

January 2017

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Bob Schelen prepares for 2018



Hello Democrats,! In last month's Newsletter, I told you there were many different ideas about why Secretary Clinton lost and we did not pick up more seats in the U.S Senate or the House of Representatives. There were so many suggestions and explanations just hours after the election that I could not list them all. What I did do was ask you not to lose hope, and after licking the wounds, continue the fight and start building towards 2018.

I have been lifted in my sprits by the many that want to continue the fight, and yes, even more that want to join us in building for 2018 and opposing the regressive policies coming from the new White House and Congress.

Even just days after the election, we have been receiving emails and phone calls. "What can I do to help?" "How do I volunteer to stop the move backwards?" These will be new people helping us to get the Democratic message out and becoming part of the resistance to this new administration. Welcome them as you see them at our actions, meetings, and events.

At our November Yolo County Democratic Party meeting, we asked the question, "Where do we go from here" to all those attending, both members and guests. They all had a say in what they felt that we, as locals, the State and the National Party should do. Comments ran the gamut, from working to develop a more effective ground campaign in the "battleground" states, having a more effective phone operation into those states developed by the national campaign, others focused on the message at the national level...give a reason to vote for the Democrats, not just reasons why to vote against the Republicans and Donald Trump. Focus on the economy as the most important issue to people. Bring everyone into the campaign, including those that supported different candidates in the primary, and, yes, there were some that suggested a different candidate in the general election may have garnered more votes. We listened to everyone and all had their say.

Of course, it must be remembered **at the state and local level, we did very well.** The campaign we put together for Yolo County far exceeded all of our goals in increasing the number and percentage of Democrats in the County voting in 2016. We won 18 of 23 endorsements of candidates and issues. We expanded to help the Clinton campaign in their targeted states and helped our Congressional Representative, State Senator and Assemblymember in the surrounding counties. We want to do that again, but also, after incorporating the suggestions, take our success to the State and National level. We will be electing a Democratic National Chair and California Democratic Party Chair. It is my hope those who fill those positions will listen to us and adopt a plan from the ground up. In that way, we can be successful at all levels.

However, we took all the information in from both our November meeting and a number of meetings of like-minded groups, representing progressives, immigrants, Muslims, Clinton and Sanders supporters, and others and are developing a plan for 2017-2018. The most important part of that plan is for us to work towards an even more effective 2018 campaign in Yolo County, California and the nation, but also, to work on ways that we can affect public policy and keep the achievements of the Obama era from being destroyed.

One of the potential ways of doing this is to develop a neighborhood leader program throughout Yolo County and have local democratic leaders in each neighborhood work with us to lobby and organize on the issues we care about in 2017 and the candidates that represent our ideals in 2018. In a future announcement, I will invite your participation in the Neighborhood Leader Program.

Last month, my message was "Do not feel defeated." Do not feel alone."

This month, my message is join the Davis Democratic Club, work with the Yolo County Democratic Party. Send us a message about how you think we should fight back in 2017 and 2018.

Join us and ORGANIZE!

Democratic News

Calendar of Events & Campaign Activities

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Tues., Jan. 3, 7:00-9:00 pm. DDC Board Meeting. Regularly scheduled Board Meetings to organize Club activities. All members invited to attend at the Davis Library.

Sun., Feb 12, 5 pm Love Your Electeds Party. Meet and thank local elected leaders including our new State Senator, Bill Dodd, and new Assembly Member, Cecilia Aguiar-Curry. This is potluck so please share a favorite dish with friends). I-House, Davis. For information contact Rick Gonzales at 758-2331.

Ed. Note: Given consternation over the national election, the Newsletter re-prints CA Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon's California response :

ANTHONY RENDON, Speaker of the Assembly DECEMBER 5, 2016 SWEARING-IN CEREMONY REMARKS for 2017-2018 California Legislative Session

Members, thank you for putting your faith in me. This is an honor I am proud to accept, and will work diligently to earn. Honored guests, friends, and family—ordinarily, this is a day when Speakers offer pleasantries and plans for the year ahead. But this is no ordinary time. And I would be remiss in my responsibility to this House, to the people I represent, and to my conscience, if I did not acknowledge that.

Members, 75 years ago this week, the United States was drawn into the Second World War. That war was an existential threat against this nation's people and its principles. We have faced other threats these last 75 years: the Cold War and nuclear proliferation, the turmoil of the 1960s, the betrayal of Watergate, and now climate change. These past 75 years have also seen us make important progress in civil rights, environmental protection, public health and social justice. At this moment, I believe our nation is facing another major existential threat – and a threat to the progress that we have attained.

Californians may accept the lawfulness of the November election, but millions of us do not accept the sentiment delivered by this election. And, it is up to us to pass policies that would firewall Californians—and what we believe—from the cynical, short sighted, and reactionary agenda that is rising in the wake of the election. White nationalists and anti-Semites have no business working in the White House. And, the Justice Department of the United States has no business working to dismantle the voting rights, civil rights, equal rights, and reproductive rights of the American people.

In August of 1988, President Reagan apologized to Japanese-Americans for their internment by saying “Here we admit a wrong; here we reaffirm our commitment to equal justice under the law.”

Yet, rather than echoing that commitment to equal justice, the next administration has talked about those internment camps as a justification for offensive new policies. In a speech she made in 1940, with an eye toward the looming war, Eleanor Roosevelt said this: “We cannot tell from day to day what may come.

This is no ordinary time. No time for weighing anything except what we can do best for the country as a whole. (*Cont'd p.3*)

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Continued on right

Speaker Reardon's California Response (continued from p. 2)

And that responsibility rests on each and every one of us, as individuals.” That is the responsibility we each accepted when we swore to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of California against all enemies—foreign AND domestic. Californians should be wary of the national calls for unity and healing. Unity must be separated from complicity. And, we must be defiant whenever justice, fairness, and righteousness require. Californians do not need healing. We need to fight. We need to fight to protect our people and their rights.

We need to fight to protect our economy and its growth. The Assembly and Senate will work side by side to enshrine into law existing protections for all Californians. We will be saying loud and clear if you are a woman, your rights are in force here in California. If you need health care coverage, we will do all we can so you can find it here in California. If you are Muslim or LGBT, or anyone whose rights and safety are increasingly under fire, you are equal here in California. And, with HR 4, today we are saying if you are an immigrant you are welcome here in California. In short, California will be saying, in the defiant words of Winston Churchill: “Today we may say aloud before an awe-struck world, we are still masters of our fate, we are still captains of our souls.” Others speak of their identity.

But we too have an identity in California, an identity of inclusion. And we will do whatever we can to protect that identity. Of course, the potential threats from the new administration are not the only struggle we face as Californians. There are home-grown challenges, as well. A transportation system that is over-crowded and crumbling. Housing costs so high families can't make ends meet, employers can't recruit, and cops and teachers can't live where they work. We tried to address these issues in the last session

We made some progress, but we did not succeed. And, that is a mark on what was otherwise a tremendous session. Members, we have no choice but to solve the housing and transportation crises in the term ahead of us. These crises affect each and every one of our districts. If we don't step up and solve them, our economy will decline. And, the people we represent will suffer. This house has solved tough challenges before. That's why California's in the strong economic shape that we are.

Members, we just said goodbye to the Assembly Class of 2010. When they were sworn-in they faced having to close a \$26 billion budget deficit. A deficit that would have been much lower were it not for the first act taken by an inexperienced, celebrity Governor seven years before. Thanks to smart decisions and tough choices by voters, the Legislature, and an experienced Governor, we have turned the state around. We increased funding for public schools and community colleges by more than 50% over the past five years. And, higher education funding is greater than it's ever been—though we must continue to do more. We have—as the Legislative Analyst projects—strong, multi-billion-dollar structural balances into the future. We have a debt ratio on track to drop below 5%, and a robust Rainy Day Fund that takes us off the cycle of “boom and bust” budgeting. And we have—as the LAO also notes—the ability to withstand a recession like the 2001 downturn—without the need for service cuts or middle class tax increases.

While the budget has mainly been driven by Democrats since voters restored that ability, there are areas where the Assembly has achieved bipartisan success as well. Looking out at the faces before me, I am optimistic we can do the same again. Especially on housing and transportation, which have historically been bipartisan issues.

Finally, I would like to note that today, we welcome new members, returning members, and newly returning members. Farmers and Teachers. Veterans and first responders. Prosecutors and public defenders. Scientists and small business owners.

All of us sent here to represent our districts. To make laws. And—equally important—to perform the oversight that ensures laws are carried out in the best interests of the people of California. It is increasingly apparent that those interests will not be a concern for the next President—for the bullies, bigots, and billionaires he has chosen for his cabinet—or for the majority in Congress that is already salivating at the prospect of ending Medicare. It is up to us to look after the interests of the people of California. Whether you actively worked to oppose the next President, or stayed silent hoping he would go away, it is now up to all of us to preserve California and protect its people. Members, this is no ordinary time. And it will require an extraordinary effort from each of us. We are here to do the people's business. And, we can't allow it to just be business as usual.

Holiday Party

The Davis Democratic Club celebrated a fantastic Holiday Party at the I-House on Dec.4. In the best holiday traditions; the food and beverages were great but best of all was celebrating with so many wonderful Democratic friends. The highlight of the celebration was to thank the many young students and interns, *some even from Davis HS!* who worked so hard on our successful California and Yolo County campaigns. The following photos tell the story well. **Please join the DDC for our Annual Love Your Electeds Party on Sunday, Feb 12 (5:00 pm, I-House). Our new State Senator Bill Dodd and new Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry have been invited as guests of honor to thank them for their service and learn of their plans.**



Brace Yourself, Pace Yourself by Mariko Yamada
 Assemblymember (Ret.)



Dear Fellow Davis Democrats:

Since the stunning outcome of the 2016 Presidential campaign, each of us is grappling to make sense of the incomprehensible. Preparing for life under the looming Trumpian Dystopia will require tapping into our progressive energy reserves, far beyond what we drew upon under the Reagan and Bush years. Brace yourself and pace yourself for the major challenges to come.

Closer to home, I want to thank the Davis Democratic Club for your steadfast support in my own race for the California State Senate. Although the outcome was also not the one we had all worked so hard to achieve, I am very proud of the grassroots campaign we ran together, and forever thankful for your unwavering endorsement.

In the end, being outspent by a factor of at least 10 to 1 --\$6.3 Million to our \$630,000— proved a bit too much to overcome District-wide. When the final campaign finance reports are disclosed, the combined spending totals will likely go higher. Despite this money disadvantage, we still won Davis and Yolo County, and for that, I want to express my deepest appreciation.

Since the loss, I've received a number of letters, email, phone calls and visits, asking how I'm doing and what's next? Travel prevented me from attending the Annual DDC Holiday Party, so I asked for this opportunity to "close-out", as there will be no retirement party for me since I'm not retiring...

First, personally, I'm fine. I feel incredibly grateful for the privilege of living, working, and serving in this community since our family moved here in December of 1994. I will never forget walking into the Davis Democratic Club/Yolo County Democratic Headquarters during the 1995-1996 campaign cycle and meeting Betty Weir — and the rest is history! Serving on the City of Davis Personnel Board, the Yolo County Health Council, Deputy to Supervisor Dave Rosenberg, Fourth District Supervisor, Chairwoman of the Yolo County Democratic Party, and 6 years as your Assemblywoman have been some of the most rewarding chapters of my 42 years in public service. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you while raising our two daughters and caring for an aging parent.

For now, I'll be sending in my DDC renewal sponsorship to avoid the dreaded "red-dot". Thank you for being my "home" for so many years. There will always be another race (though it won't be mine) and another issue to contest. We have already marked the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor, and on February 19, 2017, we will observe a "Day of Remembrance" -- the 75th Anniversary of Executive Order 9066, which led to the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans in violation of their constitutional rights. Can you imagine what the Alt-Right will have to say about all this?

Wishing you all the Best of the Season. I look forward to seeing you along the 2018 campaign trail!

Thank you, Mariko

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