



# SENIOR & DISABILITY *ACTION* News and Views

Volume 6 Issue 6

October/November 2018

## SDA Says the Rent is too Darn High!

Seniors and people with disabilities have been hit hard by evictions and displacement, but we have the chance to fight back this November. Proposition 10 is a state proposition that would repeal the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act, a state law passed in 1995 that severely limits local rent control. In San Francisco, Costa-Hawkins exempts single-family homes, condos and commercial property from rent control. Repealing Costa-Hawkins will allow us to pass the rent control we need to tackle the housing affordability crisis in San Francisco.

**\*SDA's Annual Celebration on October 5 has a new location! Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 1155 Market Street.**

Proposition C, a local measure also known as "Our City Our Home," is a measure introduced by the Coalition on Homelessness that proposes a 0.5% tax on businesses in San Francisco that make more than 50 million dollars a year. Those funds would go towards housing for homeless people and programs that will prevent people from becoming homeless in the first place-- including rental subsidies, substance abuse treatment, and health services.



**Phone bank with us on Tuesdays 1-4pm until the election! We have a script, snacks, and phone lists of senior voters. To RSVP, contact Tony at 415-546-1333, ext. 305.**

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## SDA Happenings

### SDA Annual Celebration

Friday, October 5th

5:30 - 8 pm

**\*New Location!!!\***

**Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired,  
1155 Market Street, 10th Floor**



This year's event will be hosted by Houston Robertson, the hilarious 80-year-old Octobabe!

Raffle prizes include a Monterey getaway, \$200 cash, and more.

As always, we'll have a silent auction, delicious food and wine, and plenty of time to mingle and celebrate our community.

To buy tickets and to sponsor, go to [bit.ly/SDACelebration2018](http://bit.ly/SDACelebration2018)

Limited number of discount tickets available for SDA members

### 32nd Annual Superfest Disability Film Festival

Join us on October 20 at The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life in Berkeley and on October 21 at the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco for the best in unapologetic, accessible and cutting edge disability film.

Superfest features films from five continents which highlight a range of experiences of people living with disabilities through a variety of genres and formats. From observational documentary to action to stop motion, we have films which will entertain, educate and promote discussion on disabilities.

To buy tickets, visit:

[http://www.superfestfilm.com/tickets/?mc\\_cid=73da8535b9&mc\\_eid=a4f329fd4c](http://www.superfestfilm.com/tickets/?mc_cid=73da8535b9&mc_eid=a4f329fd4c)

Concerned about motorized scooters taking over the sidewalks?  
Outraged over the deaths of pedestrians killed by cars?

Join SDA's **Transit Justice** group! We meet on the last Friday of the month, from 10am-Noon, at SDA's office (1360 Mission Street, 4th Floor). To RSVP, contact Pi Ra at 415-546-1333, ext. 303.



## Senior and Disability Voter Guide

### November 6, 2018 Election

#### San Francisco Propositions

**C: YES!** Creates the "Our City Our Home" fund for permanent housing, subsidies, and mental health care— to make real progress on addressing homelessness.

#### State Propositions

- 1: **Yes** Affordable Housing Bond for veterans, families, and people with disabilities
- 2: **Yes** No Place Like Home initiative – supportive housing for those who need it
- 5: **No** Realtor-funded initiative that benefits speculators (NOT the seniors it claims to help) while taking revenue from schools & services
- 6: **No** Hurts public transit by repealing the gas tax
- 8: **Yes** Limits dialysis clinic profits to improve care
- 10: **YES!** Repeals Costa-Hawkins to allow cities to pass laws to protect people with disabilities, seniors and all tenants from eviction & displacement!

***Phone banking at the SDA office every Tuesday, 1-4 pm  
1360 Mission Street #400, San Francisco CA 94103***

### Making Voting Accessible for People with Disabilities

Election Day is November 6<sup>th</sup>, and this year San Francisco voters have many options as to where, when, and how they can vote. The Department of Elections has voter information in large print and audio format, both hard copy and online. Paper, touchscreen, and audio ballots are available in English, Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin audio), Spanish, and Tagalog at all polling places on Election Day, and at the City Hall Voting Center beginning 29 days before the election. An accessible vote-by-mail system is a ballot delivery option that allows voters with disabilities to access their ballot using any computer with internet access. You must have a printer to print the final ballot after voting online, then sign and either mail it or drop it off at a polling place or City Hall. The San Francisco Main Library (Library for the Blind) is a helpful location for voters to vote using accessible computers and printers. For more information, go to the Accessible Vote-by-Mail page on the Department of Elections website or contact our office with accessible voting questions. We hope that these options will allow more San Franciscans with disabilities to be represented by our government.

## SDA at the Climate March

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, Senior and Disability Action, along with over 30,000 people, participated in the Rise for Climate, Jobs and Justice March. This march was our community's response to Governor Brown's Climate Change Summit. The participants demanded a holistic response to the climate crisis by stopping practices that harm our environment, such as the fracking projects in California and the plan for a coal train in Oakland.

SDA staff, members, and allies participated because we understand how threatening global warming is to our communities. The planet might survive the abuse we have put it through, but what about the human and animal life? From Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to the North Bay fires last year, we have seen how seniors and people with disabilities are often the first casualties of global warming-- often because evacuation plans aren't accessible, poverty prevents people from leaving, and the lack of electricity and refrigeration kills people who depend on assistive technology and medications. Climate justice must include emergency planning that takes our community into account, stopping our reliance on unsustainable fossil fuels, and reversing the damage that's already been done.



## The Last Straw

*I need plastic straws. Banning them puts a serious burden on people with disabilities.*

By Alice Wong

**Excerpts from an article published by *Eater*, Jul 19, 2018. <https://www.eater.com/2018/7/19/17586742/plastic-straw-ban-disabilities>**

I live in the Mission District of San Francisco, where delicious taquerias, bakeries, cafes, and bars are everywhere. And as a disabled person who uses a wheelchair to get around and a ventilator to breathe, the pleasure of eating and drinking is mediated by a number of factors... Two items I always ask with my drinks are a lid and a plastic straw, emphasis on plastic. Lids prevent spillage when I'm navigating bumpy sidewalks and curb cuts; straws are necessary because I do not have the hand and arm strength to lift a drink and tip it into my mouth. Plastic straws are the best when I drink hot liquids; compostable ones tend to melt or break apart.

The news that Vancouver and Seattle recently banned plastic straws, with other cities, like New York and San Francisco, contemplating proposals — struck a raw nerve with me for several reasons:

1. Plastic straws are considered unnecessary items used by environmentalists as a “gateway plastic” to engage the public on a larger conversation about waste. But one person’s “social prop” is another person’s conduit for nutrition. It’s as if people who rely on straws— older adults, children, and disabled people— don’t matter and that our needs are less important than the environment.

2. Plastic straws are ubiquitous, whether we like it or not. Once you have something that provides access, it is difficult and harmful to take it away from a marginalized community that depends on it. I live in a world that was never built for me, and every little bit of access is treasured and hard-won. Bans on plastic straws are regressive, not progressive.

The plastic straw ban is symptomatic of larger systemic issues when it comes to the continual struggle for disability rights and justice. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) turn[ed] 28 on July 26, and yet people with disabilities continue to face barriers at eating establishments.

The ban in Seattle comes with an exemption for people with disabilities, where restaurants can provide plastic straws upon request for medical reasons. This is optional for restaurants, so they may choose to not to make any available. Having to ask for a plastic straw puts an unfair burden, and scrutiny, on people with disabilities. They should not have to prove a medical need or even disclose their disability status when having a fun night out with friends. This is not hospitality.

Accessibility is a human rights issue, not an individual problem. If you’re the type of person to tell disabled people to “just carry their own straws,” think to yourself- why will you fight so hard for a #strawban but not demand that alternatives be accessible?

*Alice Wong is the founder and director of the Disability Visibility Project. She is a passionate lover of coffee, pie, ice cream, and fried chicken.*

## Support Prop 8

Some information from California Alliance for Retired Americans about Proposition 8.



### **VOTE YES ON PROP 8**

*We need fair pricing and better care for dialysis patients*

**END THE DIALYSIS PATIENT CARE CRISIS:** Dialysis keeps patients alive when their kidneys fail by taking out the patient's blood, cleaning it, and putting it back in their body. In the United States, more than 477,000 people depend on dialysis, and two big corporations — Fresenius and DaVita — monopolize the industry, controlling more than 75% of the market.

**PATIENT CARE IS SUFFERING:** Patients and caregivers report sanitation problems, including bloodstains and cockroaches in dialysis clinics. The lack of proper sanitation and hygiene can contribute to high infection rates.

**DIALYSIS CORPORATION PROFITS ARE OUT OF CONTROL:** Big dialysis corporations make billions of dollars annually. The average profit margin for DaVita and Fresenius clinics in California is 17% — more than five times as high as the profit margin for an average hospital in California. They spend lavishly on executive pay and perks like private airplanes.

**OVERCHARGING DRIVES UP COSTS FOR ALL OF US:** Dialysis companies charge patients with private insurance an average \$150,000 for a year of dialysis treatment. That's a 350% markup from the cost of providing care! Insurance companies are forced to pass the costs to all policyholders, driving up healthcare premiums for us all. Blue Shield of California reports that it takes 3,800 enrollees to offset the cost of one dialysis patient.

**WE NEED TO INVEST IN PATIENT CARE:** Proposition 8 will push for-profit dialysis corporations to spend more money on direct patient care with revenues limited to no more than 15% above the amount they spend on patient care. By linking revenue to care, dialysis corporations will have a greater incentive to invest in patient care. And, when we stop dialysis companies from overcharging we can bring down the cost of healthcare premiums for all of us.

For information go to [www.yeson8.com](http://www.yeson8.com)



## **Community Calendar: Oct/Nov 2018**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>TIME &amp; PLACE</b>	<b>MORE INFO?</b>
Mon-Fri	Computer Open Lab and Beginning Computer Classes	Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:00 PM 1360 Mission Street Suite 400 <b>Classes Tues/Weds. 9:30-2</b>	Pi Ra 415-546-2096
1st Thursday October 4 November 1	IHSS Task Force Meeting	10:30 AM 1360 Mission St. #400	Jessica Lehman 415-546-1333 x301
1st Thursday November 1	SDA Board Meeting	3:00-5:00 PM 1360 Mission St. #400	Jessica Lehman 415-546-1333 x301
<b>2nd Thursday October 11 November 8</b>	<b>SDA General Meeting</b>	<b>10:00 AM 1187 Franklin Street</b>	<b>SDA 415-546-1333</b>
<b>2nd Thursday October 11 November 8</b>	<b>CARA meeting</b>	<b>1 PM 1187 Franklin Street</b>	<b>Jodi Reid 550-0828</b>
2nd Tuesday October 9 November 13	HealthCare Action Team (HAT)	11 AM ILRC 825 Howard	Ligia Montano 415-546-1333 x302
3rd Wednesday October 17 November 21	SDA Housing Collaborative	1-3 PM 1360 Mission Street, #400	Tony Robles 415-546-1333 x305
3rd Friday October 19 November 16	Mayor's Disability Council	1-4 PM City Hall Room 400	Mayor's Office on Disability 415-554-6789

### **Community Training on Disability & Ableism**

Hosted by Senior and Disability Action

Training topics include but are not limited to: Disability 101, history, assumptions, language, and tips on working with people with disabilities.

Who: **Agency staff** (maximum of 2 staff from each agency please)

When: **Friday Nov. 16th from 1pm to 4:30pm**

Where: **San Francisco Main Library Latino Room**

Cost: **\$50 per person**

We are only able to accommodate 20 people, so please sign up as soon as you can. Please contact Ali at 415-546-1333 x 306 or email [alice@sdaction.org](mailto:alice@sdaction.org) to sign up. No drop in-- **pre-registered attendees only.**

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## ***Senior and Disability Action News and Views***

### **Become a Member of Senior and Disability Action!!**

Dues are \$20/year *OR* according to your means. Pay more or less as you are able.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Home Work

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Home Work

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Interests: Housing Healthcare Long-term care & supports

Community education Computer training Pedestrian safety & transit Other:

\_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to receive newsletters & postcards? Email Postal mail

**Please send dues to: SDA, 1360 Mission St. #400, San Francisco CA 94103**