

SANTA CLARA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes March 5, 2026
7 PM-9 PM, Regular Meeting, in person only at
South Bay Labor Council, 2302 Zanker Rd, San José

1. **CALL TO ORDER** 7:08 PM
Land Acknowledgement - Kathy Chavez Napoli provided the land acknowledgement
2. **ROLL CALL**
Absent: Rishi Kumar, Anthony Phan, Karen Martinez, Phuong Nguyen, Raena Lari, Olivia Navarro, Sousan Manteghi-Safakish
Alternates for: Marc Berman, Robert Rivas, Aisha Wahab, Jimmy Panetta
3. **WELCOMING OF VISITORS**
4. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
Approved unanimously.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. Thursday, February 5, 2026 - approved
6. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. Dues are Past Due
To vote tonight your dues must have been paid. Bill shared that a list has been posted on the website of members who have paid their dues. <https://sccdp.org/index.php/about/central-committee/sccdcc-attendance-2026/>
7. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. Notice of vacancy on Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee (AD 24) due to resignation of Jo Nguyen – to be filled at the April 2 meeting
Bill announced that AD 24 member Jo Nguyen has resigned. Her seat is now vacant and will be filled at the April 2 meeting.
 - b. Request to Endorse the Santa Clara Valley Wildlife Protection, Clean Water, and Open Space Act
Mike Potter and Open Space Authority General Manager Andrea Mackenzie presented background on the Santa Clara Valley Wildlife Protection, Clean Water, and Open Space Act and asked members to support endorsing the measure for the June primary. Motion to endorse– unanimous approval with one opposed and a few abstentions.
 - c. Endorsements in San Jose City Council Districts 5, 7, and 9
Angelica presented the recommendation of the endorsement committee for the races for San José City Council – District 5,7, and 9. Bill went over the rules for voting. The recommendations were as followed:

D5: Sole endorsement of Peter Ortiz
D7: Dual Endorsement for Rafael Garcia and HG Nguyen
D9: Sole endorsement for Gordan Chester

Candidates for the above races addressed the members to share why they are running and to ask for support.

The D7 and D9 races were pulled from consent:
The remaining consent item -D5 race: Recommendation for Sole endorsement of Peter Ortiz passed unanimously on consent.

D7: Motion for sole endorsement of HG Nguyen failed, 14 – 35 – 0
Motion to dual endorse HG Nguyen and Rafael Garcia passed by unanimous consent

D9: Motion for sole endorsement of Gordon Chester passed, 49 - 11 – 7
 - d. Endorsement update re remaining June 2 primary races
Angelica shared a quick update on the remaining races for the June Primary that will be taken up in special meetings before our next Central Committee meeting, now that filing will close officially on March 6th. She thanked the endorsement committee for their time.
 - e. CADEM Convention report
Bill provided an update and quick recap on the activity at the convention in February.
8. **REPORTS**
 - a. **Executive Board/Chair: Bill James**

Bill thanked the AD 26 crew for providing dinner for the members and guests tonight.

- b. Vice Chair: Jean Cohen – no report**
- c. Treasurer: Angelica Ramos – see earlier report**
- d. Secretary: Helen Chapman – no report**
- e. Political Director: James Kim - no report**
- f. Issues: Daniel Cao - no report**
- g. Outreach: Clarence Madrilejos - no report**
- h. Finance: James Kim - no report**
- i. Communications: John Comiskey**
Communications for Candidates, will be the third Thursday of each month, 3/19, and 4/16 at 7 PM at the SCCDP Headquarters, please go to <https://sccdp.org/c4c> if interested. To add an event to the sccdp.org calendar <https://sccdp.org/addevent> Landscape artwork, please! H x W of 3x4, 9x16, or something in between.
- j. Gender Equity and the Status of Women: Tomara Hall – no report**
- k. Diversity & Inclusion: Rebeca Armendariz – no report**
- l. Youth Representative: Maddy Chang and Vivek Sharma**
- m. Clubs: Buu Thai**
See Club reports below:
 - Democrats for Public Education**
Next meeting is March 17th, will be having a speaker on LGBTQ Youth, more info go to info@sccdpe.org
 - Silicon Valley Youth Democrats**
Holding 2nd annual gala on April 4th and are undergoing their endorsement process now for the Primary elections.
 - DAWN**
DAWN will be holding a follow up meeting on March 12th to the successful When Women Lead Panel “Women’s Health Care, Rights & Community Resources” Our Endorsement Brunch will be April 12th; dues are due now in order to vote at the brunch.
 - AFRO UPRIS**
Happy to share members marched in the Black Joy parade in Oakland. Will be holding a club social in the future.
 - Silicon Valley Working Blue Democratic Club**
Will be holding All-Club Picnic at Emma Prusch Park on July 18, 2026 – save the date!
 - SVDC**
Holding a digital marketing class for candidates.
 - Democrats for Palestinian Rights Bay Area**
March 11th will be the next Lunch and Learn series focused on surveillance being weaponized.
 - South Asian American Democratic Coalition of Silicon Valley**
Will be celebrating Holi on March 7th at the Sikh Temple, please join!
 - Bay Area Hindu Democratic Coalition**
Shared update on their club. Have been holding events and attended the convention in San Francisco.
- n. Regional Director Report(s) - None**
- o. DNC: Otto Lee and Jason Park**
Shared there is optimism on the upcoming Senate races and goal to take back control of the Senate. Announced DNC NextWave Regional Bootcamps. Learn more <https://democrats.org/next-wave/> Also working against scam PACs and to defend voter rights.
- p. Ad Hoc Committee on Housing and Homelessness**
Next Meeting will be on March 9th 6:00 – 7:30pm

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDER

Kings & Tulare Democrats 2026 Fundraiser

Saturday, March 7, 6pm, Visalia Wyndham, donate at <https://bit.ly/tkdinner2026>

South Bay Labor Council Labor Brunch, Saturday, March 21, 10am-12pm,

San Jose Marriott, 301 S Market St <https://bit.ly/26sblclaborbrunch>

Sally Lieber shared an update on the No Kings event on March 28th along the El Camino

Mike Katz announced he is a candidate for Congressional District 17 and is collecting signatures to get on the ballot.

Anne Kepner announced she is running for State Senate District 10

Derek Grasty shared he is running for Governor of California

Dominic Tresler shared appreciation from Councilmember Peter Ortiz for the sole endorsement from the party.

Gordan Chester thanked everyone for the support and sole endorsement this evening.

10. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

February 18, 2026, at 6 pm

11. ADJOURNMENT 8:50 pm

Meeting adjourned in memory of Jesse Jackson