



SAN FRANCISCO for Democracy

August 15, 2006 Minutes
San Francisco for Democracy
Membership Meeting

I. Welcome from Tom Brown. Tom calls meeting in order.

II. Tom makes a motion to approve minutes from June 20, 2006. Will seconds the motion. 16 members in attendance. Approved by verbal consent of the membership. Introduction of new attendees.

III. Introduction of Candidates

A. U.S. Congressional candidate Lt. Col Charlie Brown (D) running against John Doolittle (R) in CD 4 addresses membership to make case for endorsing him.

- Lt. Col. Brown makes comparisons between his Vietnam war era experiences and current political climate
- Makes case for domestic program reinforcement, conservation programs, points out oil profits are at record levels.
- Congressman Doolittle is involved with several Republican corruption scandals, and hasn't seriously been challenged for ten years.
- Request for volunteers
- Brown says polls say 52% have unfavorable opinion of Doolittle
- Brown says he's been very well received in rural areas of district, even more so than urban centers.
- Brown says his district has a diversity of concerns, from infrastructure, to logging and conservation
- In favor of public funding of elections, Brown believes that lobbying money is ruining politics. He believes we have to jump on universal health care, though not sure of the best way to approach it.
- Tom thanks Lt. Col. Brown for coming.

B. Two representatives, Tor (tor@jerrymcnerney.org) and Connie, from U.S. Congressional candidate Jerry McNerney's (D) campaign against Richard Pombo (R) in CD 11 address membership. [gary@jerrymcnerney.org is the Field Campaign coordinator]

- Grassroots volunteer momentum is strong.
- Thank you for helping with McNerney's campaign.
- Pombo has been negative campaigning since July.
- DCCC showed Pombo's re-elect favorable percentage at 32%.
- McNerney will prioritize ethics reform package
- McNerney has wind energy (alternative energy sources) expertise
- McNerney will prioritize universal health care

- McNerney had a commitment in Stockton tonight, San Joaquin County is the place McNerney needs to focus.

- Will Easton points out that Jerry was at both of SF for Democracy's last holiday parties

- Greg Keaton asks how McNerney will address ethics - Tor says McNerney would restrict gifts, and this is a bipartisan issue. Pombo is implicated in a lot of nepotism, funneling government deals to his wife and relatives.

- One member asks how McNerney will respond to Pombo's blatant favoritism of business interests over the environment, especially the oil lobby.

- Kapil, new member, asks what's the best way to get involved with the campaign. Tor says McNerney needs help on the phones. Kapil represents Asian Pacific Americans for Progress.

- Tor emphasizes that McNerney's position is to tax windfall profits before consumers. Constance emphasizes there is an attempt by Republican opponents to twist the messaging to sound like an extra gasoline tax.

C. Jeff Whittington speaks in support of U.S. Congressional candidate Bill Durston, running against Dan Lungren (R) in CD 3.

- Bill Durston volunteered for Marines in Vietnam

- Is a head of emergency medicine

- Started Physicians for Social Responsibility group

- Pro universal health care

- Pro environment

- Pro bringing the troops home

- His district has voted more strongly Democratic than McNerney or Brown's districts, though the DCCC has put less money into his campaign. Incumbent Dan Lungren has mistakenly admitted in email in the past year to the sending of troops to Iraq for oil.

IV. CA Coalition for Fair Trade & Human Rights presentation by Mark Goodwin

A. Mark Goodwin addresses membership

- CACFTHR lobbies for improvements to global trade system.

- Large percentages (67-80%) on various Pew Foundation polls express concern over outsourcing and fair trade laws.

- CACFTHR's position is that trade agreements need to include as strong environmental and human rights policies as there are intellectual property policies.

- CACFTHR is phone banking and lobbying candidates, circulating letters of opposition.

- Alice asks if they're requesting an endorsement of organization; Mark answers they are looking for a working relationship and a point of contact for introducing letters, lobbying congress people.

- Main bill they oppose is the fast tracking of unilateral negotiation of trade authority by President Bush. Currently set to expire in summer of 2007, and they will likely try to pass during lame duck session.

- We will need to select a coordinator for this issue.

- Julie asks if there are positions on enforcement issues. Mark says the group will advocate fines on nations in violation.

B. Tom makes motion to take a vote for joining coalition

C. Membership votes unanimously to join coalition

D. Jeff volunteers to be acting coordinator/liaison if and until there is another liaison. Tom makes motion for a vote. Membership unanimously approves for Jeff to be the coordinator.

V. Tom requests for approval of agenda, after speakers have finished. Jeff requests that Bayview Redevelopment be added on. Approved by Tom.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Program - Susan Pfeifer says that Program committee voted to support Crispin book/movie presentation at the Roxie.

B. Meetup - Tim Hsu presents. 95 Members in good standing, about 2 dozen more than last year at this time. Jeff Adachi has confirmed for the next Sept. 6 Meetup. Tom Ammiano will also likely be present for 20 minutes to discuss universal health care. Also, Political Affairs presentation on propositions. For October Meetup, time allotted for Clean Money from CA Nurses, Amy Moy on Prop. 85 from Planned Parenthood, also theatergroup skit, endorsed candidates time reserved.

C. Outreach - Jeff Whittington presents. Voter registration, tabling and DeanCorps ongoing - continue to look for volunteers. Will look for more phonebanking and precinct walking later in the month. Will do two tables, independent of DemocracyAction, though they are allies. Natural Area Program hearing happening this weekend, and they need speakers there.

D. Communications - Will Easton presents. New calendar/forums software installed/to be installed, after hack. Using Constant Contact for all People Powered Papers and email newsletters. Will puts out a call for continued content and photos for website. Tim and Susan believe turnout last month was very good because of all the advertising.

E. Political Affairs - Mimi LaPointe presents recap and discussion.

- Tim discusses Prop 1A-E, package of propositions. Most elected officials including both major-party candidates for governor support the entire package. Prop. 1A Transportation Investment Fund very popular with voters. 1A is a technical measure that will make it much harder to use current gas tax funds for non-transportation purposes. It is not a new bond or tax; it just moves existing funding from the general fund to transportation. 1B is the measure that has new bond funding: \$8 billion for highways, \$5 billion for transit, etc., about \$20 billion total. 1C on Housing & Emergency Shelter most likely to be voted down b/c poor voting constituency.

- Prop 83 - "Jessica's Law" - GPS tracking of sex offenders - PA committee recommends "NO" because of cost and ineffectiveness, as well as civil liberties issues that might arise. Iowa found that nothing to be gained in monitoring. Note that this is GPS Tracking for life, which could be a violation of double jeopardy.

- Prop. 84 - Jeff presents. Groups several conservation issues - water runoff, park improvements, temperature modeling. All major conservation groups support.
- Prop 85 - same as prop 73 last year, parental notification of minors' pregnancies.
- Prop 86 - Tax on cigarettes, constitutional amendment. Exempts hospitals from anti-trust lawsuits. Constitutional Amendment.
- Prop. 87 - Joni Eisen presents. Oil Severance tax. Will raise \$4 billion for alternative energy research, prohibits oil companies from passing the taxes through to the consumer. Will bring CA in line with taxing extraction of oil elsewhere - CA is only oil-producing state/nation that does not tax oil extraction. Constitutional Amendment.
- Prop. 88 - Real property parcel tax. Constitutional Amendment
- Tim points out that it may be easier to pass constitutional amendments since Prop. 13, than as legislation, in order to bypass potential court litigation, or later amendments by state legislature.
- Prop. 89 - Joni presents. Voluntary public financing system for political campaigns. Limits amount of private money raised across the board from corporations, unions, lobbyists, individuals.
- Prop. 90 - Greg Keaton presents. Limits government "eminent domain". Is subtle because it appears to limit commercial sprawl, but actually gives rights of property owner precedence over nearly every other concern, including environmental, zoning. Amendment funded by NY developer. Constitutional Amendment.

VII. Vote on initiatives

- 17 total voters, need 10 for ~60% super majority

	Yes	No	
No Recommendation			
Prop 1A - YES	13	2	2
Prop 1B - YES	13	2	2
Prop 1C - YES	17	-	-
Prop 1D - YES	17	-	-
Prop 1E - YES	17	-	-
Prop. 83 - NO	1	16	-
Prop. 84 - YES	17	-	-
Prop. 85 - NO	17	-	-
Prop. 86 - No recommendation	9	7	1
Prop. 87 - YES	17	-	-
Prop. 88 - YES	13	3	1
Prop. 89 - YES	17	-	-
Prop. 90 - NO	1	15	1
U.S. Congressional candidate CD 4 - Brown			Unanimous Endorsement
U.S. Congressional candidate CD 11 - Mc Nerney			Unanimous Endorsement
U.S. Congressional candidate CD 3 - Durston			Unanimous Endorsement

VIII. Jeff presents on redevelopment in Bayview. They want to have a ballot measure to stop and review redevelopment of Bayview, how it's implemented. Ammiano, Daly, the Chronicle all support this ballot measure. There is concern that the redevelopment commission has too much power, too much gentrification influence.

VIX. Meeting adjourned.