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MIKE THOMPSON DISCUSSES ISSUES WITH LOCAL CONSTITUENTS

by Carl Schmid, Davis, Dec.12, 2009



Don Saylor, one of fifty area residents who greeted Congressman Thompson

More than fifty Davis Democrats came in from the cold on a wet Saturday afternoon for an impromptu discussion of affairs with Congressman Mike Thompson. Following his introduction as being both a Blue Dog Democrat and a strong advocate of health care reform, the Congressman reaffirmed his intention to “always watch how the taxpayer’s money is spent” and to “get the most bang for the taxpayer’s buck.”

Considering the federal debt and the current recession, Thompson stated that the government should “pay the debt down during good times” such that it can effectively intercede in the inevitable economic downturn that follows. He lamented the irresponsibility of the Bush tax cut and the fact that the previous Republican Congress repealed pay-go under which half of any budget surplus was used for debt reduction. The Bush tax cut as well as wars of choice “went on the credit card.”

Thompson is the “only blue dog to vote for the health

care bill.” He stated that he is proud to have included provisions to “increase the number of primary care physicians” and negotiate rates for medical care. The Congressman foresees making future improvements in the legislation that Congress passes this year.

Expressing confidence that the government will get back most of the bail-out money, he identified another “huge issue” as being financial reform legislation. The Congressman said, “It is important to reassert government oversight in this area.”

He described Afghanistan as being a “real tough issue, not a black/white call” as a consequence of the Bush administration’s “absolute missed botched plan.” In outlining his thoughts, he carefully distinguished between the Taliban in Afghanistan and al-Qaida. Thompson said “There is no doubt the Taliban are terrible folks” but then expressed greater concern with al-Qaida. “I think that we need to go after Qaida but not this way [the Afghanistan surge]. They are in Yemen, in Somalia, ..., in Northern Virginia. They are all over the place.” As a member of the Intelligence Committee, he “wants to have all of the information on Afghanistan” and is “keeping an open mind” before making a decision on the President’s recently announced surge. However, he added that “If a vote were held today, I would

not vote for it.” The Congressman mentioned in passing that his frequent weekend trips to Afghanistan and Pakistan limited his ability to visit the district.

Responding to a question, Thompson returned to the dilemma of whether the government should reduce the debt and deficit or spend more money to stimulate jobs? His premise was that “financial security is as important as other kinds of security” leading him to conclude that the government should not falter to help create jobs. He highlighted three immediate approaches that the government could take to stimulate the economy: 1) There are “road, bridge, water and sewer” infrastructure projects in virtually every district that lack funding. 2) “All of the States are in the tank” with “pink slips coming out.” He suggests helping the states fund required services, “school teachers, police, firefighters.” 3) There is a “tremendous amount of deferred maintenance” on “federal projects on federal lands” that could effectively use additional funding. Highlighting the difficulty of promoting sound infrastructure projects, the Congressman lamented how Senators McCain and Coburn attacked a Napa flood control project in a manner that was “equally dishonest and misleading.”

Ed. Note. Expressing my personal opinion, we are represented by a thoughtful person, who carefully considers competing priorities.

..always watch how the taxpayer’s money is spent..

..in good times pay that debt down..

..went on the credit card..

We came very close to a depression, falling off the edge.

..only blue dog to vote for health care reform..

..reassert government oversight..

..absolute, missed botched plan..

..nuclear arsenal, it would be a disaster..

All states are in the tank.

..financial security is as important as other kinds of security..

They got out the sharp knives.

..equally dishonest and misleading..

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Calendar of Events & Activities

FEBRUARY 11: Thursday 6:00-9:00 Love your Elected Leaders: Annual Valentine Party, International House Davis, Potluck Dinner followed by highly informative talks by virtually all local elected officials providing an excellent opportunity to learn what your representatives hope to accomplish and how well they are representing you. Contact Mike Syvanen 756-5831

FEBRUARY 15: Monday 6:30-7:00 DDC/YCDCC social mixer Odd Fellows Hall, Davis. This special event is an opportunity for Club members to meet Yolo County Democratic Central Committee members during a half-hour reception with beverage and appetizers to be immediately followed by the YCDCC business meeting (7:00-9:00pm), which Club members may also attend to learn about YCDCC activities. Contact Arun Sen 756-7093

FEBRUARY 18: Thursday 7:00-9:00 PLEASE COME AND VOTE Biennial Election of Club Officers, Odd Fellows Hall, Davis. Club members vote on nominees for all elected Club offices. See the left sidebar for the list of offices and the article below for details of the election process and voting eligibility requirements. Contact Bob Bockwinkel (bbockwinkel@golyon.com)

MARCH 1: Monday 6:00-8:00 Fund Raiser for Dr. Ami Bari (see p. 3), **Candidate for Congress, 3rd CD**, enjoy wine & hor d'oeuvres at the Palm Court Hotel, Davis. Contact Ryan Loney (707-631-8958; ryan@beraforcongress.com)

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Please add your name to
this Donor List by renewing
your 2010 membership

ANNOUNCEMENT: Preliminary Slate of Candidates for Club Office

The Biennial Election of Club Officers is scheduled for Feb. 18 (see Calendar). All members who paid 2009/2010 dues may vote in this election. Members, who wish to be considered for election to one of these offices may also be nominated by contacting Bob Bockwinkel (see Calendar). As required by Club By Laws (posted at www.davisdemocraticclub.org), the following is an announcement of those candidates, who have agreed to serve in these offices: Arun Sen as President; Mike Syvanen as Vice President; Richard Yamagata as Recording Secretary; Betty Weir as Treasurer; Carl Schmid as Membership Chair; Tim Fenton as Publicity Chair and as Corresponding Secretary. (The Board will consider combining the offices of Publicity Chair and Corresponding Secretary at a future meeting.) You are invited to use this opportunity to become active on the Board.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR 2010 MEMBERSHIP by Carl Schmid

Although the Club officially starts collecting dues for the new year beginning on January 1, members typically renew their dues at various times during the year when it is convenient for them. In effect, we are on the honor system to pay our dues at roughly a twelve-month interval. Beginning with the March Newsletter, you will be reminded by a dreaded "red dot" to renew your 2010 membership. For some, this red dot will arrive before your dues are twelve months in arrears. In this event, we request your patience and hope that you will renew your 2010 membership at about one year after you had paid your 2009 dues.

Your Club uses these funds to support Democratic causes and candidates such as publication of this Newsletter, hosting Mike Thompson's recent visit, helping our affiliated student group, and most importantly in 2010, establishing a Davis election headquarters and supporting volunteers in the local reelection campaigns for Senator Barbara Boxer, Congressman Mike Thompson, and State Assembly-member Mariko Yamada. The vote in Yolo County can make a significant difference in a statewide race. We need your support and hope that we can continue to count on your continuing membership to further these activities.

Become a Pre-endorsement Conference Delegate

The Davis Democratic Club is eligible to send twenty-four delegates to the Pre-endorsement Conference to be held on Saturday, March 20, 3:00-6:00 pm at the Central Labor Council Hall in Sacramento. Delegates at this meeting will vote to endorse candidates running for various offices in the upcoming June primary election and will also consider the endorsement of ballot propositions that appear in this same election. Our Club's delegation will be one of the largest at this conference providing good evidence that Davis residents are actively involved in promoting good government. If you wish to be a delegate at this conference, contact Arun Sen (756-7093).

The California Redistricting Commission Needs You! by Bob Schelen

Redistricting is the once-in-a-decade opportunity to redraw the State's legislative districts. This single act may do more to influence the make-up of the Legislature and its agenda over the next 10 years than all of the elections during that period combined. Every single policy issue is affected by who is elected to the Legislature, and every single legislative election for the next decade is affected by redistricting.

Last year Proposition 11 passed and for the first time in California's history, this critical task **will not be performed by elected officials** but by a new Citizens Redistricting Commission. Those communities that participate will have more power to shape the state than ever before; those that do not will allow others to decide who will represent them for the next decade. Briefly, membership on this Commission is limited to registered voters, who are not professional politicians. The exact requirements specifying, who can and cannot serve, are easily found on the web-site, (<http://www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov/>). The initial application to determine your eligibility on this same website will only require a few minutes of your time. The deadline for this initial application is **February 12, 2010!**

Applicants, who pass this initial screening for eligibility, must subsequently provide background information, answer four short essay questions about their qualifications and interest in serving, and gather three letters of recommendation. The top applicants will be asked to participate in interviews in the summer, and final selections will be announced in December 2010

Applicants should know that serving on the Commission will not be a full-time job, but will require a significant time commitment in 2011, especially between May and September. Members will receive \$300 for each day they undertake redistricting business. No employer can terminate, punish, intimidate, coerce, retaliate against or threaten an employee for serving on the Commission or missing work for Commission business.

We all know that our beloved state is confronted by extraordinarily, serious challenges. Please take advantage of this unique opportunity to have a major role in shaping California's future by applying to serve on this important Commission.

College Democrats support Ami Bera for Congress by Kelsey McQuaid

The Davis College Democrats have been busy hosting a number of events in the past month. At the end of the Fall Quarter, we hosted Assembly candidate Roger Dickenson at one of our weekly meetings. We also held a successful kick-off week to begin the Winter Quarter. Our members had the opportunity to discuss what they think should be a bill in the state of California. During our kick-off week, DCD hosted congressional candidate Dr. Ami Bera. He discussed issues such as health care reform and funding for higher education with members of the club. Currently, DCD is planning our 3rd Annual Indigo Awards which will take place in mid-February as well as speaking with candidates for statewide and local office about discussing their races at one of our meetings. The Davis College Democrats are looking forward to a busy and productive Winter Quarter.



Dr. Ami Bera (holding sign), a terrific, Democratic candidate for Congress in our neighboring district, CD3, welcomes enthusiastic student support in his run against the incumbent Dan Lungren (R, Long Beach!). He also deserves our support (see Calendar, March, 1).

Democratic Newsletter

Davis Democratic Club

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MEMBERSHIP
TODAY!

Do you have a **RED DOT**
attached to your newsletter?
If so, please pay your Club dues.

Valentine Party Thurs.,
Feb. 11

Recruit a friend to join DDC Today!

To JOIN or RENEW (circle one) membership in the Davis Democratic Club, fill out this form and send a check to the following address: Davis Democratic Club, P.O. Box 73014, Davis, CA 95617

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Are you interested in? (circle all that apply.)

Campaign Activities Fundraising Voter Registration
Telephoning Newsletter

Circle your Level of Membership: Individual \$15;
Household \$25; Passport \$50; Sponsor \$100; Patron \$200;
Benefactor \$200+; Student membership \$10.



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