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DAVIS DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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## Report from YCOE Trustee Area 2, Dr. Melissa Moreno



At the heart of my service are the students of the Yolo County Office of Education (YCOE). During my first six months in office, I have:

- Become familiar with the roles and responsibilities of the Board, acting as the appeals board for student expulsions, inter-district transfers, and Charter School petitions
- Visited most YCOE sites – Head Start, Cesar Chavez Community School, Greengate School, Yolo County Career Academy, Dan Jacobs School, and Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) – to learn more about the academic and/or career curriculum, culturally relevant pedagogies, and the social emotional well-being of students
- Educated myself about the lives of our YCOE students and families
- Worked to support educational programs for our most marginalized and resilient students.

It was my honor to offer a keynote at the EAOP UC Davis emphasizing careers in education, the including at County Offices of Education, and also to attend:

- The Swim Team film and discussion offered by SELPA
- “Dreaming America: Voices of Undocumented Youth” by Acme Theatre Company featuring poetry written by youth in detention centers
- YCSBA Excellence in Education Awards
- County Board Governance Workshop.

While California has the 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world, we remain 44<sup>th</sup> in our level of funding per pupil. In order to best serve our local students, ongoing, state-wide advocacy to prioritize public education funding will be critical.

Statewide, I encourage all of us to stay engaged on the issue of charter schools, which continue to present challenges and opportunities within our public education system. While dependent charters schools are created in collaboration with the community and educators, independent charters schools receive little to no oversight. There are over 1,200 charter schools in the State of California, but it is unknown exactly how many are in each district. Under current state law, districts and county offices cannot consider fiscal impact evidence in charter school decision-making. A proposed assembly bill addresses this serious problem.

On the local level, I encourage each of us to engage with:

**Creating School Board District Elections:** To meet California’s civil rights mandate to address gerrymandering, most school districts in Yolo County have reorganized their school board’s to represent geographical areas. I voted in support of West Sacramento redesigning their school district elections by area. Soon Davis Joint United School District leadership may consider a vote on this matter as well.

**Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP):** To ensure equity, this funding planning needs to fully engage students and parents in authentic decision-making and accountability. The county superintendent is responsible for reviewing and approving each district’s LCAP.

**Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA):** The goal of this planning tool is to help counties and districts collaborate to best support students in Special Education. Autism among boys is the fastest growing disability category. (*continued p. 3*)

# Democratic News

## Calendar of Events & Campaign Activities

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**Sun., June 23, 11:00-2:00 pm. The Annual Champagne Brunch**, hosted by Bill Julian and Robin Kulakow at their home, **43556 Almond Lane**, features an ample buffet brunch served with beverages. (You are invited to share a favorite dish.) A **recently elected State Constitutional officer** (TBA) is tentatively scheduled as the keynote speaker for a program that includes presentations by our local elected officials. This is the DDC's principal annual fundraiser and the source of much political good. We, therefore, hope that you can join us for this important, fun event.

**Tues., July 2, 7:00-9:00 pm. Monthly Board Meeting, Blanchard Room in the Davis Library** The Board conducts routine business and plans future events. All members are invited.

**Thurs., July 4th, 4:00-8:00 pm. DDC Table/July 4th Celebration.** The Club will host a community outreach table and distribute voter information at Community Park during the annual July 4th celebration. Volunteer to help out by taking a one or two-hour shift. Contact Carl, <cwschmid@comcast.net>.

### ***Tabling for Resistance & Unity Is Looking for Help*** by Alan Hirsch



***Signing Petitions for Democratic Unity at Farmer's Market***

The better part of winning is just showing up. Not just at the polls but identifying yourself as a proud Democrat in public places. **Show that you have faith that individuals can make a difference through the political process.** And it is surprising when you do this, how much "love" you get back from people looking for hope. Tabling for Unity is an opportunity to turn this showing up and "witnessing" for the Democratic Party into progressive action and change.

Most Davis Dem's have seen the **Resistance Table at Davis Farmers Market.** This effort, lead by Alan Hirsch, has appeared at 225 events now, including weekly Davis Farmers Markets, rallies and other political gatherings. It started in August 2016 with the "Stronger Together" distributing flyers in the market to persuade passers-by even though they were Blue State voters, they could do more than simply vote to support Clinton. It helped potential volunteers learn how they could join a phone bank or get on the bus to canvas in Nevada. The volunteer recruiting tabling continued even in the darkest days following the Trump election in winter of 2016/17, sharing opportunities for political activism: Town Halls, rallies, marches and joining newly formed local activist groups like Sister District and Indivisible. The table offered people a chance to take action by posting lawn signs affirming democratic values like "Support Science" and "Love your Neighbor." The table has passed out over 14,000 fliers offering opportunities for people to "get involved."

The table serves two purposes. First, it attracts new volunteers by normalizing activism and volunteerism. The table engages passers-by with "conversation" openers like a free American Flags and an opportunity to talk about issues of the moment. **(continued p. 3)**

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***(continued from p. 2)***

For example, the current tabling effort is to sign the “Democratic Unity” from the Indivisible petition to unite behind the winner of the Democratic presidential primary.

The second purpose is to communicate to previous volunteers and activists that they are needed now. The table in effect provides regular “office hours” for the progressive movement in Davis, a place to discuss the challenges we all face in living through these difficult times. Being at the table is fun: People thank you for being there, offer donations, and share what’s on their mind. This can lead to fascinating conversations—with students new to politics, foreigners, out of state visitors, swing voters, and even with Trump apologists on a given Saturday. In fact, if you are dispassionate and learn to ask the right questions of Trump apologists you meet at the market, you can expose the shallowness of their arguments while still respecting them. This refines your ability to talk to swing voters and engage those “certain” family members and friends.

With the important 2020 election ahead, and chances of Democratic fractiousness looming, this Unity Tabling needs an infusion of support. Additional volunteers on Wednesday and Saturday at the Davis Farmers Market will help engage more people person to person. Help is also needed for compiling/editing the recruitment flier and establishing an Internet presence. If you want to have some fun and make a difference, stop by the table at Farmers Market any Saturday.

***(County School Board update continued from p. 1)***

The “best” quality SELPA program has been identified in Davis California. Yet funding is severely limited and challenges remain in each district.

In the coming months, I look forward to supporting the Head Start leadership to sustain quality food for children, the YC Career Academy, the early childhood education initiative, attend the CCBE Annual Conference, and to be attentive to the DJUSD election by area and the conditions for youth currently at the Dar Jacobs School and ORR.

Lastly, I would like to hear your thoughts for Yolo County Office of Education supporting students, teachers, and parents for the next academic year. Please submit your comments to [melissamoreno4ycboe@gmail.com](mailto:melissamoreno4ycboe@gmail.com). Thank you for your ongoing support for our students and communities!

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**Democratic Newsletter**

**Champagne Brunch**  
**Sunday, June 23**  
**11:00-2:00 pm**

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[www.davisdemocraticclub.org](http://www.davisdemocraticclub.org)

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