

**December, 2013
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DAVIS DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Paid for by the Davis Democratic Club FPPC 745-850 FEC #35 C00491050

Assemblywoman Yamada reflects on her three terms soon to be completed.

By Tim Fenton



Mariko Yamada interviewed
by Tim Fenton

Mariko Yamada recalls her first four years in the California Assembly as “some of the most difficult the state has faced since the Depression,” noting crippling succeeding budget cuts of \$42 billion, \$26 billion, \$23 billion and \$16 billion in those years.

But ratchet ahead to 2013, and she says she’s as optimistic as can be for the direction California is headed with much of pre-recession budget levels restored: \$86 billion total state budget in 2011-12 and \$95 billion in 2012-13.

We met to catch up over coffee on a recent afternoon, and she marveled over recent developments -- having a Democratic Governor who’s likely to be re-elected next year and near two-thirds majorities in the Assembly and Senate. “**I have hopes we’ll continue improving California’s outlook,**” she emphasized.

Yamada is completing year five of her Assembly service serving a new District 4 that includes only 30 percent of her former District 8 and 70 percent of new territory spread over six counties. Getting face to face with her constituents this year, she’s logged over 50,000 miles

over her district’s highways.

Before terming out, she’d like to see still more funds targeted to ongoing problems and deferred maintenance in areas like public safety, public health and especially education. Yamada says that even with recent increases, California still ranks 47th or 48th nationally in per pupil spending.

Our Assemblywoman is now the longest serving member on each of her committee assignments: Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, Aging and Long-Term Care which she chairs and Water, Parks and Wildlife.

On the subject of water she says a new water bond is being written to fund the Bay Delta Conservation Plan which she emphasizes will **not** include funding for Governor Brown’s proposal for **twin tunnels** to redirect Sacramento River water. She sees water as a basic human right and characterizes its issues as **California’s “new Prop. 13,” with water affordability as a major challenge.**

Yamada says the facts that 20 percent of Californians will be 65 or older by 2030 and that our low birthrate is producing fewer people to help support infrastructure presents multiple challenges in housing, healthcare, transportation, education and more. To develop new strategies, her Aging and Long-Term Care Committee will be holding a series of hearings called “**Faces of Aging**” focusing on specific populations: African Americans, women, men, Asians and Pacific Islanders, LGBT communities and Latinos to determine different needs in delivery of services and care among them.

Yamada’s seat on the Veterans Affairs Committee involves her in concerns over vets rising homelessness; California has the largest number of them in the nation. Though the state has 8 veterans homes, she says most vets want to stay in their communities. She notes that PTSD is a major factor in vets’ failure to reintegrate in communities. Repurposing some of the state’s housing bond funds to vets needs will help. Sexual assault of women *and* men in the services concerns her.

Agriculture is tremendously important in Yamada’s six-county district and happily is a bright spot in the economy with California leading the nation in productivity. (continued p. 2)

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Calendar of Events & Campaign Activities

Tuesday, December 3, 7:00 pm, regular DDC Board business meeting. Club members and the public are welcome; Pres. Sen and Secretary Yamagata draft the agenda. Davis Library on 14th Street.

Sunday December 8, 6:00 pm, Annual Holiday Party, International House, Davis. Enjoy fellowship, cheer and a great buffet provided by the DDC Board. You are also invited to share your favorite Holiday Recipe.

The Club Needs You to Serve in Office Now

By Carl Schmid



The DDC will hold regularly scheduled **elections for all Board Offices** (see the left panel) in February. Senior Club officers have already indicated that after years of dedicated service, they do not wish to stand for reelection **now opening opportunity for you to lead the Club into the next national election cycle in 2016.**

Under President Arun Sen's guidance, the Club has entirely resolved very complicated regulatory compliance problems that threatened its very existence two years ago. Vice President Mike Syvanen has successfully staged a continuing series of ongoing annual Club activities establishing a template for its future events. Building on their leadership, other Board Members provide a continuing basis for sustaining the Club's momentum during the next two elections. **The DDC has never been in better shape or better positioned to advance the Democratic cause** in Yolo County including, as our first priority, the reelection of John Garamendi to Congress in 2014.

This is where you can make a difference. The DDC needs new leadership to fully develop the potential that Mike and Arun have established. If you wish to serve in any capacity, please contact Bob Bockwinkel 219-1896 or Carl (cwschmid@comcast.net) to discuss the different ways in which you can serve and the process by which Board members are elected. **Do not be shy, your help is needed now.**

Assemblywoman Yamada (*continued from p.1*) She laments the federal cuts to SNAP benefits (food stamps) and to keep herself intimately aware of the needs of SNAP recipients, she will repeat this year her annual week of dining on a food stamps budget (which has been cut from \$1.80 per meal to \$1.40 with more cuts threatened in the future).

Next year will be Assemblywoman Yamada's 20th year living in Davis and the 40th year in her public service career, which includes service in southern California and Washington DC before moving here. "Its been a privilege for me serving the town, the county, the region and the state," she reflects as our conversation winds down. And Mariko, I believe folks from all of these constituencies would agree it has been a privilege having your serve us these many years.

Be aware all ye who seek to succeed Assemblywoman Yamada, hers will be very big shoes to fill.

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THE STORY OF OUR DEMOCRACY by Andrew Kim



Student Interns from the Coalition Empowerment Project register over 100 new young voters in less than 1 hour.

OCTOBER 28 – This past weekend the Coalition Empowerment Project hosted a voter registration drive at UC Davis, **registering over 100 new young voters in less than 1 hour.** Students from Yuba Community College, Solano Community College and UC Davis worked together registering students - sharing with them the importance of civic engagement and political empowerment.

“What an incredible experience... hearing the excitement of other students eager to register and have a voice in our community. It’s clear that young people are willing to get involved in our country’s political process... we just need to reach out to them... sharing both our personal story and the story of our democracy, says Nathan Hodgens - Yuba County Field Organizer for the Coalition Empowerment Project

The goals of the Coalition Empowerment Project are the following: 1) to strengthen the Democratic Party in Yolo, Yuba, Sutter and Solano county, 2) to create a pipeline of young people for Democratic & Labor politics, 2) to increase civic engagement within the Latino community and 3) to implement a field program based upon the best practices of Organizing for America, Congressman John Garamendi’s congressional campaign and the Labor movement.

The Coalition Empowerment Project is a program organized by the Democratic Central Committee Coalition, a collaborative effort between 4 Democratic Central Committees (Yolo, Yuba, Solano & Sutter Counties) committed to: 1) building the capacity of our local Democratic Party, 2) strengthening partnerships with the Latino community and Labor movement and 3) registering new young voters.

For more information please contact Andrew Truman Kim (916) 201-5435. (Ed. Note: *This is part of a daily ongoing effort PRIOR to the 2014 election campaign*)

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