogynist is not a controversial claim; even many who voted for him agree that it is true, and his own, unrepentant remarks are undeniable.

He ridicules the disabled and the weak.

One need look no further than his callous impersonation of New York Times reporter Serge Kovalski. When challenged, he has offered the disingenuous defense that he has been somehow misrepresented; yet the tapes of his behavior - widely available - prove otherwise. "Did you see this guy?" he asks, and then flails his arms about in hapless fashion, making a vacuous, even idiotic expression. We're left to believe him, or our own eyes. His favorite epithet is "loser" and he disparages the poor who "do not pay their taxes" when he has failed to do so for over two decades.

He is a racist.

Once again, this is not a harsh characterization of Trump. We can empirically prove it. Early in his career, he routinely denied apartments in his properties to African-American applicants. He has conflated some of the wealthiest, most achievement-oriented communities in the country (in cities like Toledo and Atlanta) with ghettos, solely because they are predominantly black. He has publicly derided one of America's greatest civil

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## Editor's Page (cont.)

rights heroes as ineffectual, with little knowledge of John Lewis' career as an activist. With one exception, his cabinet picks have all been white. Trump wants to create a national registry that targets people solely because of their faith.

He disdains knowledge.

Trump doesn't even attend presidential security briefings. To him, knowledge is an unnecessary encumbrance. Rather than consult or appoint experts, he relies on his own "very good brain" and proffers cabinet positions to cronies who have no governmental or public service experience at all. It has been widely reported that his vocabulary hovers around the sixth grade level; linguists and cognitive scientists tell us that the quality of our thoughts and our ability to articulately express them are intensely correlated. You cannot divorce language from ideas. And if you are deficient in one, you are deficient in the other.

So - in short - Trump violates everything we are taught to prize as "moral." To suggest otherwise is to enter the comic sphere of paid spokespeople like Kelly Anne Conway, who - in order to defend her boss - is forced to divorce syntax from meaning, images from their obvious context, and to serially deny any inconvenient facts.

So by any commonly shared perception, whether we are on the right or on the left, we must agree that Trump - by definition - is an immoral man.

When I raise this with Trump advocates, they employ one of two equally false arguments to defend their support; they attempt to define Trump by comparing him to Hillary Clinton, whom they find equally or more odious, OR they throw up in their hands in frustration, cry that politics is at best a dirty game, that elected officials are all liars and thieves, and they can only hope Trump won't be the worst of them.

The first argument is irrelevant, because innate in the very definition of morality is the notion that it is absolute; it is not relative. So to paint Hillary as immoral is pointless when it comes to assessing Trump.

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## Editor's page (cont.)

The second argument is nihilistic, and nihilism refutes the existence of morality in the first place.

Again, Trump's failings are not mere personality defects or style issues or reality TV quirks; they are symptoms of profound moral decay. And yet, for almost half of American voters, not a single one of these soul-killing deficits rendered him unsuitable for arguably the most powerful elected office in the known world.

So we are left with a vexing, even appalling question: Can you consider yourself a moral person if you voted for an obviously immoral man?

I'm not so sure that you can.

And that's why the morning after I woke up from the election, I had the queasy realization that - in a nation I once believed was tethered together by some kind of ethical common ground - I am surrounded by people with hearts as dark and malleable as Trump himself.

That's why I am losing sleep, and casting wary, suspicious eyes at fellow travelers, exiling former Facebook friends to oblivion, and finding anxious solace in my liberal New York echo chamber. The United States used to be a moral beacon for the world, despite the limitations of its leaders. Now, I worry, it's rotting from within."

*The only thing that Doug missed was the wrap-up (at least as I see it). There is a way forward, you see. We're the 'smart party' and we're by no means the party that gives up in the face of adversity. It is the obscenely wealthy who call on us when they fail to overcome – suddenly willing to pay out whatever it costs to protect their insular bubble. We've all seen it. While we're polite as drunken confessions of sneaky tricks are unveiled at the dinner table, while we remember that 'those who gossip to you will gossip about you,' those very confessions are not spread around, as perhaps they should be.*

*So it seems it's time to put them in a new light – where they have the choice of learning manners or being sent away from polite society. Let's get to it, shall we? - Editor*

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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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Mountain Bears Democratic Club.**

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