

July 2020

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DAVIS DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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Campaign Roundup: The Club and County Party are each working to redefine political campaigning during this COVID-Age. To this end, Bob Bockwinkel has spearheaded an ingenious way for you to **campaign** from the safety of your **kitchen table** by writing personal notes to voters in targeted races throughout the country (see page 2). Jesse Unruh famously quipped “*Money is the mother’s milk of politics.*” Your Club has already contributed funds to two **promising US Senate** races (**Kelly in Arizona and Bullock in Montana**) and will soon decide where best to allocate the bulk of our resources, (*i.e. your generous contributions*). In response to Bill Julian and Bob Schelen’s request (**see below**) the Club has also contributed to the State Democratic Party. Whereas a candidate places a face on a request for donations, the Party’s essential work is largely behind the scenes and, consequently, often goes unnoticed. And as they explain, the California Democratic Party has been highly effective thereby deserving our support. **Given the importance of the moment, also please take this opportunity to renew your DDC dues or make a donation. Dues and Donations can now be paid using ACTBlue on the Club website <davisdemocraticclub.org>.**

Special Request to Yolo Democrats by Bill Julian & Bob Schelen

Friends and Colleagues

The California Democratic Party (CADEM) has established a person-to-person fundraising program to support the Fall 2020 political campaign, the **most consequential campaign of our lifetimes**. The goal is for the Trail Raisers to raise \$2 million (out of a total campaign budget of \$12 million) to **support CADEM’s efforts to elect Democrats in California** and to assist Democratic campaigns in the battleground states of **Arizona and Nevada**. Rusty Hicks (State Party Chair) has reached out to us personally to raise \$10,000 among our friends in Yolo County. We have told the CADEM that this should be a group effort by Yolo County.

We are asking the Davis Democratic Club to donate \$1000 toward the group effort. (**Ed. Note;** The DDC Board unanimously supported this request.) We are **asking** each of **you** to donate what you can. You can donate at this link: https://act.cadem.org/vtHloK_Zt0WatzON7hw4zQ2

Making a personal donation to the CADEM is a statement about what kind of party we want: responsive, independent of corporate control, participatory. As activists we have all shown a high level of commitment of time and energy to do the work of politics. As donors we all help to support the structures (training, coordination, direction, logistical support) that enable us to focus and be impactful as we do the work.

CADEM is the most effective state Democratic Party in the country. We hold **all statewide elective offices**; we have **two-thirds majorities** in both houses of the **state legislature** and **85%** of the **Congressional seats**, without resort to political gerrymandering like the Republicans in states that they control. Trail Raisers is a way to show support for the continued effectiveness of our Party.

Again, we are asking each of you to donate what you can. You can donate at this link: https://act.cadem.org/vtHloK_Zt0WatzON7hw4zQ2

Thank you for all that you do. And thank you for making this extra effort.

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Campaigning from Home by Marie Bockwinkel & Carl Schmid

A **handwritten letter** is considered to be the third most effective method of political outreach. Since COVID-19 precludes all in-person campaigning, we have selected this method to distribute our message.

To date, **forty volunteers** are already participating in the **Club's letter writing campaign** to targeted races. However to reach our full potential, more volunteers are needed. If you wish to participate or have any questions, contact Bob Bockwinkel at **530-219-1896** or at email bbockwinkellrn@gmail.com.

Volunteers in this campaign are provided with stationary, pre-stamped envelopes, an address list (typically twenty addresses) to a targeted district and a brief script describing the local Democratic candidate and issues. You are invited to personalize this note by adding a sentence or two explaining why voting is important to you.

Among other accomplishments, we have written: 1) 200 letters supporting Christy Smith in the special election for CD #25; 2) 500 get-out-the-vote letters from VoteForward.com to occasional voters in Texas; 3) letters on behalf of Josh Harder in CD #10; 4) and Brynne Kennedy in CD #4 (running against Tom McClintock); 5) and Phil Abrallo in the CD #22 (running against Devin Nunes). So far, we have written 2,200 letters.

The possibilities are open ended and limited only by the number of volunteers. You can **make a difference** by doing this work in the **safety and leisure** of your own home. *We need your help!*

DDC DONORS BENEFACTOR

\$1000+

Arun Sen

\$500+

Bob, Marie &
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Cont'd p. 3

What 'defunding the police' means. By Dillan Horton



In the past few weeks, Davisites have marched through the streets five times, with a sixth in the works. The marchers chant and carry signs with a short but complex message, "**Defund the Police.**" As Chair of the Davis Police Accountability Commission, it's a message I've heard from a lot of Davisites in emails and public comments at our meetings. But what does 'defunding the police' mean and why as a Democrat should you support it?

It's important to start off by saying that "Defund the Police" exists on an escalating spectrum of options. The first level, the one we've been in for the past 20-30 year, is Police Reform. On this level you'll find things like diversifying police ranks, the institution of body cameras, implicit bias training, and even the creation of police boards/commissions. As communities and activists get frustrated with the lack of positive results in these efforts they often escalate to other options, including defunding the police and eventually police abolition. It is important to note that police reform efforts have yielded important results. Duty-to-intervene-polices have helped create more accountability for officers, as have things like body cameras, and the creation of police boards/commissions creates an expectation of transparency and public discourse that didn't previously exist. (Continued p.3)

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continued

(Police, Continued from p.2)

On the other hand if you're a parent who is afraid of your black/brown children interacting with police, all of that can seem great but not enough.

Defunding the police means two main things. The first is being smarter about how we spend public safety dollars broadly. If we understand that armored vehicles don't make communities safer, then maybe the City of Davis should not have purchased a \$138,000 Armored Rescue Vehicle. Defunding also means taking the dollars we put into responding to non-violent calls and seeing how we can allocate that to more appropriate services separate from law enforcement. Over the next few weeks, the Police Commission along with Social Services and the Human Relations Commission will be putting forward proposals along these lines. Be sure to stay engaged with that process.

DDC BOARD MEMBER is a BIDEN DELEGATE

Congratulations to Jan Agee for winning a competitive election as a Biden delegate to the Democratic Convention. Jan reports that the details of how the virtual convention will be conducted during the COVID era remain to be organized. Jan has the additional distinction of having served as a Clinton delegate in the 2016 Democratic Convention.



Arun Sen

With great sadness, I report the passing of our friend, colleague and long time DDC leader, Arun Sen. Arun's civic engagement included numerous volunteer organizations in which he inspired others by his selfless devotion, humility, generosity and irrepressible humor. He led our Club through difficult circumstances and to significant accomplishments. A devoted father and grandfather, Arun passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family. We extended our deepest sympathy to Anita and Monina. We thank the many DDC Members & friends who have donated to the Club in Arun's memory.

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Thomson
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Democratic Newsletter

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See the website for current events and photos:
www.davisdemocraticclub.org

To JOIN or RENEW or renew your 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 or ACT Blue on our website <www.davisdemocraticclub.org>.

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