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DAVIS DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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Cynthia Rodriguez for Yolo County District Attorney



I am running for District Attorney to establish my vision for Yolo County, a vision where residents thrive, and criminal justice is swift and fair. Our county must prioritize diversion programs to give first offenders a second chance, and to help veterans, and those with alcohol and drug dependency. People in mental health crises should have alternatives to being imprisoned and be treated with compassion by mental health professionals. My vision is one where victims are respected, families are reconciled, and offenders are rehabilitated. I want our residents to live good lives and have futures full of possibilities

Although the current Yolo DA pays lip service to progressive values, his record belies his empty talk. The Yolo DA's inequitable charging practices have resulted in disproportionate jailing of minorities in Yolo

County. The DA has claimed, without evidence, this is an "out of county problem," ostensibly caused by minorities coming to our community and committing crimes. Our DA has consistently and egregiously overcharged people and has severely limited the numbers and kinds of cases admitted to the few diversion programs. I will maximize using diversion programs to give first offenders an opportunity to straighten out their lives without a criminal record, and put an end to racial inequity by reforming the DA's charging practices.

I have 40 years of experience with criminal justice, the mental health system, and legal administration. I worked in all stages of the charging, trying and sentencing of criminal defendants as a public defender for over a decade. Later, while working at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, I proved violations of criminal laws in disciplinary proceedings against department staff. I also have extensive administrative experience from my time as Deputy Director and General Counsel at the California Department of Mental Health. I have supervised dozens of attorneys, doctors, professional support staff, and social workers, which has taught me how to motivate and direct employees to serve the community's needs.

For too long, we have failed to admit that our mental health system is failing because there is no access to the mental health services needed. At the Department of Mental Health, I advised the department, the Health and Human Services Agency, the legislature, and Governor's Office on mental health policy that would increase services and recovery.

Yolo County is a great place to live, and our DA's focus should be on improving our community and the opportunities for its residents rather than statewide lobbying. More money is currently spent on trials and incarceration in Yolo than in most California counties. Fiscal responsibility and our community's stated interests (such as passing Propositions 47 and 57) demand that our DA pursue prosecutorial reforms which the current DA continues to work against. Unbiased treatment of every community member is the issue of today, and Yolo County is ready. Tomorrow can only be better if we start the work of reforming today.

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Democratic News

Do You Recall the Recall?

By Mariko Yamada, 4th District Assemblymember (Ret.)



It was March 2003. Governor Gray Davis had just been re-elected to a second-term 4 months earlier with 47% of the vote.

I was happily at work in Woodland, in my fourth year as District Director for 4th District Yolo County Supervisor Dave Rosenberg. We had de-

veloped an efficient and effective working relationship to serve Yolo County in the years following Dave's appointment as the Governor's Director of Community and Intergovernmental Relations (among multiple other "hats"). Meanwhile, we had continued to work towards Dave's re-election campaign the following year, with an early Presidential Primary set for March 2, 2004.

But--we had also been keeping-an-eye on a mounting Gray Davis recall threat, spurred on primarily by dissatisfaction with energy deregulation. As the summer heat bore down, by July 2003, enough valid signatures were certified to compel then Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante to set a fall recall election date: Tuesday, October 7, 2003.

The outcome of that election certainly had chaotic and dramatic effects on state and local governments as well as millions of Californians. I remember being in Los Angeles—in Little Tokyo, to be exact—and getting a call from Michael Yamaki, then Governor Davis' Appointments Secretary. He advised that my name had been submitted to replace Supervisor Dave Rosenberg as Yolo County Supervisor, who had been nominated for a judgeship.

"Do you accept?" he asked, noting he needed an immediate answer. And the rest, as they say, is herstory (still have my appointments document, dated and signed on October 31, 2003—Happy Halloween!)

The 2003 Gubernatorial Recall created political waves from which our great State required years to recover. "The Terminator" was Governor from November 2003 to January 2011, a significant time span that had deep impacts on county and state programs and services. As a county supervisor and a first-term assemblymember for all those years, I can attest to the frustration and yes—anger—at having an actor in the role of California's Chief Executive Officer.

By the time you read this, fellow Democrat, your Yolo County ballot for the Tuesday, September 14, 2021, California Gubernatorial Recall Election should have arrived in your mailbox. I have a high degree of confidence the subscribers to the DDC News will be voting—and voting "No" on the Recall.

Yet--we must do MORE. Make sure your family, friends, those who may need encouragement in these stressful, isolating times, VOTE and RETURN that ballot. For those who may be moving during this time: Make sure you request a "counter-ballot" in case you don't get your mail from your previous address. For information, go to YoloElections.org or call 530-666-8123.

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To support Gov. Newsom in our campaign, against the Republican Recall, the Club has engaged a student intern, Francisco Lopez-Montano, to provide technical and social media expertise, to coordinate our work with the Davis College Democrats, to support all aspects of our political outreach and to serve as your contact person if you want to assist in the campaign.

By way of introduction, Francisco writes: *I'm a senior at UC Davis and a longtime participant of the DCD. Over the past several years, I have helped in a variety of events by grassroots organizations from Delta Lambda Phi's previous Xi Chapter, LGBTQIA+ Centered Campus Organizations and other student organizations, including ASUCD. My immediate objectives include acting as a liaison with the Davis College Democrats, collecting information on all local efforts to defeat the recall, helping to update the DDC membership on the Club's efforts to defeat the recall and adding to the volunteer force. I will also devote much of my time/energy in labor-intensive efforts like sign distribution and sending voting reminders. If anyone would like to assist in these efforts, please contact me at fjlopezmonto@ucdavis.edu.*



"I thank you, the DDC members for creating this opportunity and I look forward to our sensational victory in defeating the Gubernatorial Recall."

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www.davisdemocraticclub.org

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