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**2014 Election Campaign Report**, by Bob Schelen, Chair, Yolo County Democratic Party



Completing another campaign cycle naturally raises the question: Why do we do this? We work to elect people who will strive to put into place policies that we believe will make our community, county, state, country and world better.

In this election, California, once again, stopped the red tide of the Republicans at the Golden State's border and **Yolo County played a significant role in that success.**

At the national level, California gained two Democratic Congressional seats; all statewide officers elected are Democrats, and we retained strong majorities in the State Senate and Assembly. Our efforts in Davis and Yolo County helped to reelect one of America's best Congressmen, John Garamendi, and helped to elect Bill Dodd to Assembly. Considering

our local endorsements, we were successful in six of eight races, including two seats for the Davis School Board, two seats for the Washington Unified School Board, and one for West Sacramento City Council.

With the **generous help of the Davis Democratic Club**, we were able to establish two coordinated campaign headquarters; one in Davis and one in Woodland. This achievement was a joint effort of the Yolo County Democratic Party, the DDC, Rep. John Garamendi and newly elected Assemblymember Bill Dodd. (Thank you, DDC Members! Please know that your valued support makes a difference.)

We phoned and walked precincts for the entire Democratic ticket including our local candidates. Many thousands of phone calls were made, and each city in Yolo County was canvassed by precinct walkers. We distributed over 14,000 door hangers (which were provided by the State Democratic Party) listing locally endorsed candidates along with the statewide slate of candidates and ballot propositions.

We were fortunate and glad to provide both financial support and volunteers to key races outside of our district, including the **reelection of Rep. Ami Bera**, the reelection of Assemblymember Rudy Salas and the election of Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin.

Our County campaign was invigorated by visits from State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, State Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones, Rep. Garamendi, Supervisor, now Assemblymember Bill Dodd, then Assemblymember Mariko Yamada, County Supervisor Don Saylor, Mayor Dan Wolk, City Council member Lucas Frerichs and supporters of Prop. 45, among many others. The energy of the young volunteers and others at the headquarters was palpable. Their enthusiasm was inspired and nurtured by John Garamendi's repeated attention (see Dec. Edition, DDC Newsletter).

While Democrats are generally satisfied with the results in Yolo and California, there are issues that require attention in the next election. Voter registration efforts successfully identified more Democrats, but many of those registered did not vote. In fact, the turnout for this election was at a historical low. Some attribute the poor turnout to this not being a presidential year; others attribute the turnout to a lack of top-tiered contested races. Regardless of the explanation, as a matter of fact, the turnout unacceptably low.

Some question the difference between the two parties or whether their vote counts. Understanding this frustration, in the larger picture, minimum wage, services for those in need, striving for better health care, the fight for public education and the right of every child to learn, among so many other issues are the reasons to vote and to keep fighting to move these ideals into the forefront of the body politic.

We, Democrats, must remind people of the efforts, turmoil, rage, and even lives that have been expended to ensure the right for all to vote. We must establish programs to reach and motivate those whom we register to vote. We need to learn what is important to Democrats and others as we ask them to vote.

Remember the lesson of 2014: When Democrats vote, Democrats win. Yes, this was a good year for Yolo and California Democrats, but let us work together to build and strengthen the Democratic Party in Yolo County, California and the United States. That is our challenge in 2015 in preparation for 2016.

Again, thank you to the Davis Democratic Club, its Executive Board, the other clubs in Yolo County, the campaign staffs and interns, and the members of the Yolo County Democratic Party for all your help for making this a successful year.

Onto 2016!

# Democratic News

## Davis Democratic Club Board

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### Photography:

Luba Schmid

## Calendar of Events & Campaign Activities

**Sunday, Feb. 15, 6:00-8:00 pm, (time tentative) Love Your Electeds.** Features a buffet potluck & informal discussion with local elected leaders. (Board provides the buffet, but please share your favorite dish.) I-House, Davis, contact Rick Gonzales 758-2331.

### 2014 DDC Campaign Follow-Up (& Money Well Spent)

Bob Schellen's report (p. 1) acknowledges the impact that the Club's support (AKA our DDC donations) had on promoting success, not only in many local elections, but also in elections in surrounding districts. In addition to funding the Davis HQ, which was crucial to the Yolo County campaign and the other campaigns that Bob identifies (see p. 1), you will be pleased to know that the Club **contributed directly to the successful reelection campaigns of both Congressman John Garamendi and Congressman Ami Bera. John Garamendi won the 3rd CD by 8,190 votes but carried Yolo county by 12,300 votes.**

Our contribution was well spent.

DDC dues are paid on a calendar-year basis. Accordingly, your 2014 contribution expires on January 1, and you will be reminded by the infamous red dots appended to your address label to renew your 2015 DDC membership in subsequent Newsletters. Individual members pay and, therefore, renew their dues at various times during the calendar year and are on the honor system to do so in twelve-month increments. Regardless of when you contribute, know that **your donation makes a difference.**

## 2014 DONORS

### BENEFACTOR (\$200+)

Bob, Marie &

Julie Bockwinkel

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Arun Sen

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Janlee Wong

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### PATRON (\$200)

Mike Adams & Lori

Llewelyn

Jan & Davis

Campbell

Andrew & Judith

Gabor

Joe & Betty Tupin

*Continued p. 4*

## 2014 Holiday Party



The Annual Holiday Party was a great, well-attended, low key event long on fellowship and short on formalities. New DDC Board member, Shannon McCall (*photo left with Helen Thomson*), assumed sole responsibility for decorating the hall and organizing the event resulting in a beautiful presentation and flawless proceedings.

Guests enjoyed an abundant

buffet dinner followed by holiday desserts.

DDC Vice President Rick Gonzales (*photo right*) presented a fast moving, spirited program. Given his family's long standing ties to the recipient of the Annual DDC President's Awards, Rick Gonzales was well positioned to recognize Dick Luna for his exemplary community service and extraordinary generosity, when awarding him the DDC President's Award. (*Continued p. 3*)



**SPONSOR (\$100)**

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 Madhavi Sunder  
 Warren Taylor  
 Helen & Captane Thomson  
 Rick Vulliet  
 Marty West  
 Kathy Williams-Fossdahl  
 Jane & Richard Zeiger



*Holiday Party, cont'd. from p. 2*  
 Rick reminisced about political meetings between his own father and Dick Luna (*l. photo*) organizing for Democrats in Woodland and Yolo County. Given all that Dick Luna has done for Davis and Yolo County, the DDC is delighted to have this opportunity to simply say "Thank You."

A beautiful, opal necklace donated by Steve and Robin Souza was the centerpiece in a well-subscribed, fundraising raffle. Naturally, a ticket which Robin purchased was selected in the lottery. However, Robin graciously refused to be re-gifted resulting in a second drawing. Tim and Liz Fenton, who have also contributed much, were the well-deserved winners.



**PASSPORT (\$50)**

Sheila Allen  
 William Arnold  
 Ameer Alsawaf  
 Fred & Janet Balcom  
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 Marilu Carter  
 John Chendo  
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 Norma Turner  
 Louise Walker  
 Betty Weir  
 Terry & Janellen Whittier  
 Don & Virginia Winters

Democratic Newsletter

*Love your Electeds*

*6:00 pm Sunday.*

*Feb. 15*

*J- House, Davis*

Davis Democratic Club

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See the website photo gallery:

[www.davisdemocraticclub.org](http://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 by FPPC)*

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

Campaign Activities   Fundraising   Voter Outreach

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