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# JOHN GEORGE DEMOCRATIC CLUB NEWSLETTER--December, 2016

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## Holiday Party

Thursday, December 8, 2016

2731 Ashby Place, Berkeley  
Home of Laurie Soman  
(near College and Ashby)

5:30 - 7:30 PM

Please RSVP to Laurie at 549-1861

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### California a Bright Spot on the National Landscape

In spite of the presidential catastrophe, California and the Bay Area did vote for many progressive individuals and initiatives. Below is a listing of all the John George Democratic Club endorsements and the results of the election. The results show that East Bay voters strongly support AC Transit – 82% yes. Oakland voters support just cause evictions—75% and civilian police oversight—83%. Berkeley voters support tenant eviction protection—73%. (Note a  on the ballot measures indicates that the vote went with the Club recommendation.)

**John George Democratic Club Voter  
Guide to November 8, 2016 Election**



J.Scherr

**US President**

Hillary Clinton **Won, but had election stolen (see article below)**

**US Senate**

Kamala Harris **Won**

**US House of Representatives**

13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District: Barbara Lee **Won**

**State Senate**

9<sup>th</sup> Senate District: Sandre Swanson **Lost to Nancy Skinner**

**State Assembly**

18<sup>th</sup> Assembly District: Rob Bonta **Won**

**State Assembly**

15<sup>th</sup> Assembly District: Tony Thurmond **Won**

**Oakland City Council**

District 1: Dan Kalb **Won**

District 3: Noni Session **Lost to Lynette Gibson McElheney**

District 5: Noel Gallo **Won**

District 7: Nehanda Imara **Lost to Larry Reid**

At-Large: Rebecca Kaplan **Won**

**Oakland School Board**

District 1: Jody London **Won**

District 3: Jumoke Hinton Hodge **Won**

District 5: Roseann Torres (#1) and Michael Hutchinson (#2) **Won by Rosie Torres**

District 7: No Endorsement **Won by James Harris**

**Berkeley Mayor**

Jesse Arreguín and Kriss Worthington (tie) **Won by Jesse Arreguín**

**Berkeley City Council**

District 2: Darryl Moore (#1) and Nanci Armstrong-Temple (#2) **Lost to Cheryl Davila**

District 3: Ben Bartlett (#1) and Deborah Matthews (#2) **Won by Ben Bartlett**

District 5: Sophie Hahn **Won**

District 6: Frederick Dodsworth III **Lost to Susan Wengraf**

**Berkeley School Board**

Judith Appel and Beatriz Leyva-Cutler **Both Won**

**Berkeley Rent Board**

Christina Murphy, Leah Simon-Weisberg, Alejandro Soto-Vigil, Igor Tregub **All Won**

**AC Transit**

Ward 2: Russ Tilleman **Lost to Greg Harper**

At-Large: Chris Peeples **Won**

**BART**

District 3: Rebecca Saltzman **Won**

District 7: Zakhary Mallett (#1) and Lateefah Simon (#2) **Won by Lateefah Simon**

***East Bay Regional Parks District***

Ward 2: Dee Rosario **Won**

Ward 4: Ellen Corbett **Won**

***Peralta Community College District***

Area 6: Karen Weinstein **Won**

## State Propositions

|   |   |         |
|---|---|---------|
| Proposition 51: School Bonds                                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES             | ✓       |
| Proposition 52: State Fees on Hospitals                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES             | ✓       |
| Proposition 53: Revenue Bonds Voter Approval                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO              | ✓       |
| Proposition 54: Bills in Print Before Vote                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES             | ✓       |
| Proposition 55: Extends Income Tax Increase on Wealthiest     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES             | ✓       |
| Proposition 56: Tobacco Tax Increase                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES             | ✓       |
| Proposition 57: Sensible Changes in Civil and Criminal Trials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES             | ✓       |
| Proposition 58: Restores Bilingual Education                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES             | ✓       |
| Proposition 59: Campaign Finance                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO*             | Yes won |
| Proposition 60: Requires Condoms in Porn Filmmaking           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO ENDORSEMENT  | No Won  |
| Proposition 61: Prescription Drug Price Limits                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO ENDORSEMENT* | No Won  |
| Proposition 62: Death Penalty Repeal                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES             | No Won  |
| Proposition 63: Limits on Ammunition Purchases                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES             | ✓       |
| Proposition 64: Marijuana Legalization                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO ENDORSEMENT* | Yes Won |
| Proposition 65: Plastic Bag Industry Measure                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO              | ✓       |
| Proposition 66: Death Penalty Speed-Up                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO              | Yes Won |
| Proposition 67: Prohibits Single Use Plastic Carry-Out Bags   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES             | ✓       |

\* These measures include elements that are troubling or that could cause unintended negative consequences; as a result the Club cannot support them and has taken a position of either "No" or "No Endorsement".

***Special Parcel Tax and Bond Measures***

A1: Alameda County Affordable Housing Bond

YES ✓

E1: Berkeley Unified School District Parcel Tax

YES ✓

G1: Oakland Unified School District Parcel Tax

YES ✓

C1: AC Transit District 1 Parcel Tax

YES ✓ (82% yes!)

RR: BART Bond

YES ✓

**City of Oakland Measures**

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| HH: Soda Tax                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES ✓           |
| JJ: Just Cause for Eviction   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES ✓ (75% yes) |
| KK: City Improvement Bond     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES ✓           |
| LL: Civilian Police Oversight | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES ✓ (83% yes) |

**City of Berkeley Measures**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| T1: City Infrastructure Bonds                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES ✓                         |
| U1: City Council Rental Property Tax Increase | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES ✓                         |
| V1: Increase City Spending Cap                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES ✓                         |
| W1: Citizens Redistricting Commission         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES ✓                         |
| X1: Public Campaign Financing                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES ✓                         |
| Y1: Youth Vote in School Board Elections      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO ENDORSEMENT <b>Yes Won</b> |
| Z1: Low Income Housing                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES ✓                         |
| AA: Tenant Eviction Protection                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES ✓ (73% yes)               |
| BB: City Council Minimum Wage Increase        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO* ✓                         |
| CC: Advocates' Minimum Wage Increase          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO* ✓                         |
| DD: Landlords' Rental Property Tax Increase   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO ✓                          |

\* The City Council and advocates have negotiated a compromise minimum wage measure which has been passed by City Council and implemented; as a result, both sides recommend a "No" vote on these measures.

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## The Election Was Stolen – Here's How

By Greg Palast, GregPalast.com 13 November 16

***Before a single vote was cast, the election was fixed by GOP and Trump operatives.***

Starting in 2013 – just as the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act – a coterie of Trump operatives, under the direction of Kris Kobach, Kansas Secretary of State, created a system to purge 1.1 million Americans of color from the voter rolls of GOP-controlled states.

The system, called Crosscheck, is detailed in my Rolling Stone report, [“The GOP’s Stealth War on Voters,”](#) 8/24/2016.

### **Crosscheck in action:**

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Trump victory margin in Michigan:       | 13,107  |
| Michigan Crosscheck purge list:         | 449,922 |
| Trump victory margin in Arizona:        | 85,257  |
| Arizona Crosscheck purge list:          | 270,824 |
| Trump victory margin in North Carolina: | 177,008 |
| North Carolina Crosscheck purge list:   | 589,393 |

On Tuesday, we saw Crosscheck elect a Republican Senate and as President, Donald Trump. The electoral putsch was aided by nine other methods of attacking the right to vote of Black, Latino and Asian-American voters, methods detailed in my book and film, including “Caging,” “purging,” blocking legitimate registrations, and wrongly shunting millions to “provisional” ballots that will never be counted.

Trump signaled the use of “Crosscheck” when he claimed the election is “rigged” because “people are voting many, many times.” His operative Kobach, who also advised Trump on building a wall on the southern border, devised a list of 7.2 million “potential” double voters—1.1 million of which

were removed from the voter rolls by Tuesday. The list is loaded overwhelmingly with voters of color and the poor. Here's a sample of the list

Those accused of criminal double voting include, for example, Donald Alexander Webster Jr. of Ohio who is accused of voting a second time in Virginia as Donald EUGENE Webster SR.

No, not everyone on the list loses their vote. But this was not the only racially poisonous tactic that accounted for this purloined victory by Trump and GOP candidates.

For example, in the swing state of North Carolina, it was reported that 6,700 Black folk lost their registrations because their registrations had been challenged by a group called Voter Integrity Project (VIP). VIP sent letters to households in Black communities “do not forward.” If the voter had moved within the same building, or somehow did not get their mail (e.g. if their name was not on a mail box), they were challenged as “ghost” voters. GOP voting officials happily complied with VIP with instant cancellation of registrations.

The 6,700 identified in two counties were returned to the rolls through a lawsuit. However, there was not one mention in the press that VIP was also behind Crosscheck in North Carolina; nor that its leader, Col. Jay Delancy, whom [I’ve tracked for years](#) has previously used this vote thievery, known as “caging,” for years. Doubtless the caging game was wider and deeper than reported. And by the way, caging, as my Rolling Stone co-author, attorney Robert F. Kennedy Jr., tells me, is “a felony, it’s illegal, and punishable by high fines and even jail time.”

There is still much investigation to do. For example, there are millions of “provisional” ballots, “spoiled” (invalidated) ballots and ballots rejected from the approximately 30 million mailed in. Unlike reporting in Britain, US media does not report the ballots that are rejected and tossed out—because, after all, as

Joe Biden says, “Our elections are the envy of the world.” Only in Kazakhstan, Joe.

While there is a great deal of work to do, much documentation still to analyze, we’ll have to pry it from partisan voting chiefs who stamp the scrub lists, Crosscheck lists and ballot records, “confidential.”

But, the evidence already in our hands makes me sadly confident in saying, Jim Crow, not the voters, elected Mr. Trump.

### **What about those exit polls?**

Exit polls are the standard by which the US State Department measures the honesty of foreign elections. Exit polling is, historically, deadly accurate. The bane of pre-election polling is that pollsters must adjust for the likelihood of a person voting. Exit polls solve the problem.

But three times in US history, pollsters have had to publicly flagellate themselves for their “errors.” In 2000, exit polls gave Al Gore the win in Florida; in 2004, exit polls gave Kerry the win in Ohio, and now, in swing states, exit polls gave the presidency to Hillary Clinton.

So how could these multi-million-dollar Ph.d.-directed statisticians with decades of experience get exit polls so wrong?

Answer: they didn’t. The polls in Florida in 2000 were accurate. That’s because exit pollsters can only ask, “How did you vote?” What they don’t ask, and can’t, is, “Was your vote counted.”

In 2000, in Florida, GOP Secretary of State Katherine Harris officially rejected 181,173 ballots, as “spoiled” because their chads were hung and other nonsense excuses. Those ballots overwhelmingly were marked for Al Gore. The exit polls included those 181,173 people who thought they had voted – but their vote didn’t count. In other words, the exit polls accurately reflected whom the voters chose, not what Katherine Harris chose.

In 2004, a similar number of votes were invalidated (including an enormous pile of “provisional” ballots) by Ohio’s GOP Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell. Again, the polls reflected that Kerry was the choice of 51% of the voters. But the exit polls were “wrong” because they didn’t reflect the ballots invalidated by Blackwell.

Notably, two weeks after the 2004 US election, the US State Department refused to recognize the Ukraine election results because the official polls contradicted the exit polls.

And here we go again. 2016: Hillary wins among those queried as they exit the polling station—yet Trump is declared winner in GOP-controlled swing states. And, once again, the expert pollsters are forced to apologize—when they should be screaming, “Fraud! Here’s the evidence the vote was fixed!”

Now there’s a new trope to explain away the exit polls that gave Clinton the win. Supposedly, Trump voters were ashamed to say they voted for Trump. Really? ON WHAT PLANET? For Democracy Now! and Rolling Stone I was out in several swing states. In Ohio, yes, a Black voter may have been reluctant to state support for Trump. But a white voter in the exurbs of Dayton, where the Trump signs grew on lawns like weeds, and the pews of the evangelical mega churches were slathered with Trump and GOP brochures, risked getting spat on if they even whispered, “Hillary.”

This country is violently divided, but in the end, there simply aren’t enough white guys to elect Trump nor a Republican Senate. The only way they could win was to eliminate the votes of non-white guys—and they did so by tossing Black provisional ballots into the dumpster, ID laws that turn away students—the list goes on. It’s a web of complex obstacles to voting by citizens of color topped by that lying spider, Crosscheck.

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**News Item:** "One afternoon earlier this month, Nicki Pancholy returned from a hike in Mission Peak Regional Preserve in Fremont to find her back car window smashed and a threatening note on the dashboard that read 'Higab Wearing B-----'. This is our nation, now get the F---out.'

Whoever targeted the 41 year-old Milpitas woman assumed wrongly that she was Muslim. In fact she has Lupus and was wearing a bandanna to protect her head from the sun."

Tammerlin Drummond, *East Bay Times*, 11/30/16

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### **Comment from Democratic Party Progressive Caucus Chair Raul Grijalva**

A post-election comment is necessary after what happened on November 8. I will skip the tired clichés because “it’s always darkest before the dawn” does not provide any comfort in the face of what just happened and could happen. The ascendancy of Trump and his rhetoric to the highest office in the land calls for a plan of action. This is not the time to retreat from our ideals and the progressive agenda that we all believe in and have championed.

I suggest that, in order to be effective as progressives and as Democrats, we must push to fundamentally transform the Democratic National Committee, the institutional vehicle for the Democratic Party. Such a transformation would require a wholesale cleanup of present leadership, administrative staff, consultants, strategy, and message. We need an emphasis on base organizing and advocacy, as this election proved the failure to feel and connect with real folks leaves the door open for con artists and demagogues to exploit the situation.

Going forward, we must remain strong in our opposition to a Trump Presidency. There are so many fights to gear up for. You should expect a

concerted and sustained fight to end DACA, reopen the Keystone XL pipeline, pull out of climate change accords, dismantle the Department of Education, destroy the EPA, repeal Obamacare, finish off Dodd-Frank, and name right-wing Supreme Court justices who would change the judicial landscape for generations to come.

The loss to Trump was not a death knell to our progressive vision for this nation. Instead, it is a call to action. So you have my commitment that I will work to reach compromise where possible but, whenever necessary, I will join with people, organizations, and colleagues to defend our ideals and the progressive agenda.

Thank you for all the help and support you gave to me this election cycle. I am grateful.

Peace,  
Raúl

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East Bay Times—November 25, 2016

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### **Comment from Barbara Lee**

Many of us are still grappling with the reality of a Donald Trump presidency, myself included. It has

left us feeling sad, angry, frustrated, discouraged and unsettled.

But now more than ever, it is important for us to recommit ourselves to the values we hold dear as a nation. We will have a new president come January, but our country's founding principles will remain the same.

We must have faith in our Constitution, our democracy and the American people. We cannot and will not allow the doors of opportunity to be closed.

We must stand together to defend racial, economic, and social justice, and to defend human rights. We will keep fighting for what's right, because that is who we are.

In the months and years ahead, we will face an uphill battle in our fight for progress. But that does not mean we should give up hope. Change never happens without struggle, and I hope you will join me by recommitting yourself to the values we share.

Tuesday's election results were bitterly disappointing, but there was some good news that came out of it as well. I am happy to report that I will be joined in the House by Pramila Jayapal, Jacky Rosen, Stephanie Murphy, and Val Demings in the 115th Congress. And I also look forward to working with my friend, California's Senator-elect, Kamala Harris.

All of these women ran their campaigns on a progressive agenda to move our country forward, and they will provide the kind of visionary leadership that we need in Washington.

I know they are ready to get to work and fight for what's right, and I hope you are, too.

I am thankful for and humbled by the support of East Bay residents, and I am excited to continue serving California's 13th district in Congress. It is an honor and a privilege to represent one of the most enlightened and diverse districts in the country.



Trump supporters—on Noticiero Univision, Dec. 2, 2016

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### **Letter for the JG Newsletter by Pamela Price**

I woke up Wednesday morning in Trumpland. My worst fears are coming true.

*Will he keep his promises?* In the first days I am upset and depressed. I feel better as I hear others calling out to fight back. In the months between Trump's election as President and his inauguration, most of us will gather our thoughts and renew our passports (just in case). The media tries to push the country into denial. Even elected officials maligned by Trump insist that he did not really mean what he said. They say he will be "different" as the President than the person who ran for President. I hope they are right.

*If He Keeps His Promises*

If he is true to his word, on Day 1, President Trump will issue an Executive Order suspending the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") and any funding to support the Act. His actions may send the economy and world markets into a downward spiral.

If he keeps his promises, President Trump will invest millions of dollars to ramp up the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE). ICE will need to develop a comprehensive plan to locate and deport millions of working and poor people suspected of immigrating from Mexico, South America, Syria or Haiti. We should expect that vigilantes will volunteer to assist in the effort to deport these "illegal aliens."

We should not be surprised if President Trump rejects the Obama administration's position on private prisons and directs the Bureau of Prisons to renew all of the private contracts. We should expect that funding for re-entry of formerly incarcerated persons, community policing and mental health services will be severely reduced. California will continue to be the leader if not the only state committed to working against mass incarceration in America.

If he keeps his promises, President Trump will introduce laws to defund Planned Parenthood and declare abortion completely illegal. Led by Speaker Paul Ryan, the Republican-controlled Congress will likely pass these laws.

What President Trump labels "locker room talk" may become more prevalent in our schools and public places. Our efforts to stop violence against women and eliminate commercial sexual exploitation of women and under-age girls are likely

to receive minimal support in the new Trump administration.

### *Packing SCOTUS with Scalia Clones*

If he keeps his promises, President Trump will immediately appoint a Scalia-like judge to replace Justice Antonin Scalia on the United States Supreme Court. Justice Scalia was a rabid opponent of affirmative action. In 2015, Justice Scalia appeared to openly endorse a racist argument that Black students do better at "[slower-track schools](#)" stating:

"Most of the black scientists in this country don't come from schools like the University of Texas. They come from lesser schools where they do not feel that they're being pushed ahead in classes that are too fast for them. . . . I'm just not impressed by the fact that the University of Texas may have fewer [Black students]. Maybe it ought to have fewer."

President Trump will likely have more opportunities to "pack the court" with [Scalia-inspired justices](#), based on suggestions from the Federalist Society and The Heritage Foundation, two right-wing conservative think-tanks.

### *The Good News*

The good news is that already, everywhere, resisters to the Trump Presidency are organizing. In the Democratic Party, progressives are organizing to redeem the party. One of the most poignant "calls to action" was issued "the day after" by former EmERGE Director, [Kimberly Ellis](#). She's running to change the face of the Democratic Party.

Outside the party, thousands, perhaps millions, have joined Bernie Sanders' [ourrevolution.org](#). [Black Lives Matter](#) continues to be an inspiring movement

rooted in the experiences of Black people in this country and committed to the empowerment of our community. And I really believe that if there ever comes a day that Latinos and immigrants are being hunted down *en masse* and sent off to concentration camps, most of us will not watch silently and fail to "speak out." We are our brother's keeper.

Finally, I was honored by Hillary's final words to the Obamas: "our country owes you an enormous debt of gratitude. We thank you for your graceful, determined leadership." The Obamas together, made all of us look kindly on and feel better about America. I hope that once we recover from the shock of Trump's election, we will "shake the dust off our feet" and keep stepping toward the light. The race is clearly not given to the strong or the swift but to he that endureth. "Banish the darkness with light."

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### **Oakland Artist Collective Warehouse Fire**

by Phyllis White-Ayanruoh

The massive Ghost Ship warehouse fire that occurred Friday, December 2 in the Fruitvale District is in one of the deadliest structure fires in Oakland's history. Thirty-six people are confirmed dead with the search for additional fatalities ongoing and bringing tragic attention to the dire need for safe and affordable creative use housing in the East Bay.

### **Assembly member Rob Bonta posted to Facebook Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:46am:**

My heart goes out to the victims of the Oakland fire and their families. This is a sad and tragic loss of life. We are now in contact with our first responders as

they figure out what caused this horrible fire so we can be ready to take action to prevent future tragedies.

As a strong Oakland community, I know we will come together to help and console our friends and neighbors. My office stands ready to help in any way. I ask everyone to take a moment in your own way to remember these victims and support their families.

### **How to help:**

The Oakland A's and Oakland Raiders are each matching donations up to \$50,000 for a total of \$100,000.

<https://www.youcaring.com/oaklandfirevictimsfrom130531staveinoakland-706680#mlb-oakland>

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### **John George Democratic Club**

#### **STEERING COMMITTEE**

#### **OFFICERS**

Co-chairs – Walter Riley and Sandra Johnson-Simon

Recorder/Newsletter Editor - Jack Lucero Fleck

Treasurer – Phyllis White Ayanruoh

Parliamentarian - Robert Raich

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Political Action – Paul Cobb

Program & Ed. - Laurie Soman

Membership – Sandra Johnson Simon

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**Facebook, Twitter, and social media—we're  
looking for a volunteer to help—is it you? Let us  
know!**