



santa clara county ★★
DEMOCRATIC PARTY
the democratic party of silicon valley

Nurturing our Youth Activists



Union Square, San Francisco, photo credit: Li-An Lim on [Unsplash](#)

Dear Democrat,

Climate change is exposing our country to life-threatening weather, with no end in sight.

The Northeast is experiencing once-in-a-1,000-years flooding. The Southwest is in the middle of its longest and hottest summer on record. And California just had one of its wettest winters ever.

We need to elect officials who will fight for laws that wean us off fossil fuels, make solar affordable, and lower our carbon footprints.

As Democrats, we know that the future depends on the young. And, in recent years, they have proven their mettle by stepping up to lead progressive movements to address the climate crisis, reduce gun violence, protect members of the LGBTQ+ community, end police mistreatment of people of color, and more.

Youth Takeover



Click to see photos from our Youth Takeover

To mentor and encourage our youth leaders, we organized our annual Youth Takeover this month.

On the 13th, the party leadership handed the gavel over to 16 youth delegates, who introduced [10 resolutions](#) on issues they were passionate about, including several climate-focused ones advocating for reducing food waste, ratepayer ownership of PG&E, and pocket forests in our county schools.

The youth delegates worked independently to conceive, research, and draft their resolutions before the meeting.

At the meeting, after parliamentary debate and amendments, they voted to approve all 10 resolutions, and forwarded them to the Central Committee, which in turn [adopted all of them](#).

Because of the actions of the youth delegates, the SCCDP has become one of the first in California to endorse ACA 5, which will remove from our state Constitution language added in 2008, via Proposition 8, barring same sex marriages.

Click [here](#) to hear from one of the youth delegates in their own words.

Adam Sayed, Youth Takeover Chair

This year, the Youth Takeover meeting was chaired by Adam Sayed, a rising senior at Harker School in San Jose. It was Adam's third year participating.

"It's useful for teens to have practice in civics," Adam said. "It results in them voting more and not being nonchalant and just letting politics go by them."

The Youth Takeover also gives teens a direct means of influencing local politics, he said, as all the resolutions authored by youth delegates and passed by the Central Committee become a part of SCCDP's platform.



In addition to participating in the Youth Takeover, Adam has provided technical support for SCCDP's phone banks, pitched in on its postcarding campaigns, and helped register voters at a citizenship ceremony.

He was introduced to political volunteerism by his mother, who in turn was introduced to it by her mother – a perfect illustration of the importance of mentorship.

Supreme Court decisions affect youth

With a Supreme Court that has gutted affirmative action, cancelled student loan forgiveness, and stripped the EPA's authority to mandate carbon emissions, never has it been more important for young people to speak out on the issues that matter to them – and to vote.

We hope that you will work with us to turn out our young voters, and that you will stand with us as we fight climate change and other pressing problems through the ballot box.

Coming up in August

- Sun. Aug. 13 – Multicultural Day, organized by SCCDP & its Democratic clubs. Details [here](#).
- Sun. Aug 13 & 27 – Tabling to register voters at Multicultural Day and Silicon Valley Pride. Sign up [here](#).

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