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# DAVIS DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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## ***Jesse Salinas, Yolo County Assessor/Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters***



I am pleased to introduce myself to the Davis Democratic Club and thank you for this opportunity to share with club members my plans for Yolo County's newly formed "ACE" department. Actually, what's new about this office is that the functions of Assessor, Clerk-Recorder, and Elections were just recently combined into one department, which internally we now call ACE.

On April 5, 2016, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors appointed me as the county's new Assessor/Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters. My first day in office was May 2, 2016. Since then, under my direction, our staff successfully closed Yolo County's Assessment Roll and managed the 2016 Presidential

Primary and General Elections. My duties include assessing property values, providing birth, death and marriage recordation services, and ensuring your right to vote securely in public elections.

My background includes many years in the fields of public policy, education policy, and public service. I worked for the California Legislature, the California School Boards Association, and for Yolo County as an analyst in the County Administrator's Office and the Department of Financial Services. My county duties included forecasting and monitoring major revenues, managing the master fee schedule, and leading efforts to ensure that management staff received training in national supervisory and leadership best practices.

At the Capitol, I helped balance the state education budget and, at the request of education committee leadership, led efforts to write emergency education legislation after the Northridge earthquake; this legislation became law in less than three weeks.

Because of my experience in the Legislature, I was recently appointed to the Legislative Committees of the Election, Recorder and Assessor Associations, giving our county a significant voice in shaping California's public policy. In March, I participated on a panel at the 2017 Future of California Elections' annual voter engagement and voting rights conference.

Regarding my plans for Yolo County, I am passionate about partnerships – I aim to continue my engagement of youth and underserved residents through outreach, collaboration, and participation in local government. I am committed to technological innovation – I believe we need to leverage technology in order to improve public services, whether we are managing elections, property assessments, or clerk-recorder functions. And I am committed to providing excellence with integrity. If this sounds like a motto, it's because it is: It is our motto for everything we do in the Assessor/Clerk-Recorder/Elections offices.

I'd like to close with one example of my commitment to improving services through engagement. Through my outreach efforts, it became apparent that there was a need to improve the timeliness of our election night results. During the 2016 elections, ACE took an important step that had not been taken previously: We arranged for midday pickups of ballots from local polling places in the City of Davis and West Sacramento. The midday pickup was a new strategy implemented by only three other counties in the state. After researching the best practices from other counties and partnering with the Secretary of State's office to implement our new strategy, we successfully provided faster results on election night than ever before. This outcome was made possible through a concerted effort to build the necessary bridges to make this effort a success.

I look forward to building more partnerships that will enhance the quality of ACE's services for years to come.

# Democratic News

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## Calendar of Events & Campaign Activities

### Club Board

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**Photography:**

Luba Schmid

**Tues., May 2, 7:00-9:00 pm. DDC Board Meeting, 2424 Rodin Pl.** (Steve Souza's home) . Regularly scheduled Board Meetings to organize Club activities. All members invited to attend.

**Sunday June 4, 11:00-2:00 pm, Champagne Brunch** hosted by Robin and Bill Julian at their home, 43556 Almond Lane, Davis 95618. Featured Speaker: The Honorable Delaine Eastin, former State Sec'y of Education and candidate for Governor. Other State, County and local leaders will introduce themselves and describe their current activities. This event features a buffet brunch provided by the Board (please share a favorite recipe). Contact Rick Gonzales, 758-2331

**Nevertheless, We Persist!** By Don Saylor, Yolo County Supervisor, District 2, Member of California Democratic Party Executive Committee

Thanks for allowing me to serve our community and county for the past 22 years. I look forward to many more years of partnership and service. **Please hold the date of June 4** for a gathering we will be announcing in the near future.

On a recent Sunday morning, our local newspaper featured a photograph of longtime Davis resident Joan Callaway sitting at a table in the University Retirement Center proudly wearing a dark t-shirt with the word "Nevertheless" in bright yellow all-caps. Of course, we recognize the context as the word from Sen. McConnell's chastisement of Senator Elizabeth Warren: "She was warned. She was given an explanation. Nevertheless, she persisted." The article described the twice weekly postcard writing parties that Joan organizes for her neighbors. The people at the table on any given day vary. The issues of the day and the addressees shift with the rapidly evolving policy landscape we face.

As I read the article about Joan's table at URC, I reflected on the thousands of tables across the country engaged in similar efforts. Every dining room table has become an action and organizing platform. Emerging leaders are connecting in new ways and seasoned activists are stepping up. Parties are being held to make signs and coordinate car-pools to participate in marches for Women's Rights, Science, Environment, Immigration and Sanctuary, and Release of the President's Tax Returns. Mobilization is erupting around the many national, state and local issues. New clubs are forming, to name a few: Safe Yolo, Protect Yolo, Democracy Winters, Indivisible Yolo, Because Yolo, Moms Demand Action, Yolo County Progressives, Sister District – CA-3, Yolo Berniecrats-Labor Alliance. **We each work in our own way with the tools at our disposal to address our nation's great needs.**

My work over the last few days included meeting with Democracy Winters to discuss effective local advocacy and the recent Yolo County Board of Supervisors adoption of a Safe and Welcoming Community Resolution; presentation of that county resolution to community activists at the Cesar Chavez Day Celebration at Central Park in Davis; Know Your Rights workshops in Woodland, Davis, and Winters, drop in at several new activist Democrat meetings; recognition of the community efforts to reject yet another MRAP armored vehicle, attending a Regional CADEM meeting to plan for the upcoming state CADEM convention and consider several draft resolutions; and meeting with the steering group of the Davis Gathering Initiative to plan a community gathering in June as part of the series that included the event on the Affordable Care Act a few weeks ago. A facebook calendar of events is being maintained by the Yolo Justice and Action Network just to help us keep track of what day it is. <https://www.facebook.com/yolojaan/>

In recent days the Board of Supervisors adopted the three-year plan for the Mental Health Services Act. I chaired meetings of the Yolo County Transportation District Board, the Yolo Climate Compact, and the Valley Clean Energy Alliance, our new community choice aggregation partnership, and attended meetings of the Transportation Committee of the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District, ....**(Continued page 3)**.....

**2017**

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...(Saylor, Continued from p.2) ....a strategic planning committee for the Capitol Corridor intercity passenger train service, the Yolo County Health Council, numerous meetings on local issues including sensible cannabis regulation, quality programming at the juvenile hall, local land-use matters, and talks with community members about specific concerns. If you are interested in following my office projects, signing up for my newsletter updates, or finding out when my next office hour session is scheduled, check <https://www.donsaylor.org/>

Like you, I am driven by a passion for justice and fairness. Like you, I believe that people should be able to love whom they choose, women's rights are human rights, our government should work for all of us, that tax policy should assure that even the President pays his fair share, and we must protect vulnerable populations and the planet. Like you, I am doubly engaged in resisting the travesty befalling our nation. Locally, that means working on clean energy, better transportation solutions, housing affordability, and a whole lot more. **We will keep trying new ways to write a brighter future. If one approach does not bear fruit, we will try another. And another. Together, we will persist.**

Thanks for all the work you are each doing in these troubled times. Stay well.



**Introducing DDC Board member, Thomas Dowling:** I, along with a majority of American voters, was in great dismay to watch our Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton, despite her solid electoral vote in California and her leading popular vote nationally, lose the national electoral vote, and thereby the presidency. Further both chambers of Congress, as well as a majority of state governorships and legislatures, are now dominated by the opposing party. Such is not the case in California, of course, but I believe we must actively work along with the national party for the support and election in key states of Democratic candidates in 2018, whether it be by telephone, email, canvassing or financially.

My interest in the Democratic Party dates back to JFK's inspiring Keynote Address at their 1956 National Convention. I assisted in his presidential campaign as a college junior in 1960, as I have for each subsequent Democrat presidential nominee, primarily in three cities: Chapel Hill, NC (UNC grad school, post-doc), Columbus, OH (Professor at OSU), and Lafayette, CO (retired). At Ohio State I served on my college dean's committee for four years and the University Senate for two. In Colorado I was a precinct leader (2007-2013), a three-precinct neighborhood leader in 2012, and a member of the Boulder County Democratic Central Committee. In 2013, I canvassed for petition signatures, helping two environmental issues appear on the Lafayette ballot, both of which were approved. I was elected that year to a four-year term on City Council, where I was actively involved in environmental, development, social, and diversity issues.

In the summer of 2016, our two children, who both live along with their spouses in the SF Bay area, persuaded my wife Nancy and me to move closer this way. After our house-hunting trip to Davis in July, I resigned with some regret from council, and we moved here in August 2016. We truly love Davis, a beautiful green, bike-friendly—and mostly Democratic---community that houses a major state university. **I truly value the privilege of serving on the Board of the Davis Democratic Club.**

**Got membership questions?** Answers to your questions about payments, renewals, postings and the like are just an email away. Membership Chair Elly Fairclough is happy to respond to emails sent to: [ellyfairclough@yahoo.com](mailto:ellyfairclough@yahoo.com).

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Democratic Newsletter

**Champagne  
Brunch  
Sunday, June 4  
11:00-2:00 pm**

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