

**April, 2012
Contents**

**Board Elections;
Measure C** 2

**Grand Opening of the Davis
election HQ** 3

**Statements by Candidates
for City Council** 4, 5



Paid for by the Davis Democratic Club FPPC 745-850

Club Fined by FPPC by Carl Schmid

The California Fair Political Practices Commission is a state agency that monitors and regulates the financing of elections. To ensure proper monitoring, political organizations are periodically required to file a variety of reports to the FPPC detailing all revenues and expenditures. In December, DDC Treasurer Betty Weir, received notification that following an investigation, the FPPC had determined the Club had violated numerous reporting requirements dating back to 2006. The charges included missing, incomplete and inaccurate reports. There was no charge or even the vaguest suspicion of criminal intent but rather simple charges of noncompliance. Using a formula based on the number of charges, the FPPC threatened legal action with a possible fine of \$45,000 but offered a settlement of \$23,000.

These charges came as a complete surprise as the Board was entirely unaware that the Club had been under investigation and moreover had always thought that the Club was in full compliance with all regulations. Prior to receiving this notification, the Club had responded to FPPC's requests for additional information acting on the presumption that the agency merely required additional information to complete reports. In January, President Sen, Treasurer Weir, Richard Yamagata and I met with the FPPC staff. They explained that while an investigation of a small grass roots volunteer organization, such as the DDC, was unusual, their action had been prompted by complaints from a local Republican Party official, which then initiated a routine check of reports that had been previously filed. This subsequent audit revealed the problems outlined above.

Over the many years that Betty had filed FPPC reports on behalf of the

Club, their regulations and procedures have changed significantly requiring internet access to understand complicated rules and to download numerous forms. These developments led to unintended oversights, which were compounded by simple reporting errors and the difficulty of interpreting rather exacting regulations.

To meet these exacting FPPC requirements, virtually all political organizations now employ professional accountants specializing in this area to file the necessary reports. Quite simply, the job can no longer be reliably performed by a volunteer treasurer. Recognizing our unique situation, FPPC staff agreed to further reduce the proposed settlement to \$9,500 with the provision that we agree to their terms by mid-February or proceed to trial in March threatening a possible fine of \$45,000. Additional terms of their proposal required that the Treasurer sign a statement admitting fault, that we file amended reports for the previous two years and an informal agreement, that we change our method of reporting (see below).

Richard Yamagata proceeded to document and file amended reports for the previous two years as proposed. Working against a rather short deadline, Richard devoted approximately eighty hours of work during a two-week period to complete this arduous task. The Club greatly appreciates Richard's willingness to assume this responsibility and the skill with which he solved multiple problems.

The FPPC charges and proposal were reported to the DDC Board at its Feb. 7th meeting. Discussion of this pending legal matter was properly held in a closed session to enable a frank presentation of the circumstances, our available options and possible consequences of each choice. While the Club's noncompliance

with FPPC regulations was unintentional, there was nonetheless an extensive, documented record, albeit a result of our inadequate system. The Board voted unanimously to accept the proposed settlement.

The FPPC has now formally accepted this settlement. The DDC Board acknowledges and regrets its previous failure of oversight in this matter. The following changes are being explored and will be implemented to ensure that this failure does not occur again: 1) The Board will select and hire a professional, political accounting agency to file future FPPC reports and to guide the Club in FPPC compliance. 2) A small committee will assist the Club Treasurer in filling required information and reports such that no single person carries this responsibility alone. 3) Members of this committee, including the Treasurer, will be given FPPC and Federal Election Commission training. The FPPC has already been contacted regarding this training. 4) Internet access will be required for future Club treasurers enabling them to monitor FPPC regulatory changes, download forms and share data files with the professional agency and supporting committee.

Lydia Blais has courageously agreed to serve as DDC Treasurer at this most difficult time. However, this new assignment comes at an impossible time for Lydia, who has just recently moved and must attend to more immediate problems. Consequently, she will be unable to fully assume her new duties for approximately three months. We, therefore, invite and welcome the assistance of any member, who is willing to assist her during this crucial period.

Again, the Board apologizes to you for our lapse in effective oversight and truly regrets this unforeseen development. We intend that this will not be repeated.

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Recording Secretary:
 G. Richard Yamagata
Treasurer:
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 Barry Wilson
Photography:
 Luba Schmid

Calendar of Events

Tues., April 3, 7:00-9:00pm regular DDC Board business meeting. Club members and the public are welcome, Pres. Sen and Secretary Yamagata draft the agenda, Davis Library Meeting Room.

Sun., April 14, 5:00-7:30pm Congressman John Garamendi's Yolo county Annual Pasta Dinner, Veterans Memorial Center, 203 14th St. Davis (for sponsorship information call 916-863-6881).

Sun. June TBA Champagne Brunch

Betty Weir steps down in Board Election by Carl Schmid



Completing twenty-one years of service as Club Treasurer and political advocacy dating back to FDR's election, Betty Weir (l.) will assume her new role, as *Treasurer emerita* in membership outreach. Her distinguished, long-term contributions, involving sixty years of continuous service, to advancing good government cannot be easily understood, appreciated or reported. For brevity, suffice it to note

that we should each strive to burn a single candle so brightly and for so long.

Lydia Blais (above) has agreed to serve in the critical office of Treasurer during this critical transition (p.1). Pres. Arun Sen, Vice Pres. Mike Syvanen, Recording Secretary Richard Yamagata, Publicity Chair Tim Fenton and Membership Chair Carl Schmid were each reelected.

Interested Club members are also invited to join the Board by appointment rather than by election. Depending upon your particular interest, there are many ways for you to contribute.

2012 DONORS

BENEFACTOR (+\$200)

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 G. Richard Yamagata

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Davis reaffirms its commitment to Education by Carl Schmid



As most are aware, Measure C, the initiative to renew an existing school parcel tax comfortably passed by a margin exceeding the two-thirds vote threshold required for any tax. The campaign in favor of Measure C and the leaders in this campaign were scrupulously nonpartisan. This is entirely appropriate since providing children with the opportunity of a quality education should be a nonpartisan issue. (Nonetheless, recently one prominent Republican did famously connect educational opportunity with snobbery.) However, public education is a core Democratic value. The Club and the Yolo Democratic Central Committee, each endorsed Measure C and many Club members volunteered for phone banking and precinct walking in support of Measure C. Shown here are just a few of the many, who made this great success possible. The Newsletter regrets that space precludes showing a more complete photo record of

those who made this important victory possible; join us in thanking them all. (Shown l. to r: Parent Co-chair Barbara Archer, DJUSD Trustee Sheila Allen, Parent Co-chair Lori Duisenberg, Delaine Eastin, Bob Schelen, Martha Beetley and Tom Hagler.)

Continued p. 2

SPONSOR (\$100)

- Myra Gable
- Andrew & Judith Gabor
- Sue Greenwald & Mike Syvanen
- Jerry & Teresa Kaneko
- Tanya Noda & Harvey Yan
- Bill Ritter
- Mary Serra
- Warren Taylor
- Rich Vulliet
- Betty Weir
- Kathleen Williams-Fossdahl
- Barry Wilson
- Mariko Yamada & Janlee Wong
- Richard & Jane Zeiger

PASSPORT (\$50)

- Sheila Allen
- Rick & Linda Gonzales
- Albert & Natalya Lowey-Ball
- Julia Sadler
- Bob Schelen
- Betty & Jim Woo

Grand Opening of the 2012 Davis Campaign HQ

The 2012 Democratic campaign in Davis is off to an excellent start with the opening of the headquarters office at 2939 Spafford Ct (near the intersection of 5th and Spafford in East Davis). Attendance at the recent Grand Opening event filled the spacious office with energized Democrats (r.).



This office will serve as HQ for a unified campaign supporting the entire Democratic slate (including Pres. Obama, Senator Feinstein, Congressman Garamendi, State Sen. Wolk and Assembly-member Yamada among others) in the November election. However, Congressman Garamendi has

made Davis central to his reelection strategy in his newly redrawn district, which now includes parts of Yuba and Colusa Counties, regions which tend Republican. Consequently, the office has been jump-started by enthusiastic student volunteers for Congressman Garamendi under the capable leadership of Andrew Kim (front center), the Field Director for the Congressman's campaign. Andrew (714-833-4627; akim@garamendi.org) invites volunteers to become involved now.



Congressman Garamendi and his wife Patti (l. with Rita Martin) were very gracious making an effort to speak to all in attendance. In addition to having had children attend UCD, Davis has always strongly supported John Garamendi. For her part, Patti has quite literally, often walked precincts in Davis to get out the vote.

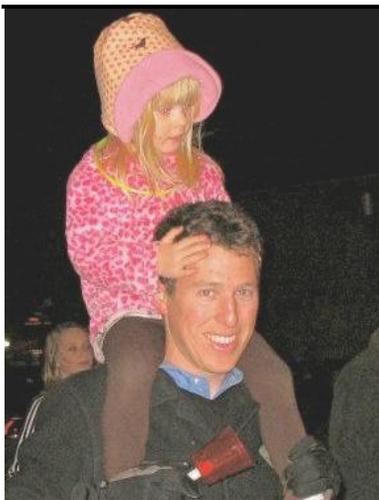
Commenting on the excitement filling the room, Assemblymember Yamada reminded the audience that Davis is a "net exporter of Democratic energy." In addition to supporting Congressman Garamendi, who is in a competitive race in a newly redrawn district, one targeted by national Republicans, this HQ will support Democrats in other California districts and in battleground states such as Nevada.



Senator Wolk (l. with Richard Rominger) observed that "values are being shredded in the debates among Republicans" for the nomination. She is "starting to feel a little better" as the electorate begins to appreciate the differences between the two parties.

In his remarks, Congressman Garamendi stressed protection of the Delta, educational opportunity, protecting health care reform, and a "made in America" jobs program, all issues placing Republicans on the wrong side. The Republicans have long been determined to do away with the Affordable Health Care Act but most recently, their determination has changed into a strange war on preventative health care for women. In addition to these paramount issues, the future of the Supreme Court will also be decided by this election, a Court, which has made a series of terrible decisions by a five to four vote along what can only be sadly described as party lines.





Dan Wolk: Having grown up and come of age politically in Davis, with a “yellow dog” Democrat for a dad and a Democratic State Senator for a mom, it’s not hard to see that the values of the Democratic Party – and this club in particular – are a core part of who I am. Everyone who is reading this, in ways both large and small, has made me who I am today.

The dual dedication to Democratic values and to Davis is what prompted me, after attending college (Stanford) and law school (Berkeley), to return to our community and serve. I founded the Legal Clinic of Yolo County, helped start and chaired the Yolo County Young Democrats, and served as Chair of the Davis Social Services Commission. And about a year ago I was appointed to the Davis City Council.

I now seek a full term on the city council for three reasons: (1) to continue to give back to a community that has given me so much, (2) to make sure my young daughters (Avery and Layla) and their generation will thrive in Davis the way my wife Jamima and I did, and (3) to continue to bring new ideas and leadership to city hall.

We are dealing with challenging issues right now, issues that will define our future, and we must face them squarely, not leave them to our children. I am proud of what I have accomplished so far, but there is much left to do. If elected, working with my colleagues I will continue to:

- Build a structurally sound city budget
- Improve our water quality, streets, greenbelts and parks
- Prioritize economic vitality and the downtown
- Achieve environmental sustainability
- Create affordable housing for seniors and young families

For more information, please visit <<http://www.danwolk.org>>



Stephen Souza: Davis is a world-class city. Children, students, families and seniors thrive and prosper in our inclusive community. Davis' sense of community has inspired me to embark on a 29-year career in activism, civic participation and public

service including eight years as your city council member. I've led efforts to save open space and agricultural land, to secure funding for public safety services, to balance our city budget and to address our housing needs while staying in accordance with the city's 1% annual growth guidelines. My work is not done.

In collaboration with my colleagues, these are the accomplishments I am most proud of:

- Attracted high tech companies: Mori Seiki, Expression Solutions, Digital Technology Laboratory
- Davis retail entities: Trader Joe's, Target, Forever 21
- Preserved 4,000 acres of open space
- Secured and pending grants of over \$20 million for the City's benefit
- Installed new patrol car camera systems
- Improved streetscapes in downtown
- Acquired Sacramento River water rights
- Balanced budgets every year in office despite difficult times
- Established the Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency

I will continue to work on your behalf based on three principles: Green, Safe and Smart.

GREEN

- Implement plan to reduce our carbon footprint
- Expand LED streetlight installation
- Provide energy via solar farms and residential installations

SAFE

- Deliver long-term clean reliable water supply
- Continue to provide police and fire services with maximum efficiencies
- Develop comprehensive funding plan to maintain and improve roads, bike paths and sidewalks
- Implement downtown transportation and parking plan

SMART

- Establish an innovation incubator hub
- Create revenue and jobs by having technology invented in Davis implemented in Davis
- Maintain balanced city budgets while providing services and addressing unfunded liabilities
- Reinvigorate downtown businesses and lifestyles

I would be honored to have your vote. Please visit <www.stephensouza.com>

Ed. Note (continued from p 4), Four supporters of the Davis Democratic Club, who are running for three city council vacancies present their statements (p. 4 & 5) for your consideration. Although we can only vote for three of these four good people, we can and should thank each for their service.



Lucas Frerichs:
(Legislative Director-California State Assembly; Davis Planning Commission, Chair)

I am proud to be part of our Davis community. Active engagement is the hallmark of our community; we've

worked together to chart our own course rather than settle for the conventional notions of the day.

Now, more than ever, we must draw upon our deep community commitment to craft a new vision and direction for Davis. We are on the cusp of a new era in city/state financing, investment in infrastructure, need for sustainable budgeting, environmental planning, economic development and community caring.

I bring commitment, common sense, and real experience to the City Council.

I came to Davis during high school. I met my wife here. We love living here.

Over the past 16 years, I have built a reputation as a constructive listener and leader through service with a number of community organizations (partial list):

- Chair, Davis Planning Commission
- Chair, Social Services Commission
- Treasurer, Yolo County Democratic Party
- President, Davis Food Co-op Board
- President, Yolo Mutual Housing Board
- Member, Yolo Basin Foundation Board
- Environmental/Budget Policy Advisor, California State Assembly

I will focus on the stewardship of Davis' money and environment. I will forge partnerships with our university, schools, non-profits and county to build a stronger community.

I just returned from the State Democratic Convention, and it was truly inspirational. The speeches fired us all up and motivated us to make California an even deeper shade of blue in 2012!

I love being a Democrat! We're committed to moving California forward, advocating for the most vulnerable, and restoring the middle class.

We're the party of the people—urban to rural, with all races, religions, ages, sexual orientations, equality among women and men, celebrating inclusion, and denouncing those who seek to divide us.

Democrats are the future in California!

I'd be honored to have your vote for City Council.



Sue Greenwald: I have served on the Davis City Council for twelve years, and served as your Mayor Pro Tem from 2004-2006 and as your Mayor from 2006-2008. I love the hands-on nature of city

council work. I love the fact that, at this very local level, I can see the tangible results of my hard work. I have a long-standing passion for excellent city planning, and I am running for re-election because I think that my experience is a valuable asset to the city and that my goals for the city are in tune with those of the majority of Davis citizens.

I am a lifelong Democrat. I still have a giant campaign button from my junior high school days in Bethesda, Maryland, which proclaims: IF I WERE 21, I'D VOTE FOR KENNEDY. In high school, I was active in the greater Washington, D.C. civil rights movement and as a graduate student at UC Berkeley, I was a member of our, Sociology Department Graduate Women's Caucus. Among other accomplishments of this small group, we convinced UC Berkeley Chancellor Roger Heyns to hire the first tenured woman to the Sociology Department, thereby setting an important precedent. (google "Sue Greenwald 1969 Berkeley" to learn more about this early woman's movement group).

As your councilmember, I have worked hard to achieve environmentally sensitive city planning, slow growth, genuine fiscal responsibility, and a walkable, bikeable, vibrant downtown.

A few examples of my council work over the years: I took the lead in bringing the independent film theater at the Varsity and bringing Bistro 33 to our surplus city building. I convinced the council to recruit the UCD-based consultants, who are leaders in the field, to redesign our new water treatment plant, saving \$80 to \$100 million. And I took the initiative to have twinkle lights installed downtown!

I enjoy this challenging job, and I offer to lend my experience and my hard work for another four years.

www.suegreenwald.org

Sunday, April 14 Pasta Dinner with Congressman Garamendi

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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

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Occupation & Employer (required FPPC)

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Direct: (530) 297-2210
Mobile: (530) 219-1896
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Email: bbockwinkel@golyon.com

