

EMOCRATS POLITICAL

Rights LGBT Fighting for Since

An Affiliate of National Stonewall Democrats Club Endorses Scott Peters to Oust Bilbray in New 52nd CD

By Mark Gabrish Conlan, SDDC Member and Publisher, Zenger's Newsmagazine

At its January 26th meeting, the San Diego Democrats for Equality overwhelmingly endorsed Scott Peters over Lori Saldaña for the 52nd Congressional District seat currently held by Republican Brian Bilbray. Attempting to unseat a Republican incumbent in a newly drawn and presumably more competitive district — though Republicans still outnumber Democrats and a large percentage of its voters aren't registered with either major party — the club accepted Peters' argument that precisely because he is more moderate than Saldaña, he is a better "fit" for the district and more likely to win.

With few openly expressed issue differences between the candidates — both scored 100 percent on the club's issues questionnaire, though Peters simply answered the yes-or-no questions while Saldaña cited her legislative record in three terms as a California State Assemblymember — the club's debate turned mostly on electability. Peters brought in several documents arguing that he could win the race and Saldaña could not, including a poll which had him leading Bilbray by 16 percentage points 2012 California Democratic Party LGBT Caucus in the primary. Another Peters document argued that while President Obama carried the district in 2008 with 56.4 percent of the vote, Governor Jerry Brown and Senator Barbara Boxer both got just 46 percent of the district's vote in 2010.

Saldaña began her opening statement by challenging Peters' poll numbers and offering a poll of her own which, she said, documented that "I have very strong name identification in the area. I represented almost half of this district as an Assemblymember." She also pointed to her record on LGBT issues, noting that "I was the only state legislator in San Diego besides Christine Kehoe who supported marriage equality, not once but twice."

"We have an unprecedented opportunity to defeat Brian Bilbray, who has taken Grover Norquist's Continued on page 3 Four



FORUM FOR THE 52ND: Former Assemblymember Lori Saldaña (left) and former San Diego City Council President Scott Peters both sought San Diego Democrats for Equality's endorsement at its January meeting. Photo Credit: Greg Bolian

CALENDAR

Friday, February 10

Reception

10:00 p.m. to midnight Wine Steals/ Proper Gastro Pub

795 J Street, Downtown No charge!

Thursday, February 23

SDDE General Meeting 6:30 p.m. Social/7:00 p.m. Meeting Joyce Beers Community Center, Hillcrest Vermont Ave., two blocks north of University Ave. 2012 SDDE Executive Board Installation Endorsement forum on 51st Congressional District, San Diego City Council Districts Five and Seven, San Diego City Attorney, San Diego Board of Supervisors Districts One, Two and Three, Chula Vista City Council Seats Three and

Sunday, February 26

Annual Victory Fund Luncheon 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. General Reception Co-Hosted by San Diego Democrats for Equality 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Brunch Program Catamaran Resort Hotel and Spa 3999 Mission Blvd., Mission Bay \$100 per person Featured Speakers: Christine Quinn, Speaker, New York City Council and Victory Fund President and CEO Chuck Wolfe Info: www.victoryfund.org

Saturday, March 17

2012 Labor Council Awards Dinner 6:00 p.m. Reception and Auction 7:00 p.m. Dinner Holiday Inn by the Bay 1355 North Harbor Drive, Downtown \$150 per person Info: 619.228.8101



Doug Case SDDE President

STEP UP and join the Board!

I am honored that the membership has elected me to second term as your President and pleased that **Craig Roberts** is providing continuity in the position of Vice President for Political Action and that Cindy Green has The Mobilization Director promotes and been "promoted" to Vice President for Development. John Gordon has graciously agreed to continue as Treasurer until we are able to install a new person in that position. Welcome back to the board to Brandon Tate-McWilliams, our new **Executive Vice President**. Brandon's experience as a former President of Stonewall Young Democrats of San Diego and as an Equality California staff member makes him a real asset. A special welcome also goes to Lyn Gwizdak, our new Secretary and our first transgender board The Special Events Director is responsible member!

Jeri Dilno and Brad Jacobsen, who have each contributed a couple of decades of exemplary board service have retired – but we plan to keep them involved in our new emeritus board member program that will be announced shortly. Several newer board members - Greg Bolian, Carla Kirkwood, Jacqueline Palmer, Jacob Regalado and **Doug White** – are unable to serve this year because of other commitments and personal circumstances. We thank them each for their valuable service.

One of the first duties of the President each year is to appoint the director and chair positions to the board. With several members leaving the board and some existing vacancies, we urgently need members to **STEP UP** and volunteer to fill these positions silent auction. so that the club is operating at full capacity in this critical election year. We are recruiting members for the following positions:

The **Membership Director** coordinates all membership renewals, maintains membership records, prepares lists and labels as needed, and coordinates membership recruitment activities. (Kate Lyon has agreed to continue to serve as a Membership Co-Director, but

President's Perspectives

is unable to make the time commitment to be on the board because she is working as a campaign staff member.)

The **Program Director** arranges for guest speakers for club meetings, coordinates with the Vice President for Political Action in scheduling candidate forums, and coordinates meeting logistics, including setup and refreshments.

implements the registration of voters and coordinates the club's GO TEAM and get-outthe-vote activities on behalf of candidates and ballot measures. In addition, the Mobilization Director promotes participation of club members in activities in support of LGBT equality as well as allied interests.

The Volunteers Director is responsible for the recruitment and placement of club volunteers for club events and activities.

for coordinating the club's participation in special events including parades, festivals and street fairs and handling associated logistics (including booth set-up/take-down, etc).

The Community Outreach Director coordinates involvement and participation with diverse community organizations and activities and assists in the establishment of positive relationships with leaders of other community organizations.

The Freedom Awards Director oversees a committee that produces the annual Freedom Awards. The committee is responsible for securing the facility, preparing promotional materials, securing and beverage donations, presentation of awards, production of a program booklet and coordination of the

The **Fundraising Director(s)** coordinate other fund raising events. (An option is to appoint non-board members to organize individual events.) One proposed event next year includes a Patron recruitment reception.

The Youth Caucus Chair organizes activities for our age 35 and under members, promotes the involvement of youth members

in club and Democratic Party events and conducts outreach to youth organizations.

The Women's Caucus Chair organizes an annual women-oriented event, keeps the board apprised of women's issues and usually serves as the club's representative to the Coalition for Reproductive Rights.

In addition to the above, we are searching for a **Data Entry Assistant** (a non-board position) who will assist in entering financial and membership information into Complete Campaigns, the web-based software utilized by the club. This is an especially important position to fill since we have identified a club member who has tentatively agreed to step up as Treasurer if we can fill this position. It is estimated that the position will require two to three hours per week.

If you are interested in any of the above positions, want to suggest a member (or potential member) to approach about one of the positions, or simply have questions about any of these jobs, please contact me via email at president@democratsforequality.org or via my cell phone at 619.743.4996. Newly appointed board members will be ratified by the membership and installed by Senator Christine Kehoe at our February 23rd club meeting.

San Diego Democrats for Equality is a "power player" in local politics and the LGBT community, but to meet our full potential, we members to STEP UP and assume volunteer board positions. It's fun and fulfilling, and your time will have a real impact on our ability to achieve the club's important mission!▼



Peters Endorsed Over Saldaña in 52nd Congressional Race

Continued from page 1 pledge never to raise taxes and has voted to defund Planned Parenthood," Peters said. "I passed Margaret Moody's three-point test on choice" — supporting Roe v. Wade, opposing laws requiring parental notification when girls under 18 seek abortions and supporting public funding for abortions — "and I was in favor of marriage equality in 2000 and I still am." He boasted that he had officiated at the wedding of Assemblymember Toni Atkins and her wife Jennifer LaSar

While questions were about issues — and generally got similar, if not identical, responses from the candidates — others were about practical matters like fundraising and endorsements. Asked how much money he would have to finance his campaign, Peters said, "We anticipate this will cost at least \$2 million. We now have \$300,000. Our first event was on November 12th and the first day we had a finance director was January 9th. We'll be able to bring to the race the kinds of resources needed."

"If money was the only thing that determined an election, Meg Whitman would be Governor and Carly Fiorina would be US Senator," Saldaña responded. "I've raised about \$85,000 to \$100,000 and those [dollars] are from donors who will continue to give. The endorsements I've received from all eight Democratic clubs in the district will help."

She also reminded club members that she won her Assembly seat in the first place against two better-funded opponents in a Democratic primary and then went on to carry the district against the Republican nominee. "We win with the best field campaign imaginable," said Saldaña. "Historically, women do better against Bilbray than men. We beat him by having a strong contrast. I've represented many independent voters, and my appeal is less about party than convictions."

Another club member asked the candidates what other offices they've run for besides Assembly, in Saldaña's case, and San Diego City Council, in Peters'. None, said Saldaña, who's been publicly criticized for launching and then abandoning campaigns for two other offices before she settled on the Congressional race. "I had a committee open for San Diego County Supervisor and stepped aside" for a family emergency, Saldaña explained, and "I had a committee open for State Senate but they redrew me out of the district" in the most recent redistricting.



LARGE TURNOUT FOR JANUARY MEETING: 96 members voted in last month's forum for the 52nd Congressional District, a turnout over twice the normal meeting attendance.

Photo Credit: Greg Bolian

Peters reminded the club that it had endorsed him in his campaign for City Attorney against Democrat Mike Aguirre and Republican Jan Goldsmith in 2008 when he finished third in the primary. Later in the meeting he recalled that he'd "taken a lot of grief" for endorsing Goldsmith over Aguirre in the general election but defended his decision by calling Aguirre anti-labor and saying his attempts to challenge city workers' pensions in the courts were comparable to Wisconsin Republican Governor Scott Walker's pushing through a bill eliminating collective bargaining rights for most of that state's public employees.

Both Saldaña and Peters presented long and impressive lists of endorsers. Most of Saldaña's political endorsements came from people she's worked with in the state legislature, including Congressmember and former Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, State Senator Mark Leno, former State Senator Sheila Kuehl, Assemblymember Tom Ammiano, City Councilmembers Marti Emerald and Tony Young, former City Councilmember Donna Frye, and statewide officeholders John Chiang (Controller) and Dave Jones (Insurance Commissioner).

Peters' supporters boasted that his list of endorsers was more significant because it included more people from San Diego. Among them are State Senator Christine Kehoe; Assemblymembers Toni Atkins, Marty Block and Ben Hueso; former Assemblymembers Howard Wayne and Mary Salas; San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria; and the San Diego-Imperial Counties Central Labor Council.

Indeed, the head of the local Labor Council, Lorena Gonzalez, attended the club meeting, spoke for Peters and questioned his characterization as a "moderate" by other club members — including some who were supporting him. "Nothing about Scott Peters is a moderate," Gonzalez said. "In working with Scott on the City Council, it wasn't just a vote, it was, 'How do we get this done, and how do we get it through?""

Another Peters supporter, Laurie Black, campaign manager for Lynn Schenk back in the 1990s, embraced the idea of Peters as a moderate and said only a moderate can win the district. "I support Scott Peters because he knows how to build coalitions," she said. "Lori hasn't been able to do that in this part of the state."

"Either Scott Peters or Lori Saldaña would be better than Brian Bilbray," said former club president Stephen Whitburn, "but Lori is my first choice. The only thing that matters to me is how they're going to vote in Congress. Lori is the most reliable progressive vote by far. The biggest mistake we make as Democrats is to say that Republicans can elect 'conservatives,' while we have to settle for 'moderates.""

Eventually Peters won the endorsement with 64 votes to 26 for Saldaña and two for no endorsement. ▼

SDDC General Meeting Minutes February Meeting Features January 26, 2012

By Brad Jacobsen, SDDC Secretary

Votes taken by voice vote unless otherwise noted.

1) The Nominating Committee presented candidates for SDDE Officers. They were:

President – Doug Case Executive Vice-President - Brandon Tate-**McWilliams**

Vice-President for Political Action – Craig Roberts

Vice-President for Development – Cindy Green

There were no nominations from the floor

M/S/C to elect Doug Case, Brandon Tate-McWilliams, Craig Roberts and Cindy Green.

Lyn Gwizdak was nominated from the floor for the position of Secretary.

M/S/C to elect Lyn Gwizdak as Secretary.

There was no candidate for Treasurer. John Gordon volunteered to continue his term until a replacement can be located and elected.

M/S/C to elect John Gordon as Treasurer.

2) Vice-President for Political Action Craig Roberts presented a list of LGBT candidates for national office outside the Greater San Diego area and asked that they be endorsed.

M/S/C to endorse Tammy Baldwin for US Senate from Wisconsin.

M/S/C to endorse Jared Polis for Congress from Colorado (2nd District) and David Cicilline for Congress from Rhode Island (1st District).

M/S/C to endorse Mark Takano to Congress from California's 41st District (Riverside

M/S/C to endorse Kyrsten Sinema for Congress from Arizona's 9th District (Maricopa County).

Numerous Endorsement Forums

By Craig Roberts, SDDE Vice President for Political Action

SDDE's February meeting will feature a plethora of endorsement forums.

Perhaps the most significant will be the belated focus on the 51st Congressional District. This forum will feature a face-off between current State Senator Juan Vargas, former State Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny and retired federal law enforcement civil servant John L. Brooks II, all Democrats. The forum was delayed one month in order to allow Vargas time to return the endorsement questionnaire.

The remaining San Diego municipal forums will also occur this month. At press time, only Republican incumbent Jan Goldsmith had filed to run for City Attorney. Two candidates, Republican Mark Kersey and Democrat D. Todd Philips, have filed intentions to run for the Fifth District council seat vacated by mayoral candidate Carl DeMaio; Philips has been endorsed by the San Diego County Democratic Party. A scrum of candidates is vying to fill the Seventh District council seat: Republicans Rik

3) A forum for candidates for the 52nd Congressional District was held, with Lori Saldaña and Scott Peters participating.

M/S/C to consider making an endorsement in the 52nd Congressional district race [majority needed].

Written ballots were cast, with the following results [60% needed]:

Scott Peters – 64 votes Lori Saldaña – 26 votes No endorsement – 2 votes

Scott Peters was declared the club's endorsed candidate.

Respectfully submitted, Brad Jacobsen, Secretary **▼**

Hauptfeld and Scott Sherman, American Independent Nathan Elbert Johnson and SDCDPendorsed Mat Kostrinsky, the sole Democrat.

SDDE will also focus on the two Chula Vista City Council positions on the ballot this year. A recommendation will be made to endorse Seat Three incumbent Pamela Bensoussan as a "friendly incumbent." The open race for Seat Four will feature outgoing Councilmemeber Steve Castaneda's longtime aide Linda Wagner and former Assemblymember Mary Salas.

Finally, the club will hear from candidates for the three supervisorial seats up this year. The only candidate who has filed for District One is Republican incumbent Greg Cox. However, District Two's Republican incumbent, Dianne Jacob, is being challenged by two Democrats: La Mesa Councilmember David Allan and Santee resident Rudy Reves. SDCDP's endorsed candidate. Incumbent Pam Slater-Price has elected to vacate the District Three seat, setting up a fight between openly gay Solana Beach Councilmember Dave Roberts, a Democrat, and two Republicans: Del Mar Mayor Carl Hilliard and Steve Danon, chief of staff to GOP Congressmember Brian Bilbray.

I do not expect all candidates to appear. Chances are the evening will go by quickly.

January 2012 Membership Report

By Jacqueline Palmer, SDDE Membership Chair

As of January 31, 2012, the club had 259 members and four associates.

Welcome new member Anthony Abatecola.

The following members renewed during January: Matt Corrales, Kevin Davis, Jeri Dilno, Robert Gleason, Ryan Hurd, Bill Irvine, Michelle Krug, Bonny Lundberg, Howard Wayne and Doug White. ▼

SDDC Patrons

Ashish Agrawal & Bryan H. Wildenthal Laurie Black Toni Duran Chuck Cotton & Bud Metzger Hon. Christine Kehoe & Iulie Warren Don Mullen & John Logan Craig Roberts Stephanie Swift



February Legislative Update: More which includes support for same-sex marriage, States Take Up Marriage Rights

By Greg Bolian, SDDE Legislative Advocacy Director

Marriage Equality: Maine

Marriage equality advocates in Maine have collected 100,000 signatures to bring the issue back to the ballot in November. State lawmakers had passed a marriage bill signed into law by Gov. John Baldacci in June of 2009, but voters narrowly overturned the law a few months later. According to the Portland Press Herald, Maine's Secretary of State's office has 30 days to inspect the more than 105,000 names collected to confirm that at least 57,277 are valid signatures.

While most believe civil rights should not be decided through referendum, but the political realities of the state made an initiative the only viable path to marriage rights.

Marriage Equality: Washington

The Washington state House Judiciary Committee approved a proposed marriage equality bill on a party line 7-6 vote. Republicans offered three amendments to the bill: two allowing further exemptions for religious convictions and one that would have instated a six-month residency limit. All three amendments were rejected, as well as an attempt to put the law on the November ballot as a referendum. The Equality Bill is scheduled for a vote in the fiscal committee very soon. No date has been set yet for the full House vote.

Opponents have promised they will collect the necessary signatures to put the issue on the ballot in November, but they cannot actually begin collecting signatures until the bill passes. The deadline for turning in the signatures is in June. laying the final vote would limit the time allowed for signature gathering since they cannot begin prior to the bill passing.

Marriage Equality: Maryland

Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley (D) announced his 2012 legislative agenda Monday evening,

continuing a commitment he made in July 2011. cases of the attempted murder or soliciting the The move sets off what supporters of the measure expect to be a hard-fought campaign to put marriage equality into law, followed by a likely referendum fight.

HUD LGBT Non-Bias Rules

Religious institutions receiving federal funds for housing programs will have to abide by a new HUD rule prohibiting discrimination against LGBT people. John Trasviña, assistant secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, confirmed the rule would impact religious institutions during a conference call. Ian Thompson, the ACLU's legislative representative wrote that the rule will cover religious institutions that receive money for federal programs. Thompson added that religious organizations providing entirely private housing services are unaffected by the change.

AB1522: Spousal Support

Assemblymember Toni Atkins introduced legislation to prevent abusive ex-spouses from forcing their victims to pay them spousal support and other financial compensation following a divorce. AB1522 was inspired by the case of a San Diego area woman who was ordered by a court to pay her husband's legal fees plus monthly spousal support, despite the fact that he was convicted of committing violent sex crimes against her and was ultimately sent to prison.

"The current law allowing rapists to demand payment from their spouses in a divorce is unjust," says Atkins. "Victims of violent sex crimes already suffer physical trauma, fear, and an assault on their privacy and dignity. To require them also to pay their abuser alimony or to give them a share of their pension or household goods is cruel and makes a mockery of the intent behind the laws governing the fair division of assets in a divorce."

Current law already prevents spousal support in murder of a spouse. AB1522 would add violent sex felonies to the list of convictions that disqualify a person from obtaining financial benefits from their ex-spouse in a divorce proceeding.

LGBT Activities at 2012 California **Democratic Party Convention**

By Jess Durfee, San Diego County Democratic Party Chair

San Diego is proud to be hosting the California Democratic Party (CDP) Convention February 10-12 at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront and the San Diego Convention Center. Over 3000 delegates from around California will be in town for a full weekend of political speeches, meetings, workshops and receptions. A convention highlight will be a keynote address by US Senator Al Franken (D-MN).

San Diego Democrats for Equality members are invited to attend the convention's LGBT Caucus meeting (in Room Sapphire L) where members will hear from key LGBT organizations such as Equality California (Alice Kessler), Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund (Carlos Marquez) and the National Stonewall Democrats (Greg Rodriguez). We'll also be hearing a report on the delegate selection process for the Democratic National Convention will be given by Laurence Zakson.

Statewide elected officials and LGBT candidates for state, federal and local offices will also be addressing the Caucus. Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom always makes an appearance at caucus meetings. A record number of LGBT candidates will be considered for the party's endorsement during voting at the convention and they will be seeking support and assistance from the caucus.

The CDP-LGBT Caucus will meet from 4:00 to 5:45 p.m. on Friday, February 10th, at the Hilton (1 Park Blvd, next to the convention center). Caucus membership is \$10. You can join online with this link: http://tinyurl.com/7dcmnkj.

SDDE is joining with the CDP LGBT Caucus for a reception on Friday, February 10th from 10:00 p.m. to midnight at Wine Steals, 795 J St. Hors d'oeuvres will be provide with a no host bar.

Our thanks to the reception host committee members: Senator Christine Kehoe, Assembly member Toni Atkins, City Council member Todd Gloria. School Board Trustee Kevin Beiser. Victory Fund Board Members Susan Atkins & Robert Gleason and Port Commissioner Bob Nelson.▼

Law offices of Robert Lynn Appellate Litigation Business and Real Estate Law

Robert H. Lynn Attorney at Law

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

February 23rd

Endorsement Forums on 51st Congressional District, San Diego City Council Districts Five and Seven, San Diego City Attorney, San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Districts One, Two and Three) and Chula Vista City Council (Seats Three and Four)

Is the date on your address label highlighted? If so, it's time to renew your membership! Please use the form below to send in your renewal today.

San Diego Democrats for Equality **Executive Board**

President	Doug Case
Executive Vice President	Jeri Dilno
Vice President for Development	Matt Corrales
Vice President for Political Action	Craig Roberts
Secretary	Brad Jacobsen
Treasurer	John Gordon
Political Relations	Gloria Johnson
Publications	Craig Roberts
Media and Marketing	
Fundraising	Vacant
Program	Carla Kirkwood
Legislative Advocacy	Greg Bolian
Special Events	Vacant
Volunteers	Cindy Green
Mobilization	Jacob Regalado
Information Technology	Vanessa Cosio
Membership	Jacqueline Palmer
Women's Caucus	Ĵackie Jackson
Youth Caucus	Doug White
DNC Member	Jess Durfee
Past President	Larry Baza

Past Presidents: Robert H. Lynn, Gloria Johnson, A. Brad Truax, J. Douglas Scott, Jeri Dilno, Doug Case, Rick Moore, Paula Rosenstein, Craig Roberts, Jess Durfee, Stephen Whitburn, Andrea Villa, Larry Baza

Email us at: info@democratsforequality.org Visit our web site: www.democratsforequality.org

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February 2012

Membership Application

Level	Single Membership	Household Membership
General	4 0	□ \$70
Sustaining*	□ \$125	□ \$200
Sponsoring*	\$250	4 \$400
Patron*	\$500	\$750

The above includes your \$10 annual National Stonewall Democrats dues.

- I prefer to have a hard copy of the newsletter mailed to me.
- ☐ An additional \$10 (\$20 per couple) is enclosed to defray cost of NSD dues.
- □ I am not registered as a Democrat but wish to be a non-voting Associate (for dual memberships, please specify which member(s) are Associates):
- □ Omit my name from the Club's official email announcements list.
- Omit my contact information from the roster provided to National Stonewall Democrats.
- □ I qualify for a Limited Income Discounted Dues (\$20 individual or \$30 household) available to the unemployed, seniors over 65 or disabled persons on a fixed income, full-time students and individuals with financial hardships

Name(s)		
Mailing Address*		
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Employer (name of business	if self-employed) _	
Visa/MasterCard #		Security Code (on back)
Name on Card		Exp/_
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*If your mailing address is different from the address at which you are registered to vote, please indicate your registration address: