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DDC Board Endorses Proposition C, the DJUSD Parcel Tax Renewal by Carl Schmid



"Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see." Neil Postman as quoted by Delaine Eastin

Visibly holding back tears and straining to keep her voice from cracking in anguish, Fmr. California Superintendent of Public Education, Delaine Eastin (photo with Arun Sen and Richard Yamagata) passionately explained to the DDC Board why Democrats must support Proposition C, renewal of the Davis Schools Parcel Tax. Delaine recounted that she was born and raised in California at a time when our state was first in support of universities and colleges placing us at the leading edge of the

nation: **"There is a reason that the Silicon Valley is here and it is not just the weather.**

[California] created an environment that revered education."] Whereas California was once fifth in support of public education, our state now ranks forty-sixth in per pupil expenditure barely placing us above Mississippi by some measures.

Delaine's remarks suggest two possible explanations for our state's deteriorating investment in education, one concerning misplaced values and the other the lingering effects of Proposition 13: Delaine explains that **"Budgets are a statement of values"** and in this context, while California now ranks forty-sixth nationally in per pupil expenditure, it has moved to first place in per prisoner expenditure. This is indeed a dismal commentary on our priorities. However Proposition 13, which requires a 2/3 threshold to pass any tax increases, also instituted gradual erosion, **"a twenty-year spiral down the drain,"** of spending on schools, which Delaine documents in numerous ways. However, she reminds us that Proposition 13 passed by far less than the 2/3 threshold that it now requires for increasing support for education. Proposition 13 fails its own overly stringent test.

The Davis Joint Unified School District has been one of the few bright spots in this otherwise sad story. In 1984, Davis became the first district in the state to implement a temporary tax increase following the passage of Prop 13. This local tax, which has been previously renewed, is the very same tax which is now again subject to renewal as **Proposition C** in this upcoming election.

Remembering that the State's ongoing budget crisis has already caused other painful cuts to public education, our failure to pass Proposition C would have drastic consequences for our local schools. This existing parcel tax currently supports 10% of the District's operating budget and 12% of its personnel costs. Page 3 of this Newsletter lists programs which will be eliminated or curtailed if Proposition C is not passed.

Proposition C will **not** result in either a new tax, a tax increase or any other changes but rather will merely continue an existing tax, which is typically \$320/year. School Board Member Sheila Allen explains that renewal of the parcel tax will support the "same programs with the same amount."

Voting will be conducted entirely by mail and at least two-thirds must vote in favor to pass the measure. Martha Beatley and Barbara Archer outlined the campaign and stated that **volunteers are needed** for both phone banking and precinct walking. Page 4 provides contact information and lists some of the ways that you can help pass Measure C. The website <Yesforourchildren.org> provides additional information about Measure C and links for to volunteer and support the campaign.

The DDC Board unanimously endorses DJUSD Measure C and asks you to vote YES.

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(continued p. 3)

Calendar of Events

Tues., Feb. 7, 7:00-9:00pm regular DDC Board business meeting. Club members and the public are welcome, Pres. Sen and Secretary Yamagata draft the agenda, Davis Library Meeting Room.

Tues., Feb. 14, 5:30-8:00 pm, Love your Electeds, Pot-Luck Valentine Party, Share your favorite dish: A-F dessert, G-M vegetable, N-Z entrée. Brief informal presentations by local elected leaders provide the focus for a pleasant informative evening. I-house, Davis.

Upcoming Nominations & Election for Club Offices.

The election of all Club Officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Sec'y, Publicity, and Membership) will be held on March 7. All current members (those who paid dues in 2011 or prior to Feb. 7, 2012) are eligible to vote and to nominate candidates. Nominations should be submitted to the Chair of the Nominations Committee, Bob Bockwinkel (530-219-1896) prior to

February 7. We urge members to participate actively in the Club and encourage you to consider serving in one of these offices. In addition to these offices, there is the opportunity for appointment to the Board if you wish to serve in some other capacity. In this event, please feel free to contact Bob Bockwinkel or other Board members to explore the possibilities.

Happy Birthday, Rita!



Lifelong Democrat and beloved Club member, Rita Montes-Martin (l.) celebrated her 90th Birthday in style at a party hosted by her wonderful family. Happy Birthday was sung by a duet featuring the Mayor of Woodland (left), Art Pimentel and the Mayor of Davis, Joe Krovoza (right). (Mayor Pimentel graciously offered Mayor Krovoza a bottled water.) Among her many friends in attendance were other long-time Club Members, Julia Sanchez, Bill Ritter and Tansey Thomas (l.-r.).

The festivities started with State Sen. Lois Wolk presenting Rita (photo p. 5) with an official Resolution recognizing her distinguished lifetime of service.

This presentation is especially appropriate as Senator Wolk also spells out the word DEMOCRAT with defining attributes in this Newsletter (p. 5). Rita's service exemplifies each letter in the word.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: Members are now requested to renew their Club dues for Calendar Year 2012 (see P. 6 for the renewal form). The 2011 Donor List (shown here for the last time) will be replaced with the current 2012 Donor List in the next newsletter. The Club thanks the Donors for generously making this work possible.

What Measure C Will Accomplish.

Editor Note:

The text below is copied from Exhibit B of the official ballot submission explaining the purpose of Measure C.

- a) Continue to provide opportunities for all students to reach proficiency by supporting improved instruction in math and reading;
- b) Continued availability of elementary science instruction programs;
- c) Continued reduced class sizes for elementary grades;
- d) Continued availability of sufficient numbers of classes in secondary core subjects including science, math, English, and social sciences;
- e) Continued availability of multiple foreign language programs;
- f) Continued availability of elementary and secondary school music programs;
- g) Continued availability of advanced placement classes;
- h) Continued availability of junior and senior high (secondary) school physical education programs;
- i) Continued availability of elementary and secondary librarian services;
- j) Continued availability of school counselor, school nurse, other student support staff positions;
- k) Continued availability of athletics and co-curricular programs including drama, debate and journalism programs.
- l) Providing supplemental staff training for classified and certificated employees;
- m) Improving student nutrition by providing fresh farm produce from scratch meals;
- n) Providing additional classroom and library instructional materials, technological materials, equipment and services, and other educational equipment for schools.

Editor Note:

The following text is taken from campaign information circulated in support of Measure C. Notice it conforms precisely to Exhibit B pasted above.

What's At Stake

The renewal provides \$6.5 million or more than 10% of the district's budget. The following is a partial list of programs to be funded by the parcel tax renewal:

- Elementary science courses
- Reading and math support
- K-12 school libraries
- Elementary and secondary music
- School counseling at secondary level
- Secondary programs - sufficient number of classes in core subjects, including science, math, English and social sciences in addition to foreign language and advanced placement courses
- Class size reduction at elementary level

Davis schools are known all over this region for their excellent programs. Your contribution is fundamental to preserving the outstanding programs that Davis schools offer.

You Can Help Pass Measure C

Editor Note:

Through its endorsement of Measure C, the DDC Board encourages all Davis residents to support passage of this proposition. The following instructions explaining how you can participate have been directly copied from the campaign literature of this nonpartisan group.

Community members who are interested in Measure C, the renewal of the parcel tax funding educational programs in Davis schools, can go to the following websites:

Precinct Walking in February

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094AADAC2FA64-precinct>

Please contact Precinct Walking Chair Pam Pacelli at pacellimorgan@gmail.com or at 530-867-3679 with any questions.

Phone Banking in February

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054DA4AA28AA8-phonebanking>

Please see the contact info on the website for Phone Banking Chair, Martha Beetley, if you have any questions.

You may pick a phone banking night with a group or come as an individual.

For a complete list of what programs Measure C will fund, please see:

<http://www.yesforourstudents.org/lit/stake.pdf>

For further information, see the campaign website at:

<http://www.yesforourstudents.org/>

For general campaign questions, please contact Barbara Archer at bdedavis@gmail.com.

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Why I am a Democrat *by Lois Wolk*

Dignity.

Freedom and equality for each individual.

Education.

Public schools as the foundation of a strong democracy.

Middle class.

The economic engine that makes us strong.

Opportunity.

Opening the doors of prosperity to everyone.

Caring.

Helping those without good fortune or privilege.

Rights.

Civil rights. Protecting the original Bill of Rights, all 10.

America.

All of it. A party that looks like all of America and everyone is welcome.

Together.

A big tent with diverse opinions, no litmus tests or loyalty oaths, held together with common purpose.

Sen. Wolk presenting Rita Montes-Martin (a DEMOCRAT) a Senate Resolution on the occasion of her birthday.

PASSPORT (\$50)

Fred & Janet Balcom
 Lynn & Wayne Baysinger
 Steve Burns & Pat Moore-Pickett
 Gale & Jacob Chapman
 John Chendo
 Yvonne Clinton
 Jim Cramer & Helen Roland
 Rick & Linda Gonzales
 Penny Gore
 Jeff & Sandy Granett
 Calvin Handy
 Bill Julian & Robin Kulakow
 Albert & Natalya Lowey-Ball
 Mary Major
 Ruben Martinez
 Margaret Northrup-Dawson
 Julia Sadler
 Thomas & Joan Sallee
 Bob Schelen
 Bob Schneider
 Sandy & Alan Sokolow
 Norma Turner
 Martha West
 Barry Wilson
 Betty & Jim Woo



**Vote Yes on
Proposition C**

**Valentine Party
Tues., Feb. 14**

RENEW your
MEMBERSHIP TODAY
(last chance)!

Do you have a RED DOT
attached to your newsletter?
If so, please pay your Club dues.

See the website photo
gallery

www.davisdemocraticclub.org

Davis Democratic Club

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Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Are you interested in? (circle all that apply.)

Campaign Activities Fundraising Voter Registration

Telephoning Newsletter

Circle your Level of Membership:

Individual \$15; Household \$25; Passport \$50;
Sponsor \$100; Patron \$200; Benefactor \$200+;
Student membership \$10.



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