

Fresno County Democrats hosted a community event celebrating Black People's History Month. The celebration honored Black elected officials, Black culture and Black excellence. Elected officials Dr. Crystal Jackson, Kimberly Tapscott-Munson and Shawn Brooks spoke at the event. A big thank you to the Fresno African Drummers, the Purposed II Praise dancers, Kina McFadden and DJ Dave Harris for performing!



PLEASE JOIN THE FRESNO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY FOR A
VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022 • 5 PM - 6 PM

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS
SENATOR ALEX PADILLA
"We continue to witness an assault on American democracy based on lies and conspiracy theories. The fate of our democracy rests on our ability to protect voting rights for all citizens."

INTRODUCTION BY
REP. JIM COSTA

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CONTROLLER BETTY YEE

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General Admission
 \$50 TICKET
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For event tickets and sponsorships, visit
<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/fresnodems2022>
 Zoom registration link will be sent after you have completed the ActBlue contribution/ticket process.

For additional information
 Contact Marsha Conant at 559.709.8016, call 559-495-0606, 559-709-8016 or e-mail dems@fresnocountydemocrats.org

DEMOCRACY AT A CROSSROADS

Fresno County Board of Supervisors: Will Past Be Prologue to the Future?

In the last three months of 2021, activist groups throughout the central and southern San Joaquin Valley waged a vigorous political fight to force county boards of supervisors to adopt redistricting maps that more fairly represent people of color and historically marginalized groups—especially Latinos, who constitute the majority in Fresno County—based on the 2020 Census.

The fight in Fresno County was particularly active. Groups such as the Equity Map Coalition, the Central California Coalition for Equitable Realignment, the Dolores Huerta Foundation, the Central Valley Progressive PAC and the Central Valley Partnership, among others, urged their members to publicly testify at various hearings, and dozens did so.

Redistricting in Fresno County was disingenuous from the start when the supervisors hired National Demographics Corporation (NDC) to manage the process. The hiring of NDC was not subject to a public vote by the supervisors because the budgeted amount to hire NDC barely fell into a discretionary monetary category, not requiring a vote.

Recall that NDC's CEO is Doug Johnson, the protégé of the Republican gerrymandering specialist Thomas Hofeller, who advocated including the "citizenship question" on the 2020 Census. While that question never appeared on the Census, it was likely enough to frighten non-citizens into not responding.

Fresno County supervisors exercised the option to establish an 11-member citizen advisory commission, but it seemed to be nothing more than a smoke screen for genuine citizen involvement. Ultimately, in mid-December, the supervisors adopted a map similar to one presented by Republican activist Alex Tavlian—a map showing little variation from the map adopted after the 1990 Census, but not before hundreds marched in downtown Fresno on Dec. 4, led by civil rights icon Dolores Huerta, to protest the process.

- Recent votes by Fresno County supervisors are disturbing to our community.
- On March 8, supervisors clearly put their heads in the sand, thinking that ignoring the reality of anthropogenic climate change will simply make the problem go away. They voted against executing a \$175,000 state grant to assess how climate change affects the health of Fresno County's vulnerable communities, particularly rural populations. Studies of many San Joaquin Valley communities have shown the existence of health disparities based on race, neighborhood, income, immigration status and other factors. No doubt, climate change exacerbates these conditions, and this modest study would help quantify these issues. This study would actually cost less than the county spent to hire NDC to do its redistricting!
 - On March 22, the supervisors unanimously passed a resolution put forward by Supervisors Steve Brandau and Nathan Magsig urging the state to increase oil drilling in California given increasing prices at the pump. Groups such as the Climate Center and the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition disagree with the move, which they say simply lines the pockets of oil company CEOs, endangers the health of neighborhoods near any increased drilling and hydraulic fracturing, and steers California away from long-term goals of developing renewable energy. Fact: Any increase in crude oil production in Fresno County would have insignificant impact on reducing gasoline prices. Why? Because big oil bought the oil it is currently refining months ago at much lower prices on the futures market, while their costs of refining have not gone up. It is price gouging by big oil, plain and simple.
 - We now set our sights on 2030. What to do? Two months ago, Assembly Member Joaquin Arambula (D-Fresno) introduced AB 2030, which would require Fresno County to establish an independent citizens redistricting commission, which would not be under the foot of the supervisors. AB 2030 passed its first hurdle in late March—approval on a 6-1 vote by the Assembly Fiscal Committee. It now goes to the Assembly Committee on Local Government. The bill is supported by the Dolores Huerta Foundation. If Arambula's bill passes, Fresno County voters will have a fighting chance to make sure that past will not be prologue after the 2030 Census.

Special Elections in Fresno County

Three special elections in Fresno County are scheduled in April.

Tuesday, April 5

Congressional District 22

This special election is to fill the Congressional seat vacated by Devin Nunes.

- If there is an outright winner, that person will serve in the House from late April until early January 2023.
- If there is no outright winner in April, the race will be decided in the June Primary, and the winner then will serve from roughly late June to early January 2023.
- There are six candidates, two of whom are Democrats
- Democrats: Eric Garcia and Lourin Hubbard

Tuesday, April 12

Special Consolidated School Board Election for Fresno Unified and West Park Elementary

- Fresno Unified School District Trustee Area 5
 - Replacement election following the passing of Carol Mills
 - There are four candidates, two of whom are Democrats
 - Democrats: Andy Levine, Daniel Renteria
- West Park Elementary
 - There are two candidates, one of whom is a Democrat
 - Democrat: Araceli Lopez

DEMOCRATIC PARTY HEADQUARTERS

1033 U Street • Downtown Fresno • 559-495-0606

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