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Statement by DJUSD Board Candidate Bob Poppenga



Photo l.-r.: Amy, Zoe, Mia and Bob Poppenga with BooBoo

So little space, so much to discuss! As my teenage daughters would say, OMG, it's not possible. But, I'll give it a shot.

Since deciding to run for a 4-year term on the Davis School Board several months ago, I have had the privilege of speaking with many community members about our schools and broader K-12 educational topics. People with children consistently say that one of the major reasons for their moving to Davis is the quality of our schools. When my wife and I moved to Davis from the Philadelphia region ten years ago to continue our faculty careers, we only considered buying a home in Davis because of the schools. In my humble opinion, school quality in Davis can largely be attributed to an abundance of skilled teachers and engaged

parents. Maintaining the excellence of the schools was sorely tested over the last several years as state educational funding was severely cut. We managed to escape in relatively good shape and, at long last, there is some modest improvement in funding levels and increased local budgetary control through the LCAP process.

Unfortunately, per pupil spending in California lags behind many states and that situation is unlikely to change in the near future. Thus, WE (i.e., collectively as a community) need to be creative in addressing several significant problems in the District and meeting future challenges as we strive to provide ALL children with opportunities to succeed in a rapidly changing and globally competitive environment. Given the human resources and energy in the community, there is no reason to settle for being a top California school district; we should set the bar high and strive to be one of the top ten school districts nationally and even internationally. How can we accomplish this lofty goal with tight fiscal constraints? I certainly don't have all of the answers, but here are a few suggestions:

Let's improve community communication about educational issues and be as transparent as possible with all District business. As a School Board trustee, I would strive to be accessible and open to all voices, both quiet and loud. I would commit to spending time at all school sites, observing in classrooms, and providing opportunities to regularly listen and talk to teachers, children, and parents.

Let's make sure our neighborhood schools are strong without sacrificing our reputation for program choice. Well trained and enthusiastic teachers and staff are keys to a desirable school. They need to be evaluated fairly and given every opportunity to teach and engage students. Teachers and staff need supportive administrators who provide mentorship and provide each school with a positive school culture. One simple and cost effective way to improve school climate is to replace "zero tolerance" and suspensions with restorative justice programs. There is increasing evidence that these programs work and are cost effective.

Let's make sure that all students have diverse opportunities to fulfill their own potential. This means providing early education and summer enrichment programs for at-risk students. This means allowing students with a love of learning to take advantage of opportunities to go as far as their abilities can carry them. This means that we don't forget those students who are not college-bound by providing quality vocational career options. I believe that many of these things can be achieved, at least in part, by strategic partnering with institutions of higher education, local organizations such as Explorit or the Davis Arts Foundation, and, yes, even private industry. We should find ways to support and sustain exemplary programs such as the DJUSD Bridge Program and perhaps find ways to provide one-on-one tutoring for talented musicians whose families can't afford private lessons. *(continued p4)* *(Ed. Note: The DDC has not endorsed candidates for the DJUSD. This and previous articles by Board candidates Barbara Archer and Madhavi Sunder in the August and September Newsletters are published for your information.)*

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Calendar of Events & Campaign Activities

Tuesday, September 2, 7:00 pm, Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting. The Board conducts planning and routine Club business. All Club members are invited to attend. Yolo County Democratic Campaign HQ at 911 3rd St, Davis.

Sunday, Sept. 7, 5:00-8:00 pm, Yolo County Democratic Bean Feed. Veterans Memorial Building, Davis. Speakers will include national and state leaders (special guest TBA); dinner is a great

Monday, Sept. 8, 5:00-6:30 pm Meet Bill Dodd your Assembly candidate at Hallmark Inn, Davis. RSVP <erin@billdodd.com>.

Saturday, Sept. 13 10:00-12:00pm (time approximate) **Meet Bill Dodd**, your Assembly candidate, at Davis Farmers Market.

Sunday, Oct. 12, 2:00-4:00 pm, Sayonara Event for Assembly Member Mariko Yamada . (See ad p.3)

Sunday, Oct. 19 (note change of date), 4:00-8:00 pm, Hukilau Celebration (AKA a Hawaiian community celebration). Hosted by Stephen and Robin Souza at their home, 2424 Rodin Pl., Davis; plan on joining the fun.

Sunday Dec. 14, 5:00-9:00 pm (tentative schedule) **Annual Holiday Party** features a buffet potluck with a little Holiday Cheer. I-House, Davis

Update from Congressman Garamendi's campaign By Jake Martin

It's been an exciting month on the campaign trail as we've kicked off our Pathway to Progress college internship program, started recruitment for our high school program and laid important groundwork for the neighborhood Team Leader program. We have about twenty young democrats working hard to conduct local outreach and our ongoing recruitment efforts are allowing us to build a team of political operatives to make meaningful change in Yolo County.

We operate out of our Campaign Headquarters at 911 3rd Street in Davis. This staging location gives us the resources needed to reinvigorate democratic voters who didn't vote in the primary election, an election in which voter turnout hit record lows. Through targeted phone banking and volunteer outreach, our small team has grown into an impactful grassroots organization that makes a powerful difference in District 3. None of this would be possible without the aid of the Davis Democratic Club. DDC funds support our office, and without them, we wouldn't have the means to effectively organize the Davis community. The continued support of the Davis Democratic Club is essential for the success of our campaign.

One of the most substantial support opportunities for our campaign is volunteering at neighborhood Team Leader events. These events will focus on voter outreach through different means, like phone banking, canvassing, or letter-writing, and will be led and hosted by DDC members like yourself. If you want to lead events or volunteer, please contact me at

<jakemartin758@gmail.com> .

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(Paid Advertisement)

Please Join Assemblymember Mariko Yamada at Her "Sayonara* Social

(* ...Till the Senate)

Sunday, October 12
2:00 - 4:00 PM



Davis Senior Center Valente Room
646 A Street,
Davis, CA 95616



Celebrating 20 Years in Davis & 40 Years in Public
Service

\$20 - You Only Live Once Individual
\$40 - It's A Long Way from LA Sponsor (1 Ticket)
\$100 - Centenarians Rising Sponsor (2 Tickets)

(All donations welcome, no one will be turned away.)

Please R.S.V.P. to cjansenconsulting@gmail.com or 916-706-1404 or email cjansenconsulting@gmail.com

Sayonara Event with Mariko Yamada

- I/We will attend as a Centenarians Rising Sponsor at \$100.
- I/We will attend as a It's A Long Way from LA Sponsor at \$40.
- I/We will attend and purchase _____ You Only Live Once Ticket(s) at \$20 each.
- I/We will not be able to attend, but please accept a contribution of \$_____.

Name: _____ Organization: _____

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Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

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Make checks payable to Yamada for Senate 2016 (ID# 1353505), c/o Chris Jansen,

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(continued p. 2)

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Democratic Events



The YCDCC sponsored a public outreach booth during the annual **Yolo County Fair**, DDC members organized by Rick Gonzales staffed the booth on Saturday. Shown here are (l.-r.) Tom

Hagler, Martha Beetley, Bob Bockwinkel, Senator Lois Wolk and Chris Allen of West Sac.

Meet Assembly-candidate Bill Dodd at Hallmark Inn **Sept. 8, 5:00-6:30 pm** RSVP <ERIN@BillDodd.com>. **Meet Bill Dodd** for informal discussions at the Davis Farmers Market on **Saturday, September 13**. Joining him at various times during the morning will be St. Sen. Lois Wolk, Supervisor Don Saylor, City Councilmember Lucas Frerichs and Helen Thomson.

In place of the annual Fall BBQ, Stephen and Robin Souza will host a new event, a Hawaiian themed **Hukilau on October 16**, featuring a buffet of traditional Polynesian dishes all of which will be prepared by Steve for your dining pleasure. Please mark your calendar.

Bob Poppenga (cont'd from p1.)

Let's be open to new ideas and, wherever possible, use the best available evidence to guide our policy and program decisions. An effective Board member should be a "life-long learner" and open to new information to inform their views. This is an attribute we expect our children to develop and what's good for our children should be good for our School Board members as well.

Of course, a School Board member can't act alone, since it's not about an individual member, but an entire governance team. Every team is strengthened by a diversity of backgrounds and experiences. As an experienced educator, classroom instructor, life-long learner, leader in my profession, and engaged parent, I believe that I can effectively represent all of our children as a School Board member. This is an important election cycle for the future of our schools.

While it is important to pay attention to day-to-day details of running a school district, we have to keep the long-view in mind as well. Let's strive to make sure our schools continue to be one of the main reasons that people want to live Davis.

Bob Poppenga is a veterinarian and faculty member at a public university. He is the parent of two DJUSD students. His website is <www.bob4schools.org>.

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**Sunday, October 19
Hukilau Celebration
featuring Hawaiian
Cuisine**

Davis Democratic Club
P.O. Box 73014
Davis CA, 95617
Address Service Requested

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PLEASE RENEW your
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If you have a RED DOT
attached to your newsletter,
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See the website photo
gallery:

www.davisdemocraticclub.org

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: _____

Occupation & Employer (required by FPPC)

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

Campaign Activities Fundraising Voter Outreach

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Circle your Level of Membership:

Individual \$15 Household \$25 Passport \$50
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