

December 2010

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...minimum of 4 to 6 hours of prep time before ... council meeting

...give ...Pacific Housing Coop a chance.

...don't want to bail out on the coop structure precipitously.

..Conagra most significant developable parcel

..dissented ..Conagra's development plan

...Zip Car deal more scrutiny



Campaign Volunteers: Club Members Rick and Michelle working at Farmers Market, see story p.3



New city council member Joe Krovoza is up to speed by Tim Fenton

Thinking of running for Davis City Council some day? Better talk to newly elected member Joe Krovoza. We



met with Joe right after the mid-term election and queried him about his first three months in office. As high vote-getter in June's council election, Joe jumped instantly from common citizen to Davis Mayor pro tem.

Joe spoke with some humility about the process of getting up to speed as a new council member citing the jam-packed agendas and background packages (some weighing many pounds) that he receives before each meeting. He's quickly gotten up to speed on the council's "creative process" of doing business and gained a full appreciation of each member's commitment of time and effort. He clears his calendar the weekend prior to each council meeting for a minimum of four to six hours of preparation to focus on current city issues.

Issues we touched on included the Pacifico Student Housing Coop which has recently gone insolvent. Joe says occupancy has dropped and the four-building complex fallen into disrepair. Some in city government have suggested converting the coop buildings into apartments, but Joe doesn't want to bail out on the coop structure precipitously because it serves a segment of the student population needing low cost housing. The next nine months will serve as a trial to see if the facilities can be fixed up and occupancy increased.

We talked about the council's recent OK for Conagra's application to develop its Cannery Park property north of Covell Boulevard for mixed commercial, business park and housing use. Joe dissented in the 3 to 2 council vote noting that the plan being offered was that same plan that was rejected by a previous council, but he said Conagra may be open to some changes. Saying the property is the most significant developable parcel in Davis for the foreseeable future, he's concerned the city may be abdicating its responsibility for land-use planning.

On the Zip Car contract controversy, he noted the city's Climate Control Team had made a priority recommendation for "instant car rental" services for Davis with Zip Car the most qualified to provide them. He acknowledges some things in the contract should have had further scrutiny and says

Davis city staff will be coming back to the council soon with a revised and cleaned up Zip Car contract.

As both a city council member and a UCD staff member, Joe Krovoza wants to cultivate a stronger university/city relationship. He mentioned the September D.S.I.D.E. (Designing a Sustainable and Innovative Davis Economy) workshop, which brought together City of Davis, UCD and Davis business leaders to explore their interconnected future, as a promising development.

Questioned about Mayor Saylor's upcoming move from the city council to the Yolo County Board of Commissioners in January, Joe says the council will meet immediately after Saylor is sworn in as a commissioner to consider options for his replacement. He favors filling the vacancy through an appointment process that would solicit widely in the community for applicants and have open, transparent selection proceedings with lots of community input. He said the council has just 30 to 60 days to name a new member or a special election will be mandated. He noted that an election would cost the city some \$250,000 at a most inopportune time.

I left our meeting with the good feeling that our city council has a thoughtful, dedicated, idea-generating, consensus-building new mayor pro tem in Joe Krovoza. Davis Democrats can be proud he's one of ours.

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Calendar of Events & Activities

Friday, Dec. 3, 6:30-9:00 pm Annual Holiday Party. Buffet dinner, refreshments, good company, volunteer recognition and raffle. Odd Fellows Hall, 415 Second St. Davis

Tuesday, Dec 7, 7:00-9:00 pm DDC Board Meeting. Regularly scheduled Board business meeting members and general public welcomed. Odd Fellows Hall.



Sam Mahood, DCD President addressing the student rally in support of Jerry Brown at the historic UCD gubernatorial debate at the Mondavi Center (see article below)

Davis College Democrats Campaign

by Sierra Feldman, Bob Schelen and Carl Schmid

As Democrats living in a college town, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to work with enthusiastic, young people. Our Club's affiliated group, the Davis College Democrats, has been particularly effective in directing student energy during the recent campaign. The Debate Rally held at UCD on Sept. 28 in support of Jerry Brown provided a great kick off event for DDC fall campaign (see photos above). DCD volunteers activities were integral for the Yolo County Democratic Party's efforts on its successful 2010 campaign (see article p. 3). Although it was widely expected that the turnout of students and other 18-26 year old voters would be less than their record turnout in the exciting presidential election of, the College Democrats were tireless in reminding their peers of the importance of voting in the Gubernatorial election and in keeping Barbara Boxer in the Senate.

In addition to their crucial peer campaign, the College Democrats registered voters, organized phone banks, canvassed precincts throughout Yolo County and supported the statewide party organization in successfully electing Dr. Richard Pan switching the neighboring 5th Assembly District from Republican to Democratic!

DCD's recent campaign activities are actually just the culmination of their continuing multiyear effort on behalf of the local party. College Democrats currently hold four of the six officers positions on the YCDCC. Clearly, these young people are the Democratic Party's greatest asset enabling us to confidently prepare for the 2012 presidential campaign.

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(Continued p.3)

Stopped at the Sierra Edge by Bob Schellen, Chair YCDCC

Congratulations! We blocked the Republican tide at the eastern slopes of the Sierra and Yolo County including especially Davis was a huge part of our success.

Indeed, we can celebrate California's victory in stopping the Republican attempt to buy California's Governorship and U.S. Senate seat. We celebrate our State's victory in taking the first step to rebuild California after seven years of failed Republican Governorship. We celebrate California's victory in sending Senator Boxer, who has time and again stood up for all Californians, back to Washington.

Despite the Republicans spending more than a quarter-billion dollars, the voters of this great State have demonstrated that they would not be fooled and that their votes could not be bought. The values of the Democratic Party are those of the majority of Californians, and the voters have spoken loud and clear with a resounding Democratic victory in the 2010 election.

In July, we presented a campaign plan, where in coordination with the California Democratic Party and the Democratic Clubs in Yolo County, we were going to contact Democratic and Decline-to-State voters in Yolo County and deliver our message to them. We set goals of increasing the Democratic turnout by 5 percent as compared to 2006; coordinating a Latino voter outreach; opening headquarters in all three major cities in Yolo County and reaching out to the rural areas of the County in ways that have not been done before. We hired four staff members, all four underpaid and overworked, one to manage each of the three campaign offices, David Backay in Davis, Frida Brown in West Sacramento, Matt Gagnon in Woodland and one, Lyle Smith, to coordinate major portions of the campaign, the vote by mail and occasional voter contact efforts. They along with Bill Briedenbach, who volunteered his much needed technical skill, did a wonderful job in coordinating volunteers, delivering the message and getting voters to the polls. Join me in acknowledging and thanking them for their great work.

Although votes are still being counted, we have already accomplished or exceeded all of our goals with great help from the Davis Democratic Club. We targeted occasional voters and focused on vote by mail voters. Both efforts were successful.

Volunteers were initially difficult to find. However, as the campaign moved into October, more and more people joined our effort. On Election Day, we had over 150 people, either on the phone or in the precincts contacting voters. I give a special Thank You to Davis Democratic Club members, Carl Schmid and Rick Gonzalez for delivering our first set of door hangers to the Vote By Mail population in over, maybe three quarters of the precincts in Davis. Just today, I heard from a number of people how helpful the door hangers were in deciding how to vote on the propositions and remembering to get their ballots in the mail on time. Many volunteers came in almost daily contributing their great effort to our victory. A huge "Thank You" to them as well.

One area in which we did not reach our goal was fundraising. It was a difficult year for Democrats, as our candidates for Governor and U.S. Senate could not begin to compete with the self-funded campaigns of their extraordinarily wealthy opponents. There was a tremendous amount of competition for campaign dollars and, while we do not know yet, exactly how much our campaign in Yolo cost, we did not reach the ambitious mark of \$100,000 for the campaign. However, we used our people power and, to my knowledge, were able to raise more than we have in previous non-presidential election years. We must still pay some late bills and must immediately start rebuilding our treasury, in preparation for 2012 election. Any contribution which you can afford at this time would be greatly appreciated and well used (**YCDCC, P.O. Box 1916 Davis, California 95618**).

On the local and state level, with the exception of the Attorney General's race, which is still to be determined, all of our endorsed candidates won. In the next Newsletter, I will report the final election results. For now, just know that Jerry Brown won California by 12 percentage points but carried Yolo County by nearly 30 percent, and Senator Boxer won statewide by 9 percent but carried Yolo by 25 percent. We were also integral in Dave Jones's victory for Insurance Commissioner, and Kamala Harris, who at this moment of writing is leading by less than 0.4% in the Attorney General race, out-pollled her opponent in Yolo County by 25 percent corresponding to nearly her entire lead.

All in all, a job well done! Let us now continue this effort into 2012.

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(continued)

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Democratic Newsletter

*Holiday Party
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