



January 2026 Chair's Letter

1 message

San Mateo County Democratic Party <contact@smcdems.org>
To: J Hull <hull39@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 12, 2026 at 8:19 AM



J --

2026 will be a big year for San Mateo County Democrats.

SMCDems will participate in the 2026 primary and general local, state, and national elections in a big way - endorsements, recruitment, and local candidate training, and canvassing and phone banking. See the big picture of what's before us.

Nonviolent resistance to the Trump Administration will continue. First actions occurred this week in response to the murder of Renee Good in Minneapolis.

Congressman Kevin Mullin will speak to SMCDems in-person on January 15th.

New volunteer opportunities at the bottom of this email

2026 Elections are KEY

Successful 2026 election results are key to good local governance and building our bench of future candidates as well as in taking back the House and even the Senate to provide resistance to the Trump Administration.

US House and Senate Races - and the Resistance

As Democrats, we have two ways to limit the Trump Administration's destructive actions.

Take back the House and Senate. SMCDems will continue to work with the Bay Area Coalition (BAC) and CADEM to walk precincts in California House races and to phone Democrats in support of Democratic House and Senate candidates. Winning back one chamber will enable Democratic representatives to block bad legislation and conduct hearings to investigate questionable administrative actions.

Enact non-volent resistances: We anticipate working more closely with the local groups to plan, publicize and participate in these activities in the future. It is important that the administration feel a strong sense of diminishing support.

Legislators and Statewide Offices

The primary election is almost upon us. ADEMS, chartered club representatives, SMCDems Central Committee members and elected delegates can vote in the pre-endorsement of state legislators. They can vote online or at the Region 7 pre-endorsement meeting January 17th from 11 AM - 3 PM.

More information can be found on the [Endorsements page](#) and the [Legislative Guide](#). [Register Region 7 meeting here](#).

State legislative candidates must win by more than 70% to win the endorsement outright. Endorsements for the remainder of the legislative races and statewide offices will occur at the [California Democratic Party Convention](#) February 20-22 convention in San Francisco.

The Primary Election is June 2.

At this election, voters will determine the top two candidates for the state and federal legislative districts as well as all statewide offices and the Board of Equalization who will go on to the November general election.

These offices will also be on the ballot:

- County Supervisor, District 2
- County Supervisor, District 3
- County Superintendent of Schools
- County Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder and Chief Elections Officer
- County Controller

Incumbent Supervisors Noelia Corzo and Ray Mueller have been campaigning as have Superintendent candidates Chelsea Bonini and Hector Camacho. We may not know the complete roster of candidates till the filling period ends on March 6.

Central Committee Member and former San Mateo Mayor Rick Bonilla will lead SMCDems endorsement process. He will recruit a team, who will: set the calendar, determine the application and interview questions, conduct the candidate interviews, and suggest endorsements. The full San Mateo County Party will vote on the suggested endorsements.

The General Election is November 3.

The general election will determine officials for state and county offices. They will also decide city council and school board members. SMCDems makes endorsements in all races where candidates apply for our endorsement. There are 21 cities and towns in San Mateo County and 24 school districts plus the Harbor District and the Midpeninsula Open Space District. It is huge effort, which will begin after the primary election and involve many Central Committee members and alternates.

Candidate Recruitment

SMCDems is starting now to ensure a Democrat runs in every local race. If you would like to join our team, or have suggestions for candidates, or have decided whether you will run, please let us know.

[Please let us know whether you will run again or suggest potential candidates.](#)

Candidate Training

SMCDems will also conduct candidate training. In 2024 we conducted 6 trainings on endorsements, communication, building a team, etc. Ligia Andrade Zuniga and Kalimah Salahuddin will be leading this team.

if you would like to participate, please email [Ligia](#) or [Kalimah](#).

San Mateo County Resident Outreach

Since 2025, the Resistance Task Force (RTF) has visited San Mateo County communities to talk to residents about how our current political reality locally and nationally is affecting their lives, their families, their confidence in our democracy and their aspirations for the future. RTF also provides information about local services and opportunities to take action in support of our communities. They are currently planning 2026 activities.

Please let us know if you would like to join this task force.

Next Party Meeting

The San Mateo County Democratic Party will hold a business meeting on January 15th at 7 PM. The meeting will be held at at Laborers Union, [300 7th Avenue, San Mateo](#). [Register for the hybrid option here](#).



7:00 PM Congressman Kevin Mullin, "Defending Democracy: An Update with Congressman Mullin" **IN PERSON**

7:30 PM Business Meeting

- E-Board updates, yearend financial report
- Discussion - on whether to give chartered clubs one- member- representation on Central Committee
- Short Statements by Statewide Candidates

Note: The resolution supporting AB 1083 will not be voted on at this meeting as the bill is dead. Speaker Rivas and Assemblymember Damon Connolly will draft a new bill to address concerns with SB131.

How to Get Involved

If you are interested in any of the positions below, please [fill out this form](#) or contact chair@smcdems.org:

- Candidate Training Team members to plan the training and recruit speakers.
- SMCDems Annual Luncheon Planning - find a location in San Francisco, publicize, and solicit signups.
- Fundraising and Events Committee members and chair to create the 2026 funding plan as well as plan fundraising and social events.
- Program Committee members and chair to plan speakers for our meetings.
- Social media posters to keep the community and public informed about SMCDems activities by posting on Facebook and Instagram.
- Resistance Task Force Members to plan the 2026 program and make it happen.

2026 will be an important and busy year. We will need your help and support.

Karen Maki

San Mateo County Democratic Party Chair

<https://www.smc Dems.org/>

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