

**General Meeting Agenda**  
**October 16, 2022, 2:00 – 4:00 pm**  
Any Questions: MarshCreekDems@gmail.com

**OCTOBER:**

**New Members**

Alana Chicaine  
Andie Chiciane  
Perry Chicaine  
Arlene Mose  
Wanda Turner

- I Call to Order and Introductions** (New members, Dignitaries) (3 minutes)
- A. This month’s meeting is being held both at our regular Brentwood Community Center meeting room and on Zoom for the convenience of those unable to attend in person. **Masking is optional at this meeting.** Our next meeting will take place on November 20. All Zoom Attendees will be muted. **Zoom link:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6304996072?pwd=ZGVhcDZYVVUrQWFMRVd1MEZ5anNMdz09>  
Password: Orange
- B. If joining via Zoom, please rename your Zoom to your first and last name.
- C. At the end of their presentations, our speaker will take a few questions. (Use Chat or click Reactions and Raise Hand if on Zoom.)
- II Minutes of September Meeting** (3 minutes)
- A. Motion to Adopt Minutes: Motion \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_
- III Agenda Review** (3 minutes)
- A. Any changes to the agenda:
- B. Motion to Adopt Agenda: Motion \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_
- IV Shannon Skinner – President** (5 minutes)
- A. Most of us have already received our ballots for the November 8 election, and this is our last meeting before election day. Are we all doing everything we can to support our endorsed candidates, as well as other state and national candidates we support? Only you know if you can do more!
- B. The Contra Costa County election office is seeking volunteers to be election observers on November 8<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in participating, please let me know and I will give you the contact information.
- C. We are currently not planning to have an election night watch party, given how slowly votes come in; however, if many of you are in favor of it, please speak up. Another option is a post-election party to celebrate important victories.
- D. Preparation for election of 2023 MCDC officers and call for candidates.
- E. Holiday party – How about a silent auction? Donations of new items of various values are welcome, so please let us know if you’d like to be involved.
- V Yolanda Mendrek – Vice President** (3 minutes)
- A. Update on Future Presentations:
1. November: Retiring U.S. Congressman Jerry McNerney will be invited to speak on his new nonprofit, his view of the midterm results, and/or his thoughts on the January 6 hearings.
  2. December: Holiday party.
  3. January: Colin Coffey, Ward 7 Director, East Bay Regional Park District.
  4. (Proposed) Speaker on women’s choice issues and impact of *Dobbs* decision in other states.

5. (Proposed) Speaker on January 6 committee reports.
6. (Proposed) Update on important issues in our public schools, including lack of depth in courses on civics. Shannon will speak with her contact who is a local history teacher.
7. Suggestions from members?

**B. Today's Speaker: (20 minutes)**

**Bill Nusbaum, chair of the MCDC Issues Committee, will present an analysis of the seven Propositions on the California ballot.** Don Smith initially completed a comprehensive study of the propositions. Then Don met with the Issues Committee to review that analysis and prepare the MCDC voting recommendations. Everyone in attendance at our meeting today will receive a copy. Our recommendations will also be emailed to everyone on the MCDC mailing list following the meeting. With so much money being spent to sway voters on some of the propositions, we believe it is essential that you cast your votes based on a clear understanding of the issues, intended outcomes of the propositions should they be approved, and who is sponsoring and/or funding them.

**VI Membership – Linda Smith and Doug McClelland (3 minutes)**

**A. October Membership – 106 Members!**

1. With the election so close, we have a continuing opportunity to increase our membership. Try to bring someone new to our November meeting, which will include a lively discussion of the election that just took place.
2. Ways to join — Credit card at <https://www.marshcreekdems.org/all-products> or Venmo MarshCreekDems (3416) or Check sent to Thuy DaoJensen/MCDC, P.O. Box 521, Brentwood, CA 94513

- B. Renewing Members become Members in Good Standing and may vote as soon as dues are paid.
- C. New members become Members in Good Standing and may vote 30 days after their dues are paid.

**VII Voter Outreach – Linda Smith (5 minutes)**

**I.** Update on Farmers' Market –We still have volunteer openings for Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> (where we also need setup help), Oct 29<sup>th</sup> and Nov 4<sup>th</sup>. (We've been very successful at getting new members at our weekly Farmer's Market table.)

**II.** Postcard/Letter Writing –

1. Linda's final letter writing gathering will be held on October 26<sup>th</sup>, and all of us at MCDC thank her for hosting the meetings. We are also grateful to everyone who has participated. Linda's letter writing parties were a fun way to reach our letter writing goals while also making some new friends.
2. We wrote **over 10,000 letters and postcards** to Swing States, concentrating on places Swing Left identified as critical: Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin. Our goal has been to increase participation of historically underrepresented communities and Democratic leaning voters in midterm elections. The letters have been stored and will all be mailed on October 29, 2022. Remaining postcards will be mailed on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

C. Register to Vote in Contra Costa County at [www.Cocovote.us](http://www.Cocovote.us)

D. **See the MCDC website for a helpful and impressive list of Joe Biden's accomplishments. Please talk about those accomplishments with friends who may not be as informed as you are about his success.**

**VIII Swing Left Director – Doug McClelland (10-15 minutes)**

- A. Swing Left update: The following Swing Left activities and opportunities (both in California and Swing States) are available during the final month before this most important election.
1. Last minute donation suggestions
  2. Out-of-state involvement opportunities:
    - (a) Scranton, PA: Looking for help with John Fetterman and other PA candidates. Free lodging may be available.
    - (b) Reno, NV: Offering \$100/day expense reimbursement for knocking on Reno doors to help get-out-the-vote (GOTV) efforts. Free carpool travel is still available for the October 22/23 weekend.
    - (c) Tucson, AZ has modest housing arranged if you want to canvass or drive people to the polls. Santa Cruz Swing Left is organizing a carpool to AZ you can join.
    - (d) Close to home opportunities:
      - (i) Letter and postcard writing continues. Contact Doug McClelland ([MarshCreekSL@AOL.com](mailto:MarshCreekSL@AOL.com)) or Linda Smith ([MarshCreekDems@gmail.com](mailto:MarshCreekDems@gmail.com)). Swing Left has completed about 15,000 cards and letters so far.
      - (ii) Sign up to work emailing voters in local precincts, to send them our recommendations on candidates and propositions.
      - (iii) Poll watching activities on election day.
      - (iv) Canvassing for Josh Harder and others (door knocking and literature distribution to democrat-registered voters, every weekend through election day in Brentwood and Discovery Bay).
      - (v) Contact Doug McClelland at [MarshCreekSL@AOL.com](mailto:MarshCreekSL@AOL.com) for more information on any of these opportunities.

**IX Special Appearance - We are very pleased to be joined today by Congressman Mark DeSaulnier, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives for California's 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.**

**X Issues and Legislation Committee – Bill Nusbaum (5 minutes)**

- A. Meetings first Saturday of the month at 11:30 am. Next Meeting – Sat. November 5, at 11:30 am via Zoom.
- B. New issues the Committee is working on include (1) the sorry state of our public healthcare system and what can be done to improve it, and (2) the impact of climate change on the availability and quality of water in California, for both personal and agricultural use.
- C. We are also continuing our study of how we can help to enhance the teaching of civics in our public schools.

**XI Communications – Carolina Villaseca (3 minutes)**

- A. We are continually posting important items on Facebook regarding news and calls to action. Send any call to action to Carolina at [marshcreekdems@gmail.com](mailto:marshcreekdems@gmail.com). **Check our Facebook page often for our frequent updates, and post your comments and “likes” whenever you can!**

**XII Election and Precinct Update – Carolina Villaseca (3 minutes)**

- A. We are working to increase member involvement to get our endorsed candidates elected. – **Think about what you can do to help before election day, which is now only 23 days away!**
- B. Precinct Captains – Carolina Villaseca, Linda Smith, Thuy DaoJensen, Doug McClelland, Audrey Wright, Troy Christensen, Jennifer Baker, and Gary Chambers

- C. Precinct Captains and Buddies are needed for all our cities. It's time to maximize our canvassing efforts and support our endorsed candidates in every way we can.

**XIII Treasurer's Report – Thuy DaoJensen (5 minutes)**

**Marsh Creek Dems Treasurer's Financial Statement  
September 5 - October 2, 2022**

Date	Description of INCOME	Amount
	<b>BALANCE as of September 5, 2022:</b>	<b>\$ 4,081.99</b>
5-Sep-2022	SQUARE deposit of (1) membership dues	\$19.12
5-Sep-2022	SQUARE deposit of (1) membership dues	\$19.12
19-Sep-2022	SQUARE deposit of (1) membership dues	\$43.39
21-Sep-2022	VENMO deposit	\$815.52
24-Sep-2022		
25-Sep-2022		
	<b>Total INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 4,979.14</b>
Check #	Description of EXPENSES	Amount
1065	MC Dems member ENDORSED candidate	\$100.00
1066	MC Dems member ENDORSED candidate	\$100.00
1067	MC Dems member ENDORSED candidate	\$100.00
1068	MC Dems member ENDORSED candidate	\$100.00
1069	MC Dems member ENDORSED candidate	\$100.00
1071	Maps/data	\$177.99
1072	MC Dems member ENDORSED candidate	\$100.00
	<b>Total EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$777.99</b>

**BALANCE as of October 2, 2022:      \$ 4,201.15**

- B. At the Executive Board meeting of October 2, the Board approved a \$200 expenditure for the purchase of plaques honoring Sue Higgins and Jerry McNerney. In addition, the Board approved the payment of the remaining balance due for rental of this meeting room for 2022, which is \$945. During 2023, we will rent this room for 3 hours for each meeting, rather than the 2-1/2 hours we have had this year. The cost of the additional half hour per month will be \$15, and it will allow us adequate time for setup and cleanup before and after our meetings. During 2023, meetings will ordinarily be on the third Sunday of each month (2:00-4:00 pm); however, the June meeting will be on June 25 (since Father's Day falls on the third Sunday) and the August meeting will be on August 13, rather than August 20 (because the room is unavailable on the 20<sup>th</sup>).

**XIV Secretary's Report – Connie Harden**

- A. The minutes of the September meeting are available on the MCDC website.  
 B. I have not yet been able to prepare the first issue of a planned MCDC newsletter that will include club information and other items of interest to our membership. If you have news or information that you believe should be included, please contact me via email. ([connieharden@mac.com](mailto:connieharden@mac.com)) Of

course, if you have information or news that you want shared immediately, please contact Carolina Villaseca so she can post it on our Face Book page, or Linda Smith if it's something that belongs on our webpage.

- C. Vote! And encourage everyone you know to do the same. You all know how important this election is, so let's go into this final stretch with every bit of energy and enthusiasm we can muster. If possible, please join one of Doug's adventures to Reno, Las Vegas, Tucson, or Scranton. Please don't underestimate the impact that *you* can have, even as just one individual.
- D. The Antioch Gun Show is being held at the Contra Costa County Fairgrounds on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, and again on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Is anyone interested in picketing or otherwise demonstrating against it? I don't know how you feel, but it makes me want to show my anger and disgust.

**XV For the Good of the Order (comments/suggestions) (3 minutes)**

- A. Zoom chats take place at 10 am on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month.
- B. Report by Elected Officials in attendance.

**XVI Adjournment**