



The

Democratic Voice

<http://www.democraticclub-scc.org>
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**October Meeting
Monday, the 16th**
**Panel on Climate Change
with 3 Local Activist**

Henry's **HOFBRAU**
390 Saratoga Ave, San Jose
Dinner 6PM, Meeting 7PM

Volume 36 Number 10

October 2017

Stolen elections: voter suppression & rigged voting machines

by Rob Means

With the notoriety of Interstate Crosscheck, voter suppression burst upon the nation's consciousness. With the mounting evidence of Russian hacking, the possibility of rigged vote-counting machines is also - finally-coming to the nation's attention.

What is covered by the term "voter suppression?" How is it possible to hack vote-counting machines? How widely spread across America are these voter abuses?

The problem of voter suppression has grown so huge that the New York Times created a video game: "The Voter Suppression Trail." Play as a white programmer from California, a Latina nurse from Texas, or a black salesman from Wisconsin. Experience the thrill of standing in line for hours at your understaffed polling place! Try to surmount voter ID laws! Avoid intimidation by Donald Trump's election observers! Will you fend off the rhetoric of angry election "observers," or heed calls from your boss and get out of line, or will you experience the fulfilling patriotic reward of casting a provisional ballot that will probably never be counted? Find out — play now!

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/11/03/opinion/100000004729641.mobile.html>

Really? Is it that bad? Yes! Here are hurdles that many voters in America must surmount:

1. Voter registration is being suppressed in Florida by making it a criminal offense to register someone and get any detail on the form incorrect. As a result, even the League of Women Voters has abandoned the effort.

2. Caging is a technique to remove voters

from the rolls by sending a junk-mail-looking notice with instructions to return the notice; when not returned, the cagers have the voters name removed. Robert Kennedy Jr. explains this tactic in the film *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy* (BDMCB).

3. Interstate Crosscheck is the main subject of BDMCB. Popularized throughout Red states by Kris Kobach, vice-chair of Trump's Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity. Guess what plans he has in that role?

4. Let's say your name is still on the voter rolls. Now it's time to find a polling place. That can be hard in a state like Indiana which has reduced the number of polling places – in areas of color. Here's a 2-minute description of Indiana's approach: <http://meansfordemocracy.org/THP-082417H1-reduced-polling-places.mp3>

5. Another trick to trip you up is a late change of polling places. For years you voted here, but now they want you to vote way over there. Oh, you didn't get the notice. Well, I hope you have time for this major detour.

6. Having arrived at the polls, you may be subject to intimidation. Perhaps the most noted case is that of Supreme Court Justice William H. Rehnquist who, in 1962 Phoenix elections, acted as a "challenger" who would approach black and Latino voters and ask them: "Are you qualified to vote?" and then tell them, "I would ask you to leave." Being over 6 feet tall, an attorney, and a Republican poll watcher, that was often enough to get people to leave the voting line.

7. Another dirty trick is to reduce the number of

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Panel on climate change at October meeting

by Shirley Odou

Despite the Denier-in-Chief's jeremiaids, climate change is real. It is not fake news, Mr. Trump.

Since the world first became aware of the effects of global warming so dramatically revealed in Al Gore's Academy Award winning documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, much has been done to respond to the existential threat it poses for the planet and its inhabitants. But there is still much more than can be done.

The three speakers at SCCDC's October meeting will present different perspectives on climate change, each offering a strategy that could, if implemented, go a long way in halting the inexorable march to the doomsday scenario predicted by scientists.

Gary Latshaw, Ph.D, will give an update on the impact of climate change on California, based upon the latest Federal report. He will also discuss the implications of Cap and Trade legislation, Assembly Bill 398, as well as his personal view of policy options for tackling climate change. Latshaw, a retired college professor, received his doctorate in Physics from Stanford University. His concern about the effect of CO2 emissions on the planet dates back to the 1970s. After putting together his own slide show on climate change several years prior to Gore's documentary, he trained with the former vice-president's organization, Climate Reality. He is a tireless advocate for policies that would diminish the threat of global warming.

Suds Jain will talk about how Citizen's Climate Lobby's proposal for a revenue

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The Democratic Voice

Published by Santa Clara
County Democratic Club
Monthly, ten times a year

Submissions due first
Monday of each month
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Proposal for SCCDC to join SBPA as coalition partner

by Rob Means, SCCDC President

(SCCDC President Rob Means has submitted a proposal to join the South Bay Progressive Alliance as a coalition partner for a membership vote at its October 16th meeting. While his proposal has many interesting points and SBPA's mission statement is similar in many respects to our own Credo, adopting the proposal could have implications for our Club that need to be considered, not the least of which are endorsements. Should the South Bay Progressive Alliance endorse, for example, Green Party candidates, does having SCCDC one of SBPA's member organizations present a conflict? In other words, we are already under the umbrella of the Democratic Party, are duly accredited by the County Party, and, while we may and do endorse Democratic candidates who are not preferred by the County Party, we do not endorse candidates in partisan races from other parties, including the Republican and Green Parties. On the other hand, to work in concert with SBPA on issues where our interests coincide, to appoint a liaison to SBPA, to advertise its meetings and encourage individual SCCDC members to join the group, could be mutually beneficial for both organizations. Also, Rob in quoting Article III, Section 1 is interpreting this provision as one that would support the Club becoming part of another organization. The meaning and purpose of that bylaw to perform "such other activities as the membership decides," was not, as I recall, as a founding member, to undertake "such activities" under the umbrella of another organization but to encourage activism on issues consistent with the values of SCCDC. I just wanted to make sure you are aware of some of the reasons you need to attend the October meeting when there will be a full discussion of the pros and cons of the implications of Rob's proposal. We already work cooperatively with MTA and the Santa Clara County Single Payer Health Care Coalition to achieve our shared goals. But our relationship with these groups, seems to me, quite different from the one proposed by Rob with respect to SBPA.

A few members of SCCDC contend that all dues-paying members should vote by mail-in ballot on this issue since all members would be affected by the decision to become part of the alliance. Right now, as SCCDC bylaws currently read, issues require a two-thirds vote by eligible SCCDC members present at which the proposal is presented to pass. (Shirley Odou, Editor)

The Current Situation

1. The Facts

"The South Bay Progressive Alliance is an independent, politically unaffiliated organization with a mission to unite diverse individuals, communities, and organizations into an inclusive coalition to elect local corporate-free candidates, enact progressive policies, and build institutions and a society based on democracy, equity, cooperation, compassion and sustainability." – SBPA Mission Statement. To be more effective, SBPA seeks Coalition Partners in addition to individual and organizational members.

2. The Cost or Other Impact

Becoming a Coalition Partner requires that an organiza-

tion shares the SBPA vision and helps advance their mission. Coalition Partners agree to 1) engage and introduce their membership to SBPA, 2) if possible promote SBPA events, and 3) partner on advocacy of issues of mutual interest. A Coalition Partner must have at least one individual member who acts as the liaison with SBPA Steering Committee. The expectations of Coalition Partners are defined individually, and there are no terms for partnerships. The list of Coalition Partners may be used to promote SBPA and aid in gathering support for their actions.

3. The Main Causes

As more voters and activists opt out of two major political parties, accomplishing the progressive goals of this Club and the California Democratic Party (CDP) Platform requires us to work with NPP (No Party Preference) voters.

The Possible Solutions

4. Conditions for Success

The Bylaws (ARTICLE III, Section 1) state the "The function and purpose of SCCDC shall be to ... perform such other activities as the membership may decide." Our confidence in SBPA's future is bolstered by knowing of other Coalition Partners: California Nurses Association, Green Party of Santa Clara County, Human Agenda, Laborers Local 270, Low Income Self Help Center, Santa Clara County Move To Amend (SCC-MTA), Santa Clara County Single Payer Health Care Coalition.

5. Best Practices and Options

We have three options. The first is to continue as we have with a SCCDC member involved with SBPA who reports on activities. However, we would be missing collaborative, advertising and framing opportunities provided by becoming a Coalition Partner.

Looking at the voter roles, it is clear that lots of people do not want to be Democrats. If we Democrats want to score big, we need to collaborate with non-Dems. Joining SBPA is a way.

In addition to the advertising opportunity for our Club, we have a framing opportunity. Like it or not, the name "Santa Clara County Democratic Club" creates the impression that we represent the County Party. Let's use the leverage our name affords us. By lending our name to SBPA, we show that the Green Party of Santa Clara County is not the only progressive Party. Not having the word "Democratic" in the list of partners seems a poor marketing choice.

A third option is to both become a Coalition Partner and nominate a SCCDC member for election to the SBPA Steering Committee. That would give us more influence in steering SBPA.

6. Recommended Solution

SCCDC already collaborates with a number of organizations including Move To Amend, Indivisible, and the Clean Money Campaign. Look at SBPA's on-line presence to determine whether SCCDC's progressive values are reflected there: SouthBayPA.org and facebook.com/SouthBayPA. If so, join SBPA as a Coalition

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machines at a minority polling place – or better yet, deliver broken machines that don't work at all, or break during the day in such a way that all the votes previously cast on them are lost.

8. Rather than use the time-honored and effective use of voter roles and your signature as your ID, many Republican states require voter identification. But not just any ID. Concealed weapons permit - OK; student ID card – not ID Driver License OK, but we managed to close the DMV office in your area.

9. Homeless and nomads (seniors in RVs) generally vote Democratic, so some states require a physical residence rather than just a P.O. Box or UPS/Postal Stop address as a way to eliminate their votes.

10. Some counties and states are using electronic (rather than physical) poll books to verify voters' identities and registration. *The New York Times* published an alarming investigation that such poll books were hacked by Russians; Bloomberg reported that Russian hackers had accessed election-related systems in 39 states.

11. Wow, you successfully voted? Well, your vote may be discarded due to Ballot Spoilage.

12. And if you get past that last hurdle, the Rigged Vote-Counting Machines may miscount your vote. Now, that's a real Dirty Dozen!

Why We Should Join SBPA

Recently, the California Democratic Party went on record: "California Democratic Party urges the Democratic National Committee to demand that our elections be fully transparent, verifiable, and routinely audited, ... and expedite a 50-state strategy to explore, investigate, and pursue all remedies in overturning current and future methods used in undermining U.S. citizens' right to vote or to have their votes counted as cast in free, fair, verified elections." During the Press Conference to publicize the event, a quick 1-minute overview of the problem could help orient you. Here's the Press Release video and timeframe: (<https://vimeo.com/231654641>, 4:15-5:30) Read the full resolution wording at <http://meansfordemocracy.org/resolution-CDP.pdf>

I was first alerted to the problem by an unusual event in Texas in the 2002 Congressional elections. "Comal County (Texas) elections officials noticed an extreme oddity after the final votes were tallied in Tuesday's general election: Three winning candidates each received 18,181 votes. The odds? Astronomical." Find additional information on this and the following at this 28-page summary of the field: <http://meansfordemocracy.org/resolution-rigged.pdf>

If not for rigged vote-counting machines, Clinton would not have been declared winner of the 2016 Democratic Primary.

Another way rigged machines can mis-count votes is by not counting them at all. So called "mis-calibrated machines" in Detroit lost 80,000 votes for President in 2016; Trump "won" by 10,000 votes.

Jon did not lose that Special Election in Georgia; it was stolen! Consider these facts: Normally vote-by-mail ballots in that district go heavily Republican. In the special election Jon Ossoff ran way ahead of Karen Handel by 64% to 36% on the mail-in ballots, that's nearly a 2-to-1 margin!

Still, Handel supposedly won from ballots cast at the polling places. Those polling places use electronic voting machines with no paper ballots. Hence, there is no way to verify the electronic results. In response, a dozen democracy/election-integrity advocates sent a letter to election officials in Georgia expressing "Grave Concerns about the integrity of GA6 Special Runoff Election".

Jon did not lose that race; it was stolen! And it was just the latest theft using rigged vote-counting machines in a long line that dates back over 10 years. When California's Secretary of State conducted a thorough testing of the machines in use, lots of problems were uncovered – so we dumped most of them.

Non-Response

So, why has the Democratic Party leadership remained silent on both voter suppression and rigged voting machines for so long? If Democrats keep "losing" races they actually won due to rigged vote-counting machines, why isn't the Democratic Party screaming about this at every opportunity? Surely they know about it since at least 2003 when Thom Hartmann started talking about it. In 2006, he was in a high-level meeting with Democratic Party officials and asked. Their response: We don't want to talk about rigged machines and "Red Shift" because it will cause people to doubt the integrity of our election system, and that will cause them not to come and vote. Don't give people the bad news because it might scare them. (That BS about bad news is also being used to avoid talking about how serious our Global Warming situation is.)

Bernie Sanders says: "The current model and the current strategy of the Democratic Party is an absolute failure. ... [the] Democratic Party needs fundamental change..." Bernie Sanders says: "Democrats have lost the US House, the US Senate. Republicans now control almost two-thirds of the governors' chairs throughout the country. And over the last nine years, Democrats have lost almost 1,000 legislative seats in states all across this country. Today -- today, in almost half of the states in America, the

Democratic Party has almost no political presence at all. Now, if that's not a failed model, I don't know what a failed model is."

What You Can Do!

So, what do we do? Get their attention. Get everyone's attention! Talk to people about the problem. Write letters to the editor. Post on your Facebook or Nextdoor page. Make a ruckus! Trump was not fairly elected, and that gives We the People a massive complaint to lodge against whatever part of the Establishment resists clean elections.

Next, press for passage of two bills in Congress that address these issues. Led by Progressive Caucus member Representative Mark Pocan and a few other Democrats, they are: Rigged Vote-Counting Machines: U.S. Reps. Mark Pocan (D-WI), Keith Ellison (D-MN), and Hank Johnson (D-GA) introduced the Securing America's Future Elections (SAFE) Act (HR-1562). This comprehensive legislation would safeguard our elections from future foreign cyber-attacks and interference by permanently classifying the integrity and security of our elections as a key component of critical infrastructure. This important classification would place elections systems in the same category as other critical infrastructure including the power grid, the banking system, and other utilities. The SAFE Act also addresses election standards to protect against cyber-threats, better voting machines that provide paper ballots, and random audits of ballots to thwart interference. Ro Khanna is the 9th co-sponsor!

Voter Suppression: U.S. Reps. Mark Pocan (D-WI) and John Conyers (D-MI) introduced the Voter Roll Integrity Act (HR-3091). Title III of the Election Integrity Act addresses key voter rights issues that will ensure our elections remain accessible for all Americans. It establishes guidelines for the publication of voter purge lists and a process by which individuals can challenge their placement on a purge list.

You may want to go beyond talk to bigger action like distributing informational flyers at events, asking about the issue in public forums with legislators – or in private lobby efforts.

In addition to the links mentioned earlier, the Brennan Center for Justice is a hub of information on voter suppression: <https://www.brennancenter.org/>

Save the Date

SCCDC Holiday Party,
December 8, 6:30PM to 9PM

SCCDC nominating committee slate for 2018

Elections for SCCDC officers and members-at-large for the 2018 term will be held at the November meeting. The nominating committee suggested slate to be presented at the October meeting is as follows: President, Rob Means, Vice-President, Joe Dietzgen, Treasurer, Herb Engstrom, Recording Secretary, Eileen Sargent, Corresponding Secretary, Gwendolyn, McDaniel, and Members-at-Large Ed Cobb, Art Cohen, Herb Engstrom, Dixie Johansen, Vinod Menon, Carol Miller, Shirley Odou, Fred Rehhauser, Linda Sell, Kathy Stoken, and Richard Stoken. Nominations from the floor will be welcomed at the October meeting.

Members of the nominating committee include: Fred Rehhauser, Chair, Herb Engstrom, Vinod Menon, Shirley Odou, and Linda Sell. If you are nominated or wish to run, please contact the Chair to arrange to receive a membership list to seek support for your nomination. The Chair's email address is Fvrehauss@aol.com

Members-at-large serve as committee chairs or in other capacities performing vital tasks necessary for the smooth functioning of the Club, as required by SCCDC Bylaws. Current Members-at-Large and their responsibilities are: Ed Cobb, All-Media Team Chair and Facebook administrator; Art Cohen, All-Media Team member; Herb Engstrom, Webmaster, Parliamentarian, and Endorsement Committee member; Wally Gardner, Audio-Visual and Facilities assistant; Dixie Johansen, Program Committee member; Carol Miller, Phone Tree Team member; Shirley Odou, Newsletter editor, Program Chair and Events Committee member; Fred Rehhauser, Endorsement Committee Chair and Program Committee member; Kathy Stoken, Events Committee member and Graphics assistant; Richard Stoken, Graphics Designer and All-Media Team member; Allan Thiessen, Phone Tree Team member; and David Wessel, Affordable Housing Chair. Wally Gardner, Allan Thiessen and David Wessel declined to run for re-election.

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Partner.

The Proposed Change

7. Suggested Action Steps

Notify SBPA that SCCDC wants to be a Coalition Partner, and that someone will be appointed as liaison to the SBPA Steering Committee.

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Other Coalition Partners include: California Nurses Association, Green Party of Santa Clara County, Human Agenda, Laborers Local 270, Low Income Self Help Center, Santa Clara County Move To Amend (SCC-MTA), Santa Clara County Single Payer Health Care Coalition.

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neutral carbon tax can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 50% in 20 years while at the same time increasing jobs, reducing health costs, and growing the GDP. An activist with the Citizen's Climate Lobby, Jain was so concerned about the climate crisis that in 2008 he left the industry where he had worked for 25 years designing integrated circuits to become a “professional volunteer.” Currently, he teaches a Climate Change Science class to middle school students. In addition, he is a planning commissioner for the City of Santa Clara. Jain holds a BSEE and MSEE degrees from MIT.

Brian Haberly “will highlight the most effective forms of local activism in affecting city and state policies regarding climate change and the environment.” He will also provide information about opportunities for “budding activists” who want to become more fully engaged in the grass-roots movement on climate change. Brian serves as Vice Chair of the Sierra Club Loma Prieta

SCCDC already collaborates with a number of organizations including Move To Amend, Indivisible, and the Clean Money Campaign. We have three ways to work with SBPA. The first is to continue as we have with a SCCDC member involved with SBPA who reports on activities. However, we would be missing collaborative, advertising and framing opportunities provided by becoming a Coalition Partner.

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Look at SBPA's on-line presence to determine whether SCCDC's progressive values are reflected there: SouthBayPA.org, facebook.com/SouthBayPA. If so, vote your support for SCCDC to join SBPA as a Coalition Partner at the October 16 meeting.

Chapter. He has participated in successful campaigns to ban fracking in San Benito and Monterey Counties and helped defeat a proposal to transport crude oil by rail through downtown San Jose. He received his BA in Earth Science from Cal State Northridge, and currently is a senior corporate paralegal with a tech company in Santa Clara.

The meeting will be held in the banquet room at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Ave., San Jose. The program begins at 7 PM, following a no-host dinner at 6 PM. The business meeting begins around 8:15 PM. We have a full agenda, so please if you wish to join us for dinner, try to arrive on time. For more information, call 408-247-9513.

Upcoming Events

October 16 - SCCDC General Meeting,
Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Ave., San Jose.
Dinner at 6 PM; meeting at 7 PM

October 25 - SCCDC E-Board Meeting,
Headen-Inman House,
1509 Warburton, Santa Clara,
7 PM. Coffee and dessert will be served.