

March 2022

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DAVIS DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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Letter to the DDC
from **Congressman Mike Thompson**



Davis Democrats-

I am very excited to be back and running for reelection in the newly drawn 4th Congressional District.

As is the case every 10 years, new district lines have been drawn throughout the nation to ensure appropriate representation for all Americans (see *Redistricting* p. 2). I am happy that the new 4th District holds parts of California that I currently represent or have represented in the past. This new district includes all of Lake and Napa Counties and portions of Solano, Sonoma and Yolo Counties including Davis.

This is my home. I was born in our district, I grew up in our district, and I still live in our district. I consider it the honor of my life to represent our beautiful region in Congress.

Throughout my time in public service, I have worked hard with local leaders to address many of the challenges facing the City of Davis and Yolo County. In my past representation, I have: Worked with community leaders to make critical levee repairs and improve the Sacramento River Deepwater Channel to protect public safety and the local economy;

- Improved the Yolobus facility in Woodland that serves millions of riders;
- Helped the City of Winters open their new joint-use public library;
- Responded to the City of Davis for new emergency generators;
- Worked at the federal level to protect Yolo County water and preservation of historic agricultural lands;
- Helped grow UC Davis' renewable energy and sustainable agriculture programs;
- Co-chair of the Congressional Wine Caucus, leading the fight to protect Yolo County wineries, vineyards and agriculture.

As a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee and Chairman, I will continue pushing for sensible, responsible policy solutions that bolster the middle class, create jobs, lower the cost of housing and health care, and strengthen Medicare and Social Security for future generations. I will also continue working to empower young people by advancing bold policies that protect our environment and invest in education. And, as Chair of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, I will continue advancing commonsense gun laws like my legislation, H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act, which would help save lives by requiring background checks on all firearm sales.

I am humbled by the outpouring of support I have received from folks welcoming me back to Davis and Yolo County. I am especially thankful to you, the Davis Democrats, for your support as I prepare for the upcoming election. I look forward to representing you again in Congress.

Thank you,
MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

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Canary

Democratic News

Reflections on the 2021 California Redistricting Process

By Don Saylor, Yolo County Supervisor

Great Job, Davis and Yolo County Democrats! We made a difference in the Final Maps drawn by the 2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission. Our voices were heard and our "Community of Interest" perspectives were instrumental in shaping the Final Districts for Congress, State Senate and Assembly and Board of Equalization.

(See the Final Maps at: https://www.wedrawthelinesca.org/final_maps)

Back in October 2021, it was far from certain we would be able to make such a statement. But first, a bit of context. Article 1, Section 2 of the United States Constitution requires that "... actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct." That Enumeration is an actual count or census of the population to be used to allocate certain taxes and the numbers of representatives to Congress to come from each state. As with all of our history, there are some twists over the years, including who is to be counted and the process of the count.

While the census is used to allocate the total number of representatives by state, the Constitution does not specify how each state draws the district lines. This is not a simple process under any circumstances. Many states leave the redistricting process to the legislatures and to the dictates of partisan politics. There are countless examples of the pitfalls of raw political maneuvering in redistricting.

In 2008, California voters passed an initiative called the Voters First Act, which assigned the redistricting process to a 14-member Citizens Redistricting Commission. In 2010, that CRC conducted the process for the first time. Davis Democrats and our colleagues across the county and state actively participated in that process.

This year, the CRC got off to a late start due to delays in the completion of the census. Their task was unbelievably complex. They were charged with dividing California into 80 Assembly Districts, 40 Senate Districts, 5 Board of Equalization Districts, and 52 Congressional Districts (a reduction of one seat from 53 in effect from 2010-20). In arriving at these 172 distinct sets of boundaries the 14 Commissioners were asked to abide by all relevant laws and court precedents and the boundless dreams and affinities of 39.5 million people. California has an incredible diversity of communities of interest, complex geography punctuated with mountains, rivers and transportation corridors. Most of the 14 Commissioners had no prior experience in any similar task. The trajectory of their work was anything but a straight line as they jumped from map to map and continued to tweak up to the last minute.

With that Sysiphean task, the initial draft maps released as visualizations in October were disastrous for Yolo County Democrats. Several of us initiated an effort to inform and engage fellow Yolo residents in this process and our friends and neighbors did engage. Here is a rallying cry from October 14, 2021:

"Earlier this week, the Commission released Draft Maps for Congress and the California State Legislature. There are two versions of the maps. The maps show Yolo County being grouped in a Congressional District with areas quite unlike Yolo County. One version has us grouped with Alpine, El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Sierra, Nevada, Colusa, Yuba and Placer Counties. The other has Yolo combined with valley counties to our north. Neither have us unified with other Delta counties, or our neighbors in Solano and Contra Costa Counties who share economic base, transportation corridors or other dimensions of commonality."

We called in and waited our turns to speak. We wrote letters. We studied each iteration of the maps and shared insights. In the Final Maps, our voices are reflected. All of Yolo County is included together with our adjacent neighbors in the Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization maps. (*continued p.5*)

Garamendi in Davis January 6th: A coup is coming...

By Alan Hirsch

There was a vigil in Davis Central Park on the first anniversary of the January 6th insurrection attempt. This was a non-partisan event sponsored by the League of Women voters. 200 people attended. It was surprisingly underreported in local papers, even though Congressman John Garamendi shared eyewitness stories, like the smell of feces spread in the Capitol and or the fact that "some of our GOP colleagues threatened us personally in the ellipse."

Garamendi also made this provocative statement, which some might think headline worthy:

"The GOP is working toward a political coup."

"20 states have written laws across the county to deny legitimate voters the right to vote... We must be determined and focus on voting rights."

He ended with

"I have this message to you.... your duty, and my duty, using our voices, votes. And energetic determination that we will not allow a descent into autocracy, descent into the bigotry and hate

we have seen these last four years."

Maybe the January 6 insurrection is old news, as the shock has receding in the distant pass with other outrages and fights filling the headlines. And the backstory of January 6th is slowly becoming clear from the fact that there were organized alternate slates of Trump Electoral College

who swore perjurious affidavits; that over 1000 GOP public officials were involved in it some way in spreading the "big lie"; that there was an Insurrection command center peopled by Trump's personal lawyers and written plans. Or the fact Fox cable news personalities, (who continue to be on the air) were texting instructions to Trump during the riot.

But the investigation of January 6th continues, and what we are learning is just what we progressives would expect of the Trumpified-GOP where



*Taken in Woodland January 2022
The intentions are clear*

the ***will to power*** justifies all action, even the death of our democracy. Maybe the investigators will find enough smoking guns to finally convince & convict Trump's aides and maybe Trump himself? But just yesterday Trump promised, if reelected, to pardon anyone convicted of January 6 crimes.

On Martin Luther King weekend the *Enterprise* chose to run a political cartoon attacking Biden's call to protect voting rights. And the paper received not one letter in response to this. What does this say about the Davis *Enterprise* and our community's understanding of the dire need for action to protect our democracy?

* * *

County Supervisor Don Saylor also spoke at the Central Park vigil saying we should remember January 6 among other-historical days in American history—connecting it to other days which were successfully resolved to maintain the republic:





(from Garamendi page 3)

"There are days stamped so deeply into our national consciousness that we need only mention them, and a flood of emotion and memories are conjured. December 7, 1941, November 22, 1963, September 11, 2001. These days loom far larger than numbers on a calendar page.

"Sadly, January 6, 2021, is now one of those dates. This day must live on in history. It is not simply a number on a page or a leaf on a tree.

"It was a day when a mass of insurrectionists defiled the altar of our democracy. A phrase I think of often in these times is from the Federalist Papers: "A BAD CAUSE SELDOM FAILS TO REVEAL ITSELF."

"And not just for some of us but for all of us. A chief lesson of history is that we don't learn from the lessons of history. We must implore the Senate to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act to stop the present slipping back to a time when people of color are denied the right to vote by a set of nefarious schemes.

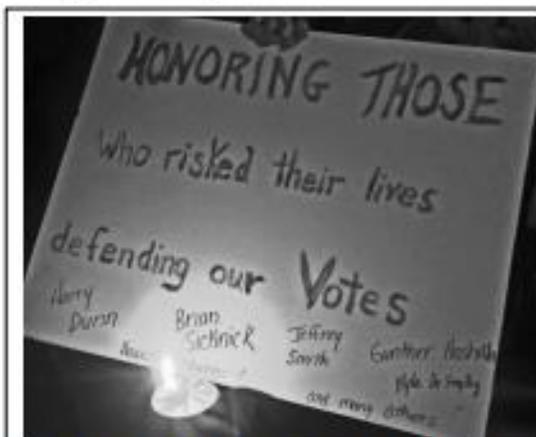
"History is not a disconnected series of random events. Each leaf on each branch of the tree is a part of a greater whole.

"We do not yet know the full story of January 6, 2021, because we the people are still writing it. Let us remember that day and let us act to make that day only a cautionary memory."

The action item we all were to take away from the vigil was to call our senator to vote to protect voting right. Certainly "call your congressman" this seems a next step. but what else? The urgency and danger we face at this political moment seem to call for something much more.

* * *

January 27th was International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Most of the remembrances were about the concentration camps and the death camps, recalled with grewsome pictures of the 6 million



At the 1/6/22 vigil in Davis one attendee carried a sign remembering the police who lost their lives (5 on the scene and at least 5 more afterward related to their trauma). The DC police union says 140 officers were injured that day.

killed. We all want to imagine ourselves as not being one of Hitler's enablers. But Stanford Professor Stanley Milgram's mock-prison camp experiment shows how normal people can be

turned into abusive enforcers of a corrupt government.

Davis Democrats might gain more from the lessons of the Holocaust by looking not at the 1940s in Germany, but instead looking at Germany's politics in the 1920s and the run up to Hitler's election in 1933. What lessons can we learn from that decade when progressives still had political agency and Germany was still a true democracy? What opportunities were missed at a time when Hitler was thought of as a buffoon? We should remember the weakness of the courts to protect that country's democracy: Hitler was freed from prison within a year after his attempted armed coup in 1923.

* * *

The first human reaction to a threat is not to panic but rather to freeze or deny its seriousness-- then look around to see what others, our leaders, are doing.

What do other people see when they look at us activists? Ho we Davis Democrats witness with our plans and actions the urgency of this political moment. I am not saying it is easy to break with standard operating procedures and scream "alarm." But the possible loss of our democracy is real, and that fact needs to be understood and faced with urgent - and dare I say dramatic -- actions to save our country.

Lucas & Stacie Frerichs
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 E.F. (Pat) Goldstene
 Rick Gonzales
 Judy & Ben Gonzales
 Catherine & Calvin Handy
 Dale Heckman
 Pat & Wes Honbo
 Bill Julian &
 Robin Kulakow
 Teresa Kaneko
 Gene & Carol Livingston
 Ruben & Elizabeth
 Martinez
 Ann Mearns
 Judith Moores
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 Brett Lee
 Robert Lawson
 Victor Lim
 Jerry & Kathryn Marr
 John Mott-Smith
 Dave & Robbie Murphy
 Sean Neal
 Pam Nieberg
 Gloria Partida

Redistricting (continued from p. 2)

The Congressional District places West Sacramento in a district with communities in Sacramento County while the rest of the County is once again united with Napa, Lake, Sonoma and parts of Solano.

We have enjoyed **superb Congressional representation** since 2010 by **John Garamendi** and thank him for his tireless work on our behalf. We **welcome back Mike Thompson** (see p. 1) and look forward to working with him again as well.

In a democracy, citizens must engage and when we do, it matters. Thanks all.

Under the Radar Not Under a Bubble: Davisites have Deep Sense of Political Fear



There has been a **ten-fold increase** in the number small campaign contributions from Davis to federal PACs and candidates over the last twelve years.

How do we harness this concern beyond getting Davisites to write checks?

- 2009-2012: 13,714 contributions (\$12-\$100 range)
- 2013-2016: 32,310
- **2017-2020: 133,932**

NOTE: Davis voted 90% for Biden and 86% for Hillary so a small amount of these contributions went to GOP'ers. Source: FEC reports of donations zip code 95616 and 95618 (provided by Alan Hirsch)

DDC Board Elections

Club officers are elected for a two-year term and the term of office for the current Board is expiring. The following members have been nominated for the indicated offices: Stephen Souza; Pres., Rick Gonzales; Vice Pres., Richard Yamagata; Rec. Sec., Ameer Asawaf; Tres., Giles Giovinazzi; Publicity, Gary Hopkins; Membership. Club Members are invited to nominate members for election to these offices and to vote in the forthcoming election. If you wish to nominate a Club Member for election to any office, please contact Bob Bockwinkel (530-219-1896). Under the unusual circumstances of COVID, this election meeting will be by Zoom during the regularly scheduled March 1 Board Meeting. As a separate matter, the Board welcomes your participation. 2022 promises to be a pivotal election in determining our country's future making your participation vital. If you wish to make a difference in the outcome of these elections, please consider joining the Board.

Lea Rosenberg
 Tony & Kathy Ruiz
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 Joan Sallee
 Gary Sandy
 Rosemary Schapiro
 Bob Schneider &
 Liz Merry
 Maynard Skinner &
 Cristy Jensen
 Barbara Slemmons
 Cass Sylvia & Craig
 Reynolds
 Nancy Stone &
 Barry Tharp
 Joyce Trujillo
 Rick Vulliet
 Ken & Diane Wagstaff
 Marty West
 Julia Whitmer
 James & Betty Woo
 Donald Winters
 Tilahun Yilma
 Richard & Jane Zeiger
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 Jan Agee
 Peter Adolay
 Sheila Allen
 David & Sue Barnette
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 Penny Gore
 Dave Griffin
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 Sandronsky
 Jonathon Howard &
 Theresa Costa
 Katie Kindston
 Helen Krell
 Barry Melton
 Bruce Mickle
 Melissa Moreno &
 Steve Nyholm
 Don Morrill & Sue Barton
 Jesse & Cruz Ortiz
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Democratic Newsletter

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rent events and photos:
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