

Mar. 2019

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DAVIS DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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Legislative Update: Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry



Greetings, Davis Democratic Club members! It is an honor to serve Assembly District 4 for another two years. I am so grateful to you for supporting me. During my first two years, my team and I got **37 of 37 bills signed** by Governor Brown, and we have big plans ahead for 2019! We are excited to work with our new Governor, Gavin Newsom, and a record-breaking 61 Assembly Democrats to **get things done!**

My **highest priority** this year is **Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1**, which will reduce the vote threshold for local bonds and special tax measures from $\frac{2}{3}$ to a 55% majority, on par with school district measures. ACA 1 will increase local options for critical infrastructure projects like affordable housing, park facilities and bike lanes, road repairs and broadband expansion. Since 2001, 80% of $\frac{2}{3}$ supermajority measures reached 55%

but did not pass. I am proud that 35 of my colleagues have joined me to coauthor ACA 1. If passed by the Legislature, ACA 1 will go before California voters on the November 2020 ballot.

We are also proud to support Congressman Mike Thompson in his effort to pass House Resolution 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act. My Assembly Joint Resolution 4, which recently passed the Assembly, puts California's Legislature on record demanding swift approval by Congress and a Presidential signature on HR 8. The bill would eliminate a federal loophole that allows criminals and severely mentally ill persons to bypass **universal background checks** on gun purchases.

My Assembly Bill 958 will bring local, organic food to children in our schools. This pilot program will allow school districts to apply for additional funding for school meals with certified organic, California-grown foods. Our **children** should have healthy, **safe food at school.**

We are also tackling a huge part of our democracy: voter outreach. I'm excited to partner with the Yolo County Elections Office to create the **High School Voter Education Pilot Program**, to allow students to experience firsthand what voting is like, machines and all, while actually voting for their student government. Assembly Bill 1036 also includes funding for the Secretary of State to enforce California law requiring **voter outreach** programs in low-registration counties in the wake of the federal government's abandonment of enforcement of the Voting Rights Act passed during the Civil Rights Movement.

I am also working with State Treasurer Fiona Ma on a comprehensive **Master Plan on Aging**, including our Assembly Bill 1382, to ensure that we are planning for Long Term Care for our older adult community. The "Silver Tsunami" is coming and our state must be prepared to help care for the seniors who have built our state and nation. Stay tuned for updates on the plan!

We are working on so much more and are eagerly looking forward to the year ahead. I hope you'll let me know of the issues you are passionate about, and visit my website at <http://www.a04.asmdc.org/> to read all about our work and to give me feedback. Please stop by our Davis office to say hello. Thank you again for your support of Democrats in California and beyond!

Follow the Davis Democratic Club on **Facebook** (<https://www.facebook.com/DavisDemocrats/>) and **Twitter** (<https://twitter.com/DavisDemocrats>). We're posting great content: articles and videos about national, state and local progressive political issues; engagement and discussion with fellow Democrats; humor and information about local political events. Please join us and invite your friends to join us!

Democratic News

Calendar of Events & Campaign Activities

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Sun., Early June (Time and Place TBA) The Annual Champagne Brunch is being planned for early June. A **recently elected State Constitutional officer** has tentatively agreed to be the keynote speaker. Watch for further announcements.

Tues., Apr. 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.

Stop the Citizenship Question; Ensure a Complete Count in California by Bob Schelen, Chair Yolo Democratic Party



A Court of Appeals struck down the effort by Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and the Trump Administration to put a citizenship question on the 2020 Census Questionnaire. However, the United States Supreme Court has decided to take up the case later this year.

Let's hope the U.S. Supreme Court sees through the specious claim that a citizenship question is warranted. It is not only my opinion, but the opinion of a census advisory council.

The Constitution requires the federal government to take a national census every ten years, which it has done since 1790. The important aspect of that constitutional census requirement, and Supreme Court decisions related to it, is that the federal government is required to count everyone living in the United States at the time of the census, regardless of legal status. So the citizenship question is irrelevant to the government's constitutional mandate.

It is true the government has asked the question on past censuses, but not since 1950. It did so because of the "Red Scare." It was wrong then too.

What's really going on here is an attempt by the Trump Administration to scare folks, the undocumented, and those who may live with them, into avoiding census takers. When the government makes a major political issue out of ejecting people living here, and even tries to deport citizens in the process, there's an understandable reticence among immigrants to answer questions from bureaucrats.

Many immigrant communities tend to be in urban areas that support Democrats. So, by depressing the immigrant count in the census, the congressional and legislative district lines that are drawn on the basis of the new census count get warped, leading to unequal distribution—the undercount results in more people living in Democratic districts than in Republican districts, tilting an unfair advantage to more conservative rural areas.

It is a cynical move to lessen financial aid in urban areas, give Republicans an upper hand in legislative and congressional districts in the next ten years, and work to find more ways to keep people unfairly out of the United States.

We need to do things between now and Census time next year. Advocate to the Supreme Court, the folly of the citizenship question and make sure we render a complete and thorough census count for California.

We are all in this together!

Read more here: <https://www.miamiherald.com/opinion/op-ed/article226443950.html#storylink=cpy>

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Actual CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY!: What is a chain link fence enclosed into a chamber on a concrete floor? A cage?



Rep. B. THOMPSON D. MS: *“Are we still using cages for children?”*

Secy. DHS K. NIELSEN *“Sir, they’re not cages. We don’t use cages for children. To my knowledge, CBP never put a child in cages.”*

THOMPSON: *“I saw the cyclone fences that were made as cages.”*

NIELSEN: *“Sir, they are not cages, they are areas of the border facility that are carved out for the safety and protection of those who remain there while they’re being processed,”*

Rep. B. WATSON COLEMAN, D. NJ: *“What does a chain-link fence enclosed into a chamber on a concrete floor represent to you? Is that a cage?”*

NIELSEN: *“It’s a detention space, ma’am, that you know has existed for decades.”*

WATSON COLEMAN: *“Does it differ from the cages you put your dogs in when you let them stay outside? Is it different?”*

NIELSEN: Yes.

WATSON COLEMAN: *“In what sense?”*

NIELSEN: *“It’s larger. It has facilities. It provides room to sit, to stand, to lay down.”*

WATSON COLEMAN: *“So did my dog’s cage.”*

Rep. N. BARRAGAN, D. CA: *“You have no feeling, no compassion, no empathy here.”*

Ed. Note: *Would this questioning have even happened if the Republicans still controlled Congress? Thank you, The Democratic Party, Nancy, the Calif. Democratic Party, the Yolo County Democratic Party and, yes, you, DDC members*

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Champagne Brunch

TBA

A Sunday in early June

Davis Democratic Club

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www.davisdemocraticclub.org

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