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Why I am a Democrat by Bill Dodd



Many of us were raised with a set of bedrock values that pave the way for how we conduct our everyday lives. Over the years, my experiences as an elected official, successful small business owner and husband, father and grandfather have reinforced these values – that everyone is equal under the law, that access to high-quality education leads to economic opportunity for all and that government should be accountable for society’s long-term fiscal health.

These bedrock values are not negotiable, and they’ve led me to do things candidates typically would never risk doing. Take my party registration, for example. I’m a Democrat, but for many years I was a registered Republican. My registration change reflects the values I have always held, and the movement of the Democratic Party toward my values and the GOP away from them.

Some examples of this include the need for comprehensive immigration reform, a woman’s right to choose and LGBT rights, and each party’s approach to a narrowing of economic opportunity. On each of these, the Democratic Party’s worldview resembles my own.

Republicans have taken a different approach – one of obstructionism and political gamesmanship. GOP-controlled legislatures across the country have clamped down on voting rights and the ability of women to access reproductive health services. In Washington, the actions of Speaker Boehner and Congressional Republicans are preventing much needed federal action on a number of pressing issues.

Meanwhile in California, we’ve seen just what an effective government can achieve with Democrats in charge.

The Legislature took a step in the right direction toward economic recovery last year by raising the minimum wage. It was a modest step that will raise wages while helping decrease the number of people who rely on public services. At the same time, businesses become more profitable with improved employee attendance, morale and productivity. There’s much more the state can do to facilitate job creation, and I plan on working towards the goal of every Californian obtaining a job that pays them a living wage.

In lieu of the Republican Congress blocking comprehensive immigration reform on the federal level, Governor Jerry Brown and the Democratic Legislature have taken matters into their own hands with its own version of immigration reform in California. New laws like the TRUST Act, DREAM Act and drivers licenses for undocumented immigrants move in the right direction to ensure social equity for our immigrant communities.

California is leading the way when it comes to environmental stewardship with AB 32 and greenhouse gas reduction programs. The state’s cap-and-trade program is in its infancy, and I look forward to working with key stakeholders on these issues along with other critical environmental protections, including a ban on offshore oil drilling and opposition to the “Twin Tunnels” Delta project.

It’s achievements like these that make me proud to be a Democrat. I hope to earn your support in order to go to Sacramento and continue fighting for these Democratic values in the Assembly.

(Ed. Note: Bill Dodd is the Democratic Candidate to represent AD#4, which includes Davis .)

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Calendar of Events & Campaign Activities

Tuesday, August 5, 7:00 pm, Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting. The Board conducts planning and routine Club business. All Club members are invited to attend. Yolo County Democratic Campaign HQ at 911 3rd St, Davis.

Saturday, Aug. 16, 2:00-8:00 pm, Yolo County Fair. The Club hosts the County Party's information booth-greeting the public, distributing information and registering voters. Volunteer for one or two hours having fun while celebrating Democracy; contact Rick 758-2331.

Sunday, Sept. 7, 5:00-8:00 pm, Yolo County Democratic Bean Feed. Veterans Memorial Building, Davis. Speakers will include national and state leaders (special guest TBA); dinner is a great BBQ .

Sunday, Oct. 12, 4:00-8:00 pm, Hukilau Celebration (AKA a Hawaiian community celebration). Hosted by Stephen and Robin Souza at their home. Details TBA but plan on joining the fun.

School Board Candidate Barbara Archer Discusses Opportunities For Davis Schools



I am a lifelong Democrat running for our local school board in November. Some of you might know me from the weekly newsletter I sent to Democrats in 2008 when I was Communications Director for our county's presidential election effort dubbed *Yolo United*.

My Democratic values have led me on a path of service throughout my life and serving on the school board will be a continuation of that service. As a former PTA president and elected Site Council member in our schools, I am eager to take my knowledge of the schools to help make sound policies for our district, and I am equally eager to listen to the community about our schools.

Our school district is one of the best in the state. Our community has stepped up time and time again to retain programs like music, science and libraries. We have a large variety of academic programs that serve our students because different kids need different options to thrive.

Like any school district in California, we have challenges and opportunities as well. Approximately one quarter of our students in Davis qualify for free and reduced lunch. Just under nine percent of our students are English learners striving to become English proficient. I want to look at our levels of translation and interpretation services for these students and their families to make sure they are receiving district communications in their first language. We have high student-to-counselor ratios well above recommended ratios and many students struggling with crisis at elementary, junior high and high school levels.

The district lost about \$10 million in funding since 2007, and as we come out of the recession and the state begins to put more money toward education, it is the school board and district staff that will decide how best to allocate the money to restore programs and positions over the next few years.

Our district has a roadmap to help us prioritize spending in the form of a strategic plan created by a large group of school stakeholders this past winter. I served on Technology Infrastructure and Facilities Committee responsible for recommendations for safe and modern learning environments. (*continued, p 3*)

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Continued p.5

*(continued p. 2)***SPONSOR (\$100)**

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(Barbara Archer, cont'd from p. 2)

We discussed everything from wi-fi to roof work to flexible learnings spaces, and we put forward a five-year plan toward achieving our goals. There is also a Local Control and Accountability Plan required by the state that will guide the district, which the current board just approved.

My personal platform prioritizes teacher and staff input to district policy, and I want to also investigate better options for health care for our district employees. Fiscal transparency, especially in a district where the community gives so much, is of paramount importance to me. Strategic and consistent communications for district outreach to students, families and employees is also an essential component of a highly functional organization.

I look forward to contributing a positive, solution-oriented approach to the school board governance team and to making the best possible decisions for the over 8,000 students we serve in Davis Joint Unified.

Barbara Archer is a public relations manager for a Yolo County farm and produce delivery service. She has volunteered in Davis schools for 10 years and is the parent of three DJUSD students. Her website is: www.BarbaraArcher.org

(Ed. Note: *The Newsletter is publishing statements by Democratic school board candidates. However, the Club has not yet endorsed any candidates. The July Newsletter featured Madhavi Sunder's statement.*)

Democratic Announcements: The **Yolo County Democratic Central Committee will hold its Annual Bean Feed** on Sunday September 7, conveniently located in Veterans Memorial Hall, Davis. To ensure its success, volunteers are needed both before and on the day of the event to help plan and implement this year's Bean Feed dinner. People are needed to help coordinate food, settings, decorations, furniture and equipment rental, the raffle, the bar, candidate participation, and ticket sales/registration. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Chris Allen, at exec@yolodems.org.

Introducing Jake Martin, the Yolo County field organizer for Congressman John Garamendi's re-election campaign. I'll be contributing a monthly campaign update to inform you about the Congressman's campaign and to rally our community to elect local Democrats.

In the primary election, democratic voter turnout dropped drastically. Our campaign's mission is to reinvigorate and revitalize Democratic voters. We are looking for partners to join us in our push to combat voter apathy and advance the progressive cause.

If you're interested in joining the movement to inspire the electorate toward Democratic victory this November, please email me at jakemartin758@gmail.com.

Please visit the new Yolo County Democratic Campaign HQ Office, which has just opened at 911 3rd St (behind the really great Candy House). Your DDC dues and contributions have provided pivotal support enabling the County Party to open this HQ Office.

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Democratic Newsletter

Sunday, Sept. 7
Yolo County
Democratic
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www.davisdemocraticclub.org

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