Republicans have great respect for the God-given natural beauty and resources of our country. It was under a Republican administration that the Environmental Protection Agency was established. It also will be under Republicans that the EPA’s over-zealous regulations are dialed back.

We firmly believe environmental problems are best solved by giving incentives for human ingenuity and the development of new technologies, not through top-down, command-and-control regulations that stifle economic growth and cost thousands of jobs.

Full implementation of the Paris accord has negligible environmental benefits. Using the Model for the Assessment of Greenhouse Gas Induced Climate Change, developed by the National Center for Atmospheric Research, even if all carbon dioxide emissions in the U.S. were eliminated, there would be less than two-tenths of a degree Celsius reduction in global temperatures.

In reality, states like California, cities, and businesses are already committed to renewable energy, policies and production of goods that Americans favor like fuel-efficient cars, energy-efficient appliances, and clean air and water regulations that promote health. Most energy economists say that the coal business is collapsing because domestic fracking (the side effects of which must be addressed) has made natural gas cheap and plentiful. Additionally, manufacturing of wind and solar products used for alternative energy has grown and is employing hundreds of thousands of workers. Coal production is largely

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automated, employs fewer workers, and poses a serious health threat to workers involved. Kentucky “black lung” sufferers tell the story. Coal is a dying industry. Alternative energy employs hundreds of thousands more and is the answer.

Nationwide, by 2030, the Clean Power Plan would have cut carbon pollution from the power sector by approximately 30 percent from 2005 levels. It would have reduced pollutants that contribute to the soot and smog that make people sick by over 25 percent. These reductions were projected to lead to climate and health benefits worth an estimated $55 billion to $93 billion per year in 2030. This includes avoiding 2,700 to 6,600 premature deaths and 140,000 to 150,000 asthma attacks in children.

Budget

The federal deficit is calculated with four key inputs – labor force participation, productivity in the economy, interest rates on federal debt, and health care costs per person. Without changes to the way we take in and spend money, CBO projects a huge increase in the deficit. Nevertheless, the Trump budget fails to address three of those elements – labor force participation, productivity, and health care costs. Trump promises a restoration of coal jobs without a commensurate investment in alternative energy – the industry that employs hundreds of thousands more workers than coal. Trump promises “Made in America” manufacturing jobs despite corporate commitment to automation. (Remember the Obama automobile industry loan program that saved 500,000 jobs.) Instead of investing in new technology training/retraining and government subsidized college and vocational tuition, the budget cuts programs for low-income college students, Pell Grants, teacher training, Labor Department’s $2.5B for senior (displaced older workers) and disadvantaged youth job training. Instead of improving the Affordable Care Act with its many programs targeting preventive care and better health outcomes, the Republican plan cuts essential benefits, raises premiums, and threatens loss of coverage. The Budget Director calls for a doubling of the defense budget arguing that our military is in disrepair. No mention there of wasteful, duplicative spending. He wants us to spend $2B for an ineffective border wall that Mexico won't pay for. He insists that social programs don’t show outcomes and must be cut. Tax cuts for the wealthiest are not the answer. Removal of caps on Social Security payroll deductions, a reasonable tax hike on the wealthiest, and serious oversight of spending are required. Meals on Wheels could use some of that Mar-A-Lago trip money, couldn’t it?

President Trump’s proposed budget was met with screams of horror since it called for $54 billion in cuts to domestic spending. Little was reported, however, that 2017 domestic spending would be 20% higher than it was in the year 2000. Budget Director Mick Mulvaney reminded everyone: “We’re trying to focus on both the recipients of the money and the folks who give us the money in the first place.”

One fact that was not heard from the opponents of the budget was “$20 trillion in federal debt.” Just servicing this debt, at today’s low interest rates, will cost taxpayers $270 billion per year! Isn’t it prudent for Congress to periodically scrutinize federal spending? Isn’t it prudent to determine if agencies and programs are achieving their designed purpose at a reasonable cost?

Americans donated $17 billion to support the arts last year. Why does the NEA need $148 million more from taxpayers? Is it outrageous to think that public broadcasting can support itself?

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Immigration

Immigration reform is necessary. Like every other public policy, it should benefit first and foremost the American people. It should not operate, as it currently does, to benefit political and economic elite who have total disregard for the needs, interests, and security of the average U.S. citizen. These elitists tell us that any restriction of immigration is either xenophobic or economic suicide.

Congress should restrict immigration to the minimum to meet our country’s needs. America’s immigration policy must serve the national interest of the United States, and the interests of American workers must be protected over the claims of foreign nationals seeking the same jobs.

Republicans oppose any form of amnesty for those who, by breaking the law, have disadvantaged those who have obeyed. America’s immigration policy must serve the national interest of the United States. The executive amnesties of 2012 and 2014 are a direct violation of federal law and usurp the powers of Congress as outlined in Article I of the Constitution.

Laws against illegal immigration must be enforced if they are going to act as a deterrent. The Jordan Commission said it best in its 1995 call to Congress: “Credibility in immigration policy can be summed up in one sentence: those who should get in, get in; those who should be kept out, are kept out; and those who should not be here will be required to leave.”

Now many Americans think “immigration” means “deport or ban.” Their slogan, similar to “repeal and replace” should be “deport – but no replace.” Targets: Mexicans and Muslims.

1 in 3 Americans mistakenly think most Hispanics are undocumented. Facts: Of 55M Hispanics in the U.S., 35.2M are of Mexican descent, 5.8M are undocumented. Of those 5.8M, 66% have lived here for more than 10 years. 26% are farmworkers. Approximately 70% of all farmworkers live in the United States illegally, according to UC Davis. The impact of deportation would reverberate throughout our Central Valley’s precarious economy, where agriculture is by far the largest industry. With 6.5 million people living in the valley, the fields in California bring in $35 billion a year and provide more of the nation’s food than any other state. The dilemma for Central Valley farm owners – we like Trump tax reduction promises, we don’t want to lose our laborers.

15% of Mexican undocumented workers do construction, the rest perform service jobs (e.g., cleaners and gardeners). 29.4M people of Mexican descent are citizens or legal residents. The other 5.4M “undocumented” come from Europe, Canada, China, Central and South America, Africa. Facts: Not one of the 9/11 terrorists came from the Muslim countries on the new immigration ban. Terrorists in the U.S. (not counting KKK killers or gun-toting hate mongers) and most in Europe are home-grown. We need to counter radicalization, vet and welcome suffering refugees, reinstate a guest worker program, and create paths to citizenship.

Education

Fortunate the child born to educated, working parents living in an affluent school district. For the rest and for them we must assure quality education – “the great equalizer” and the most pressing economic issue in a global economy. There are many “musts” to a plan that assures a strong, well-educated, competitive nation. Education must
Republican and Democratic Points of View, Education, continued from page 3

begin in early childhood. At the same time, a good investment should include support for young parents who may not have had the advantages of a good education. All four-year-olds (and younger if possible) must have access to quality preschool. All schools (traditional public or charter) must be held to high standards and accountability. Educators must be given salary increases, opportunities for professional growth, resources, and fact-based curricula. (California is facing a teacher shortage.) We must provide “debt-free college” and vocational training through Federal and State reinvestment programs and policies. Our schools must prepare our children to live in a high-tech, computerized, automated world. This requires rigorous training in math, science, and technology at all levels and a partnership with the private sector to assure that schools graduate people capable of meeting the 21st century needs of our companies and institutions. We must provide curricula with strong complex problem-solving components (reading, writing, language acquisition, critical thinking skill building, and exposure to a multicultural society). The future of the country is at stake. We underfund at our own peril.

Republicans reject a one-size-fits-all approach to education and support a broad range of choices for parents and children at the state and local level. We likewise repeat our longstanding opposition to the imposition of national standards and assessments. We encourage the parents and educators who are implementing alternatives to Common Core, and congratulate the states which have successfully repealed it.

Since 1965, the federal government, through more than 100 programs in the Department of Education, has spent $2 trillion on elementary and secondary education with little substantial improvement in academic achievement or high school graduation rates. The United States spends an average of more than $12,000 per pupil per year in public schools, for a total of more than $620 billion. More money alone does not necessarily equal better performance, as California demonstrates.

Republicans know what actually has made a difference in student advancement. We support choice in education; building on the basics; STEM subjects and phonics; career and technical education; ending social promotions; merit pay for good teachers; classroom discipline; parental involvement; and strong leadership by principals, superintendents, and locally elected school boards. Because technology has become an essential tool of learning, it must be a key element in our efforts to provide every child equal access and opportunity. We strongly encourage instruction in American history and civics by using the original documents of our founding fathers.

Health Care

The Republicans first attempt to “repeal and replace” Obamacare can only be considered a failure. But that does not mean that repeal should not happen in the future.

Medicare’s long term debt is in the trillions and it is funded by a shrinking workforce relative to the size of future beneficiaries. Obamacare worsened the situation – and imperiled seniors – by imposing billions of dollars in cuts to Medicare providers to pay for its new spending. More and more doctors are refusing to take new patients on Medicare. Going forward, health insurance should be sold across state lines. Premiums should be made deductible from taxes to the individual vs. employer’s taking the write-off. Health savings accounts should be expanded. Get bureaucrats out of being between citizens and their doctors. Stop telling lies: “If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. If you like your health care plan, you can keep your health care plan.”

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When the CBO reported that Trump Care would raise premiums, deductibles, and out of pocket costs, would push 24 million off their health care, impose an age tax on Americans aged 50-64, undermine Medicare, and reduce Medicaid coverage, the American people reacted. The proposal was met with a resounding “NO!” Healthcare is a value proposition and a dilemma. One group believes it is a right, the other believes it is a privilege. The ACA was always improvable, just as Social Security and Medicare were refined and improved. The truth is that Republican opponents worked to put the ACA on life-support, but when faced with the realization that Americans want health care, not access, they had to retreat. Now we need across-the-aisle collaboration to improve the ACA and provide health care for all. No wonder Californians are serious about Health Care for All California.

“It's spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you've got it, you want—oh, you don't quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!”
— Mark Twain

Glazer/Baker Town Hall

Steve Glazer and Catharine Baker, Rossmoor's state senator and state assemblyperson, respectively, held their ninth joint town hall in Walnut Creek on March 21. Despite their party differences they presented a united front of sorts, telling the crowd of more than 300 that they voted the same 88% of the time.

They declined to describe their differences or the issues involved in the 12% of votes where they cast opposing votes. During the question and answer period, DoR Board member Katha Hartley expressed her concerns about Republican efforts to gut the ACA. Both Glazer and Baker said they supported the ACA, which has provided 4 million previously uninsured Californians with health insurance.

The next Glazer/Baker joint Town Hall will be Monday, April 3, at Stanley Middle School Gym (3455 School Street, Lafayette) from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Visit www.democratsOFrossmoor.org for more information
We Democrats know how to mix work with pleasure! Come join us for the monthly TGWD social mixer, dinner, and informal discussion with local newsmakers. We meet once a month (every second Wednesday) in the Fairway room at Creekside. We start at 4:30 p.m. You can come only for drinks and socializing ($5 cash per drink) and/or stay for dinner, which we order at 4:45 p.m. from the Early Bird menu for a fixed price of $20 (which includes tip and is also cash only). There's never been so much for us to talk about as Democrats, so come join us! RSVP required; email Katha Hartley at kathah7@msn.com and provide your name(s), the date of the TGWD meeting, and whether you will be ordering dinner.

On Wednesday, April 11, local activists Ken Richard and Shawn Kumagai will talk about their grass-roots efforts to designate Contra Costa cities as sanctuary cities for immigrants, among other social issues. On Wednesday, May 9, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano counties director Larry Sly will talk about hunger in our area, which is surprisingly prevalent.

“Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children’s children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches, or its romance.”
— Theodore Roosevelt

“April 22 Earth Day”

“April 22 Earth Day: Our Choices, Our World.”

“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”
— Jane Goodall

DoR Members Environmental Leaders

Many Rossmoorians are expected to attend the day-before-Earth-Day celebration right here in Rossmoor on Friday, April 21, 10 a.m.—2 p.m. at the Gateway Complex. DoR members are among activists supporting both the international annual event and other environmental issues.

Marcia McLean, Sustainable Rossmoor’s program chair, is one of many DoR members who are active in that organization, the host of “our” Earth Day. The theme for Earth Day 2017 is Earth Day: Our Choices, Our World.

Bob Hanson—an organizer of the twice-monthly “Earth Matters” column in the Rossmoor News—said, “We had a tremendous turnout last year and expect an even larger turnout this year. It reminds people that we have a responsibility to protect the Earth.” Hanson added that with looming cuts to the EPA’s budget, raising awareness is more important than ever.

Additional column organizer Carol Weed says that U.S. environmental policies have proved that “we can have job growth while protecting the environment.” She added that Earth Day activities “make the connection between what’s happening globally and what we can take care of right here in Rossmoor.”
April 27 General Meeting: Money, Taxes, and Politics in California

California State Controller Betty Yee will speak at DoR’s General Meeting on Thursday, April 27, at 7 p.m. in the Event Center. The social hour will begin at 6. Refreshments will be served and there will be time for questions. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Yee was elected as State Controller in November 2014 after serving two terms on the State Board of Equalization. The duties of the Controller are broad and varied. The Controller is the state’s fiscal officer, chairing the Franchise Tax Board and serving as a member of the California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS) and the California State Teachers’ Retirement System (CalSTRS). The two boards have a combined portfolio of nearly $500 billion. The Controller’s auditors identify misuse, waste, and fraud involving public funds. Yee is also in charge of unclaimed property, typically stocks, bonds, uncashed checks, insurance benefits, and safe deposit box contents.

Yee supports an overhaul of California’s tax system, which she writes is based on a long-past economy of goods rather than services. She explains that California’s tax structure relies on highly unpredictable personal income tax revenues, especially collections from capital gains, resulting in seesawing revenues that make it hard to meet ongoing commitments. Meanwhile, in the nearly four decades since the passage of Proposition 13, revenues from the property tax—as well as the sales tax and corporation tax—have diminished.

Yee writes that she believes that at its heart, a tax system is a social compact detailing how to pay for the common good—how people live, work, learn, and travel within our communities. Definitions of priorities may vary, but people across the political spectrum agree that California’s current tax structure does not reflect the times. Regardless of our differences, we all must work together now to fix it.

May Day Is Not Just Dancing Around the May Pole

America’s first May Day began on May 1, 1886, when more than 300,000 workers demanding an 8-hour work day walked off their jobs in 13,000 businesses across the country.

In Chicago, the epicenter of the labor protest, armed Pinkerton agents and the police harassed and beat locked-out steelworkers as they picketed. The protests escalated into what is known today as the Haymarket Square Massacre, where 8 were killed and more than 50 civilians, protestors, and police officers were injured.

Over 100 years have passed since that first May Day and its importance has endured — despite the U.S. government’s attempt in the early 20th Century to establish May first as “Law and Order Day” instead. The sacrifices of the men and women who worked to abolish child labor and protest working conditions must not be forgotten. That’s why we celebrate May Day.
May 25 Dinner/General Meeting: Dr. Henry E. Brady

Politics and Policy in the Age of Trump

Dean of UC Berkeley’s Goldman School of Public Policy Henry E. Brady will speak at DoR’s May Dinner meeting on May 25 in the Event Center. The social hour will begin at 5 p.m., the dinner at 5:45, and the speaker’s presentation at 7:00. The dinner is $30 for members and $35 for non-members. Those wishing to skip the dinner but hear the speaker are welcome to come at 7 p.m. Details on the dinner menu are not available yet but the dinner is sure to be delicious! When sign-up sheets become available you’ll be notified in the weekly email. There will be time for questions following the presentation.

Dr. Henry E. Brady first developed his passion for politics and public policy as an undergraduate studying math and physics in the 1960s. “I became involved with student organizing at the Claremont Colleges while protesting the Vietnam War,” he said. “Through those experiences, I became intensely concerned about race relations and public policy in America and about how we might better live up to our fundamental beliefs about equality and freedom.”

After four years of working in Washington DC, including a stint as a staff member for a White House Council led by General Bernard Schriever, Brady’s interest in politics and public policy led him to graduate school at MIT, where he completed doctorates in political science and economics.

Brady has written and received awards for his numerous books and articles on political participation, political methodology, and the dynamics of public opinion. His book entitled Voice and Equality: Civic Volunteerism in American Politics won the Converse Award for making a lasting contribution to research on political behavior.

Brady co-authored The Unheavenly Chorus: Unequal Political Participation and the Broken Promise of American Democracy, called a comprehensive examination of how the political voices of organized interests are even less representative than those of individuals, how political advantage is handed down across generations, how recruitment to politics perpetuates and exaggerates existing biases, and how political voices on the Internet replicates these inequalities. Don’t miss his presentation!

Call to Flip Red Votes

On Wednesdays—April 5, 12, 19, and 26 and May 3, 10, and 17—from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. there will be a weekly phone bank in the Oak Room at Gateway (the card room).

We will be asking blue voters to call their red Congressperson to flip key votes (on Healthcare, etc.). Refreshments will be provided. Bring a charged phone and laptop/iPad. Please RSVP to Susan Lewis at slewis4ofa@gmail.com or 510-708-2851.
When **DRAAT!** Is Not an Expletive...

DoR’s growing DRAAT Group (**Democrats of Rossmoor Action Alert Team**) — now 112 strong — is a group of active Democrats, both within and outside Rossmoor, who have agreed to call political officials and public leaders about key issues important to us. DRAAT coordinator Katha Hartley creates or accepts scripts from our party partners and other members that include phone numbers (both main and local offices) of targeted officials and leaders.

Scripts typically have a short introduction and a short paragraph that can be either read or modified by callers. The paragraph describes the issue and either recommends opposition or encourages the person called to support Democratic Party positions.

Here’s feedback from several DRAAT members:

“I’m new to this and am so appreciative of the time and effort in putting these notices out...just wanted you to know I made the requested call.”

“Thanks for including Rep. Kevin McCarthy’s number. I spoke to a real person and left a message for him. We’re doing a very important job!”

In response to a call opposing the Trump budget: “And most coverage will have the citizens focus on health care...but all these other cuts are being proposed with less attention. I read of a one-third cut to the Coast Guard, yet it is catching drug runs—not walls. These cuts are vicious, and I fear his base does not keep on top of any of this. Thank you for this.”

Contact Katha at kathah7@msn.com if you’d like to join this action-oriented group. Calls are made on an intermittent, as-needed basis as communication needs arise.

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**DoR Volunteers Step up to Help Local Homeless**

Our band of cheerful and committed volunteers keeps on truckin’ to help our local homeless individuals and families. Since DoR adopted Walnut Creek’s Trinity Group as its charity, we have been collecting money from our famously generous members at the monthly general meeting. We collect money in small containers at the tables and also have a place to donate during the social hour.

We ask for $1 donations and usually collect over $100 at each meeting. We stock the Trinity Food Shed once a month. Whenever we have over $100, we write a check “from your friends at the Democrats of Rossmoor.”

We believe in adding fun and fellowship to our Trinity work. We meet for a sandwich lunch on the third Tuesday of every month “under the eaves” near Peacock Hall. We welcome one and all to join our wonderful group. If you would like to join us, call Jeanne Thomas at 937-4613.

Be sure to also stay tuned for details of Trinity’s annual fund-raising gala, which will be held May 18 at the Boundary Oak Clubhouse in Walnut Creek. Tickets are $150 (for a very good cause!), and there will be good food, drink, and a live auction.

Best Wishes,

*Emily Ehm*
Upcoming Events

April 5, 12, 19, and 26, Wednesdays, Flip Red Votes Phone Banks: Gateway Oak Room, 4–6 p.m.

April 3 Book Club: The Art of Tough by Barbara Boxer. Gateway MPR 2, 3 p.m.

April 10 Film: East Side Sushi. Peacock Hall, 1 and 7 p.m.

April 11 TGWD: Creekside Fairway Room. 4:30 p.m. $5 cash each cocktails. 4:50 p.m. no-host $20 cash dinner. RSVP required. See page 6 for details.

April 21 Rossmoor Earth Day. See details on page 6. April 22 Earth Day

April 27 General Meeting: Betty Yee: Money, Taxes, and Politics in California. Event Center, 6 p.m. town hall/social, 7 p.m. speaker. See page 7 for details.

May 3, 10, & 17, Wednesdays, Flip Red Votes Phone Banks: Gateway Oak Room, 4–6 p.m.

May 1 Book Club: The Glass House by Brian Alexander. Gateway MPR 2, 3 p.m.

May 8 Film: The Visitor. Peacock Hall, 1 and 7 p.m.

May 9 TGWD: Creekside Fairway Room. 4:30 p.m. $5 cash each cocktails. 4:50 p.m. no-host $20 cash dinner. RSVP required. See page 6 for details.

May 14 Mother’s Day

May 25 Dinner/General Meeting: Henry Brady. Event Center, 5 p.m. town hall/social, 5:45 p.m. dinner (RSVP and pre-payment required by May 19), 7 p.m. speaker. See page 8 for details.

May 29 Memorial Day

What Some of our Members Most Enjoy About DoR's TGWD Gatherings

“I can express my mind …and I need support.” — Kernin Baker

“to make friends” — Gary Hansen

“like-minded fellowship” — Marc Gould

“We can hopefully discuss what’s going on in a nonpartisan way.” — Joyce Brock