



Berkeley Democratic Club

Annual Report—2021

berkeleydemocraticclub.com

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About the BDC

Our Mission

The Berkeley Democratic Club brings Berkeley together to demand and promote social justice, inclusion, equal opportunity, and a healthy planet.

Our Core Values

- **Accountability.** We believe Democratic leaders should keep their promises to the people and govern with integrity.
- **Equity.** We ensure equity and access across the broad range of community engagement and organizational activities.
- **Courage.** We believe Democrats should be fearless and unwavering in the fight for racial, economic, social, and climate justice.
- **Centering Democracy.** Our processes, undertakings, and initiatives are structured to further the democratic ideal that all voices may be heard.
- **Building Social Capital.** We work to build networks of civic activity to foster increased levels of trust, articulation of shared values, and collaboration towards common goals.

Our Vision

To inspire and empower
Berkeleyans to advance
Democratic values and provide
leadership through education
and action.

BDC Board of Directors 2022



Deborah Matthews
PRESIDENT



Laurie Capitelli
VICE PRESIDENT



David Shiver
SECRETARY



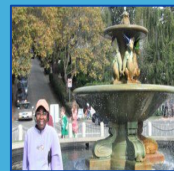
Nancy Yep
TREASURER



Beth Gerstein



Chris Lee-Egan



Remi Omodele



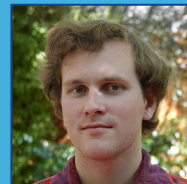
Diego Aguilar-Canabal



Richard Thomason



Heidi Goldstein



Emmerich Anklam

2.

Notes from the President

Notes from the President, 1/4

The pandemic has been a hardship on everyone. We have witnessed the impacts on our families, friends, employment, health care system, business community, and educational institutions. But as we continued to end COVID deaths and illnesses in our communities, we welcomed 2022 with faith, hope, and courage.

Today we are re-creating a foundation for steady and sustainable recovery, for local businesses, for our children's education, and for our own hearts as we reconnect with family and friends.

Notes from the President, 2/4

In these complex times, serving as the president of the Berkeley Democratic Club, I am grateful to be surrounded by a wonderful board of directors who have a shared vision for the BDC's growth and merit in our democratic process. Together we are strengthening the BDC's relevance and accountability to the club's membership, and to the wider community of Berkeley. In 2021 we completed our first strategic plan, to guide our efforts for the next several years. And in the ever-changing environment of the past two years, we have become more nimble in our use of technology for events, meetings, and membership outreach, and this work will continue to grow in 2022.

Notes from the President, 3/4

The BDC's Together We Are Democracy speaker series kept us engaged in the political process. Among our topics were Berkeley's annual budget and policing allocations for 2021-22; voter rights and oversight for campaign contributions; homeownership and taxation; climate action now; and multicultural democracy and the place of reparations.

I am pleased that many of you attended and participated in the discussions. We learned so much together!

Notes from the President, 4/4

Especially in challenging times like the ones we face today, we have a responsibility to protect democracy, to place a sustainable planet in the hands of future generations, and to keep fighting the good fight for economic and social justice. Let's continue to work together.

Thank you,

Deborah Matthews | President, Berkeley Democratic Club

3.

Our History

Founding

All politics is local politics, and the struggle ahead of us starts right here at home. The Berkeley Democratic Club is the oldest Democratic Club in Alameda County, and the oldest Democratic Club in California still active today. Founded in 1934 to support Upton Sinclair's inspiring campaign for governor as part of his movement to End Poverty In California (EPIC), we're proud to champion Democratic causes locally and abroad.

Legacy

Berkeley is the birthplace of the Free Speech Movement. Berkeley was a home location for the Black Panther Party's revolutionary stand against police brutality and poverty in African American communities throughout the United States. It's our civic duty to carry these traditions forward and fight for equality, justice, and environmental sustainability in our own backyard so that Berkeley can continue to shine as a beacon of effective, progressive Democratic governance.

4.

Our Achievements

Political Endorsements

BDC-endorsed candidates holding office as of January 2022:

City

- **Jesse Arreguín** Mayor
- **Rashi Kesarwani** City Council D1
- **Terry Taplin** City Council D2
- **Susan Wengraf** City Council D6
- **Rigel Robinson** City Council D7
- **Lori Droste** City Council D8
- **Jenny Wong** City Auditor
- **Laura Babitt** (Berkeley School Board)
- **Ana Vasudeo** (Berkeley School Board)
- **Andy Kelley** (Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board)
- **James Chang** (Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board)

More Political Endorsements

BDC-endorsed candidates holding office as of January 2022:

County and Region

- **Keith Carson** County Supervisor D5
- **Lateefah Simon** BART Board D7
- **Elizabeth Echols** EBRPD Director
- **Phong La** County Assessor
- **Elena Condes** Superior Court Judge
- **Jean Walsh** AC Transit Board, Ward 2
- **H. E. Christian Peeples** AC Transit Board, District-at-Large

More Political Endorsements

BDC-endorsed candidates holding office as of January 2022:

State

- **Nancy Skinner**
State Senate D9
- **Buffy Wicks**
State Assembly D15

National

- **Barbara Lee**
US Congress D13
- **Joe Biden**
US President
- **Kamala Harris**
US Vice President

A Fresh Vision

- New strategic plan for 2022–24
- Updated mission, core values, and vision
- Updated policy statements connecting local efforts to state-level Democratic goals
- A deepened commitment to inclusion, diversity, political courage, and community engagement

Committee Achievements

- **Membership**
 - New membership platform, membership drive
 - Inclusive membership dues
- **Events**
 - Together We Are Democracy speaker series—talks on climate action, taxation and homeownership, voter rights, and the City of Berkeley budget
 - Regular events with community leaders, from Jesse Arreguín and Keith Carson to Buffy Wicks and Nancy Skinner
- **IT**
 - A fresh look for the BDC website
- **Fundraising**
 - Go Blue '22 gala
- **Nominating**
 - Three new board members since January 2021

5.

Financial Highlights

Financial Principles

- **Cash flow management**
 - Forecast and monitor cash flow to ensure the BDC has money available when needed
- **Operations**
 - Ensure financial operations run efficiently and effectively
- **Data and analysis**
 - Visualize and understand what the numbers mean
- **Audit readiness**
 - Maintain club records for audit readiness throughout the year
- **Governance and strategy**
 - Provide big-picture thinking to connect financial resources to the mission, core values, and vision of the BDC

Financial Management



6.

Our Future Plans

Future Plans

March

Annual Membership Meeting
& Membership Drive

January-
December

Community Engagement
Events

All
2022

Demanding Voter Rights

All
2022

Political Candidate
Endorsements

Year-
Round

Housing Advocacy

Year-
Round

Climate Action

Year-
Round

Economic & Social Justice

Thank You

Join

Endorse candidates.
Support the BDC
mission, vision, and
core values for a better
California.



Donate

Our time is now.
Defend democracy.



Volunteer

Support the BDC with text
banking, phone banking, and
canvassing. Work with BDC
board members on special
projects.

Visit our website: berkeleydemocraticclub.com

"I am more optimistic about America today than I have been my whole life.
Because I see the future that is within our grasp.
Because I know there is simply nothing beyond our capacity."
—President Joe Biden

CREDITS

- Presentation development by BDC board members
Emmerich Anklam & Deborah Matthews
- Presentation template by [SlidesCarnival](#)

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free.

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