

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE**  
**7 PM-9 PM, Regular Meeting at Sheet Metal Workers Local 104, 2350 Lundy Pl, San Jose**  
**and via Zoom Online Conference (registration link below)**

*(Our meeting is open to the public, but we reserve the right to remove guests who disrupt the meeting. Video and audio recording not permitted without prior approval)*

**AGENDA FOR Thursday, May 4, 2023**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. ROLL CALL**

**3. IDENTIFICATION OF VISITORS**

*\*CDP Controller candidate Carolyn Fowler*

*\*Regional Director candidate Dominic Dursa*

**4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. Thursday, April 13, 2023

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. SCCDP-sponsored Multicultural Event
- b. Resolution in Support of an Empty Homes Tax
- c. Presentation re Proposal to Build Interim Supportive Housing on County Land in the City of Santa Clara
- d. Resolution: Standing with Democracy and in Opposition to Right Wing Nationalism
- e. Experiences, Contributions, and Challenges to Participating in Civic Life as a Person with Disabilities
- f. Notice of vacancy on SCCDCC from AD25 to be filled at June 1, 2023 SCCDCC meeting
- g. Save the Date! - Youth Takeover, July 13, 2023

**8. REPORTS**

- a. Executive Board/Chair: Bill James
- b. Vice Chair: Jean Cohen
- c. Treasurer: Angelica Ramos

- d. Secretary: Helen Chapman
- e. Political Director: James Kim
- f. Issues: Huy Tran
- g. Community Outreach: Clarence Madrilejos
- h. Finance: James Kim
- i. Communications: John Comiskey
- j. Gender Equity and the Status of Women: Adia Hoag
- k. Diversity & Inclusion: Rebeca Armendariz
- l. Youth Representative: Parisa Braun
- m. Clubs: Tomara Hall
- n. Regional Directors
- o. DNC: Otto Lee
- p. Pro-Choice Coalition: Claudia Shope

**9. ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS**

**10. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

May 17, 2023, at 6pm

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Register to Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_1Q3GZq\\_qQoWoOsWCDKqRTg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1Q3GZq_qQoWoOsWCDKqRTg)

## Resolution in Support of an Empty Homes Tax

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County's housing shortage continues to deepen as new housing projects take millions of dollars and multiple years to build, home prices continue rising, with 13,769 empty homes in San Jose in 2020, including 4,316 of these homes completely off the market<sup>1</sup>, and homelessness continues growing, with authors Richard Florida and Shane Phillips showing San Jose is one of the US's most unaffordable, unequal cities<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, in the 2022 election cycle, voters in San Francisco, Santa Cruz, & Berkeley all considered empty homes tax ballot measures, with two of them being approved<sup>3</sup>; meanwhile, Oakland and Washington, D.C. already have taxes on vacant land and/or empty homes<sup>4</sup>, with Oakland raising \$7 million from the tax to combat homelessness its first year<sup>5</sup> and Washington, D.C. using a public dashboard & map to display all its vacant and blighted properties, with nearly 100% of initial inspections for vacant buildings completed within 30 days of a report<sup>6</sup>; and

WHEREAS, while jurisdictions passing empty homes or vacancy taxes have exemptions for homes transitioning between tenants, being renovated, or available for short rentals, they enable the remaining property owners to choose to fill their homes with occupants *or* pay the tax, which can dedicate funding to build affordable housing, as is the case in Vancouver, Canada, where a pioneering empty homes tax has succeeded, seeing vacancy rates drop and about 2,000 housing units came back on the market in two years while generating \$21.3 million in revenue for new affordable housing in 2019<sup>7</sup>;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party believes city governments should begin studying the number of homes sitting empty, including the differing reasons for said status, and call on city governments to study the different ways of implementing empty homes and/or vacant land taxes, including estimates of the varied costs and revenues based on policy options; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party calls on Democratic legislators to propose such a tax in their respective jurisdictions, because implementing a vacant homes tax can encourage hundreds of homes to be put back on the market for occupancy very quickly while dedicating revenue from the homes remaining empty to sizably fund affordable housing.

Submitted by Alex Shoor

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<sup>1</sup> <https://sanjosespotlight.com/san-jose-has-no-plans-to-address-vacant-homes-empty-house-tax-housing-crisis/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-05-29/how-many-years-of-income-does-a-home-in-your-city-cost>  
<https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2016/02/the-place-where-the-poor-once-thrived/470667/>  
[https://issuu.com/islandpress/docs/ch1\\_9781642831344\\_optimized](https://issuu.com/islandpress/docs/ch1_9781642831344_optimized)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.courthousenews.com/amid-housing-crisis-california-cities-look-to-target-vacant-homes-with-taxes/>  
<https://www.kqed.org/news/11931327/heres-every-bay-area-housing-measure-on-the-ballot-tomorrow>

<sup>4</sup> [t.ly/OtQb](https://t.ly/OtQb)

<sup>5</sup> [t.ly/tcSd](https://t.ly/tcSd)

<sup>6</sup> [t.ly/mfYR](https://t.ly/mfYR) and <https://dob.dc.gov/page/vacant-buildings>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.sfchronicle.com/realestate/article/california-vacancy-taxes-17306326.php>  
[https://sfbos.org/sites/default/files/BLA.Residential%20Vacancies.013122\\_final.pdf](https://sfbos.org/sites/default/files/BLA.Residential%20Vacancies.013122_final.pdf)

## **Standing with Democracy in Opposition to the Rise of Right-Wing Nationalism**

Whereas right-wing nationalist or religious nationalist governments have been elected in a number of democracies including Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, the Philippines, Poland and Turkey, and far right parties have emerged in Brazil, Sweden, Chile, Costa Rica, Norway, Germany, France and the United Kingdom, and even the United States Republican Party has been transformed into a far-right nationalist party; and

Whereas many of these nationalist governments have used demagoguery to obtain slim, temporary legislative majorities, and once in power, sought to persecute marginalized communities, women and LGBTQ persons, disempower labor rights and eliminate or reduce the power of an independent judiciary to protect civil rights, eliminate political dissent, and impose religious restrictions on society at large; and

Whereas vibrant democracies depend on equal protection of law for all citizens, an independent judiciary, and the right of dissent, the answer to the rise of far-right nationalism which, like the rise of Trump in the United States, is to support leadership change through the restoration of democracy and voter empowerment through citizen activism, not violent overthrow or imposition;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party supports the principle of democratic government with an independent judiciary that interprets law without political, religious or populist interference; and

Be it further resolved, that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party stands in solidarity with the citizen activists of those countries seeking to protect their democracies, marginalized communities and LGBTQ rights in their countries through their right to protest.

Submitted by: Jewish Democratic Club of Silicon Valley

Co-Sponsors: For Cosponsors: Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, Assemblymember Evan Low, City Council Member David Cohen, Foothill/DeAnza CCD Trustee Patrick Ahern, Oak Grove School Board Member Jorge Pacheco, Assyrian Democratic Club of Silicon Valley, Sousan Manteghi