

July, 2011

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**Mike Thompson**

*Davis Democrats are the best.*

*...common set of values at risk...*

*People, who are poor are not going to keep from getting sick*

*Here is our plan, Medicare; another is Social Security.*

*...get out of Afghanistan.*

*...terrorism is not a neat tidy thing...*

*...counter terrorism where it is...*

*...get our troops back quickly and safely.*

**Dave Jones**

*...priority to implement Health Care Reform...*

*...51% increase in profits...21% return on equity...these companies have monopoly power...*

*...reject excessive rate increases...*



**Champagne Brunch: Congressman Mike Thompson and Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones** by Carl Schmid

Despite the threat of lingering showers, eighty attended the 22nd annual Champagne Brunch, which was again hosted by Bill Julian and Robin Kulakow at their home. Club members generously provided great dishes (two hams donated by Mary Serra deserve special recognition) and tents to keep off the occasional sprinkle.



Congressman Mike Thompson (I.), the featured speaker, was joined by a surprise guest, California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones.

Thompson expressed deep appreciation for the Club's "tremendously successful" work in previous campaigns while encouraging Yolo Democrats to begin preparing for the upcoming 2012 election (see p. 2). As exemplified by the drastic cuts to Medicare and Medicaid that were proposed in the Ryan budget, Democratic values are at risk.

Thompson reminds us that before Medicare, "people who had worked all of their lives could not afford Health care. This [Medicare] was a need across the country. Now, Ryan asks why Democrats keep calling it [the Ryan Plan] a voucher system. Because, it is a voucher system." This drastic change is being "proposed under the guise of balancing the budget" while giving "1.5 trillion back to the wealthy in the form of tax cuts." Countering Republican calls for a Democratic plan, Thompson's answer are Medicare and Social Security, one plan started in 1965 and the other serving our nation's needs for 75 years

together enabling "seniors to live with dignity and assurance."

As a member of the House Intelligence Committee and also as a war veteran, the Congressman has long been critical of our rationale for being in Afghanistan pointing out that terrorism is not simply located in one place but is "spread out all over the world" including our own cities. He wants more effective ways to combat terrorism regardless of where it is located.

Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones



(I.) made a surprise appearance at the Brunch. Noting that Health Care Reform is under continuing

assault, he stated that his top priority as Commissioner has been to implement HCR in California, in particular, one provision of that law requires that starting this year, insurance companies must spend at least 80% of the premium that they collect on actual health care costs.

Although the Insurance Commissioner has limited legal authority, Jones explained how he was able to delay a requested rate increase ultimately cutting the request by 6% and saving customers 31 billion dollars. Frequent requests for excessive rate increases for long term Care (LTC) have been another continuing problem. (continued on p.2)

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**Calendar of Events**

**Tues., July 5, 7:00-9:00 pm**, regular **DDC Board business meeting**, general members and public welcomed. IOOF Hall 2nd St. Davis  
**Sat. June 25, 12:30-2:30pm**, **Local Organizing for America** will hold a grassroots planning session for the local campaign to re-elect President Obama. Davis Branch Yolo County Library (see article below).  
**Mon. July 4, 2:00-8:00 pm**, **Celebrate July 4th in Community Park**, volunteer to greet the public and give balloons to children. Contact Carl, 756-6569.

**Organizing for America grass roots planning session**



*Ed. Note* Those who know Martha (photo above) and Tom as being among the first Obama supporters in Yolo County and tireless volunteers in 2008 will be glad to learn that they are starting the 2012 reelection campaign.

will be held on Saturday, June 25, from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. in the Blanchard Room of the Davis Branch of the Yolo County (315 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street). The purpose of the get-together is to offer all interested volunteers an opportunity to discuss the upcoming local campaign to re-elect the President. We want to share visions for the campaign, strategize, shape the effort to build from the grassroots, and identify activities to engage voters. Please register online at mybarackobama.com (click on Events and find CD1 Community Conversation). For further information, contact Martha Beetley or Tom Hagler at 756-4222 or tomandmartha912@gmail.com

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**(Brunch cont'd. p 1.)** Jones suspects that companies intentionally offered low teaser rates to initially attract customers subsequently requesting approval of exorbitant irate increases by arguing that the premium is inadequate to support the policy. In this situation, the choice confronting the insured is to either drop the policy, thereby, losing all of the money that has been paid for years of unused insurance or to pay the increased rate knowing that the rate will be increased again and yet again during every year of the customer's lifetime creating a terrible situation for a long term care policy. Jones applauded legislation that Assemblymember Mariko Yamada has authored to control such rate increases. Senators Boxer and Feinstein have each indicated their support for this legislation, an unusual endorsement of state legislation by US Senators, and Mariko's bill has recently passed the Assembly.

The fine print in any insurance contract is *prima facie* evidence that insurance law is arcane. Dave Jones obviously knows his subject well and relishes protecting the consumer.



Some who gladly braved the rain (l.-r.): Mariko Yamada, Helen Thomson, Gina Daleiden, Lois Wolk, Jim Provenza, Mike Thompson, Don Saylor, Steve Souza, Sue Greenwald, Jerry Kaneko & Betsy Marchand.

## Summary of Speaker Perez's May 11th speech to Yolo Democrats: By Dave Bakay



In the phenomenal year 2008, we had record numbers for total turnout, occasional voters and young voter turnout ... and we picked up a net 3 seats. This was supposed to be our high water mark. Everyone expected 2010 would look like 1994, a year of defeat for Democrats.

Historically, in off-Presidential elections (like 2010), the President's party loses 5% of state legislators across the country. The Democrats lost over 600 seats and went from majorities to minorities in several states. BUT, we did not allow that to happen in CA!!! We not only won all the Statewide offices, but in the Assembly, we successfully defended all seats, including 2 which had been won in '08 by razor-thin margins (Alison Huber, who had won by less than 500 votes, and Jo Buchanan). And we added Dr. Richard Pan to a seat held by Republicans for 40 years! This was the only place in the country where Democrats picked up a Republican seat where the Republicans had a voter-ID advantage! We did it by hard work, organizing early to work against the '10 storm, and making the contest about competing values.

In the 2012 election, we need to replicate our efforts. 2012 looks to be exciting: Redistricting and the new top-2 primary system mean unknowns and new challenges. Without a baseline, this means we must get engaged early and everywhere. No conceding ground. Former safe seats may be in play. We need to mobilize now! We need to work for the very future of the state. Perez wants to have a Democratic (super) 2/3rds majority in both CA houses, "so we have people to take responsibility to govern!" The Rep's have not helped govern, especially with the budget. The budget crisis has been years in the making. It can't be solved overnight. The greatest increase in cost is the interest on debt; Gov. Schwarzenegger pushed bonds to pay for our needs and they are very expensive.

Gov. Jerry Brown has presented a sober realistic budget with loads of cuts as well as revenues extensions. Democrats support a balanced approach so we can protect our values while building back from the greatest recession since the great Depression. We're fighting to protect education funding, protect public safety and extend revenues so we don't destroy momentum and undermine our values. Now our revenues are about \$2.5 Billion over projections but the gap is \$26 Billion in structural debt. This does not mean we do not need extensions. The good news is that in February, 95,000 new jobs were created – the highest one-month increase in 20 years! The economy is starting to turn around, but for many, the recession is

still very real. We cannot make short sighted budget decisions which undermine that recovery or that force Californians to lose their jobs. We need to invest in our future.

The Republicans want an "all cuts" fix to the budget but were hypocritically AWOL when it came to voting on cuts. They fear right-wing talk-show hosts more than they care to help govern. They refused to engage even on voting for the cuts they called for. They have 28 seats (35% of the Senate), but cast only 7% of the votes. They have blocked the people from expressing themselves on tax extensions while illogically and irresponsibly supporting tax breaks for huge out-of-state corporations. We need to elect responsible solution-oriented legislators who look out for our values. This means electing 2/3rds Democratic majorities in both houses. We can do it! To be successful, we need to replicate our hard work and unity of 2010. We need to continue to talk to everyone we know about the issues and register new voters. Our values are California's values. We need to remind people of that and what is at stake. When people vote, Democrats win. When Democrats win, California wins.

Responding to a question, Perez answered that if we receive more income than needed to balance the budget, we should: 1) repay education funds which have been underfunded for years and 2) pay off principal on the debt, thus, saving money in the future.

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