

May, 2017

Jesse Ortiz	1
Calendar/Become Involved	2
Champagne Brunch	3
Health Care Editorial	4



DAVIS DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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YOLO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION IN REVIEW

by Dr. Jesse Ortiz, Yolo County Superintendent of Schools



For close to 2 1/2 years, I have had the honor to serve as your Yolo County Superintendent of Schools and work with close to 300 staff at the Yolo County Office of Education (YCOE). The primary focus of the office is to support the five districts and roughly 30,000 students by:

- Reviewing and approving the five school district's budgets and Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAPs)
- Providing oversight and technical assistance to districts in financial distress
- Providing special education programs for students who are medically fragile and have moderate to severe cognitive disabilities
- Providing educational services for incarcerated and expelled youth
- Providing close to 400 children state and federal head start services
- Supporting career-technical educational programs
- Providing professional development, curriculum development, broadband and technology support

The mission of YCOE is to be a regional leader in supporting and advocating for equity and access to high-quality programs. With the adoption of this new mission statement, we have made various program changes and have offered many new educational opportunities to our community. Some of the highlights that we have accomplished over the last couple of years include:

- The revamping of the alternative education programs to include the accreditation of Cesar Chavez Community School and Dan Jacobs Juvenile Hall school
- Enhancing the quality of our facilities, including Greengate School, Cesar Chavez Community School, and Head Start sites
- The reorganization and development of parent advisory groups in our Special Education unit
- Enhanced partnerships with Yolo County Farm to Fork and YoloArts
- Support for a YCOE Yolo County Crisis Team that responds to district emergencies
- Provided leadership to form a formal consortium with Colusa, Sutter and Yuba County Offices of Education to enhance curriculum expertise and share resources
- YCOE received the prestigious California School Board Association's 2015 Golden Apple Award for their Project SOLAR Energy Academy
- Support to school districts in the development of their LCAPs
- The formation of a Yolo County African American Advisory group has led to two successful high school leadership conferences held in West Sacramento
- YCOE has been instrumental in the Kinders Go to College program held in Woodland and West Sacramento
- Supported a countywide initiative to increase teacher recruitment with two successful grants involving classified staff and a teacher intern program
- Coordination of two P-20 meetings that included representatives from every K-12 and higher education institution that serves Yolo County

It was an honor to be recently recognized at the U.C. Davis Equity Summit for Seeding Improvement in Education Policy and Practices. (cont'd p.4)

Democratic News

Page 2

Calendar of Events & Campaign Activities

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Tues., June 6, 7:00-9:00 pm. DDC Board Meeting, Blanchard Room, Davis Library . 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

How to make a difference by Jan Agee

After the November election--and particularly in response to numerous recent national events—many people are searching for ways to make a difference in the current political climate. The times have changed; we cannot just sit idly by on the sidelines and hope that things will get better. We need to take action *now*--whenever and wherever we can

As a result, the *Davis Democratic Club Newsletter* will be publishing articles to help our members find ways to become involved in issues both in our community, as well as statewide and nationally. Because the newsletter only comes out about once a month, it will often not be able to direct readers to specific actions and events, but it will be able to provide sources of information that offer timely updates.

We also are posting many important articles and events almost daily on our newly revamped Facebook page. See us at <https://www.facebook.com/DavisDemocrats/>.

Here are some links to other sources that will help you stay in touch with actions that can make a difference. These groups will send you emails with valuable updates, if you decide to provide your contact information:

Indivisible.org: The Indivisible Project's mission is to fuel a progressive grassroots network to defeat the Trump agenda. Across the nation, over 5800 local groups (at least two in every congressional district) are using the *Indivisible Guide*, designed by former congressional staffers and based on successful Tea Party strategies, to hold their members of Congress accountable. *IndivisibleYolo*, the local chapter, had 400 people attend its first public meeting in Davis.

Sisterdistrict.com: For people who live in a solidly blue (or red) place, it can be frustrating to try to figure out what to do to fight back. The Sister District Project connects you with your local home district team (CA-3). After the primary elections in June, your team will be matched with a strategic, winnable race that needs your support. In 2017, your Sister Race will be a down-ballot race that is critical to helping Democrats defend or take back control of the states and bring fairness back to redistricting. As 2018 approaches, you will be matched with a swing congressional district, or other strategically important race, so that we can take back the House of Representatives and the state legislatures.

Many other groups and organizations are doing important work to move the resistance forward, and they will be highlighted in future issues of the Newsletter.

(Jesse Ortiz/Yolo Schools con't. from p.1) In 2015, I was recognized as one of the 25 most influential Latino Leaders in the Sacramento region by Vida De Valle/Sacramento Bee newspaper.

The future looks very bright for YCOE with plans to increase academic programs for our at-risk 16-24 age population and a Yolo County 2018 Quality Preschool Initiative.

In working with communities and internally, YCOE adopted and is committed to the practice of *Communication-Respect-Transparency* (CRT). CRT is expected from every employee. Please let me know if you have any questions; I can be reached at jesse.ortiz@ycoe.org.

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*Yolo Co. Democrats, you are invited to
the 27th Annual Davis Democratic Club
Champagne Brunch!*

**Special guest and keynote speaker
Delaine Eastin, Davis's own candidate
for California Governor.**

Enjoy a delicious champagne buffet provided by the Davis Democratic Club directors. Meet and greet federal, state and local Democratic elected officials and candidates. Sunday, June 4, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm at the home of Bill Julian & Robin Kulakow, 43556 Almond Lane, Willowbank

\$15 per person, \$25 per couple, \$5 Students

RSVP Rick Gonzales 530-758-2331 gonzales_rick@sbcglobal.net

Health Care from the County Perspective by Jim Provenza, Yolo County Supervisor



By now you are probably familiar with tragic consequences that will occur if the House- passed legislation on health care becomes law. The \$880 billion cut in Medicaid (MED-ICAL in California) over 10 years will result in 14 million people losing their insurance nationwide. California would suffer a loss of \$24 billion over 10 years for the one third of our population currently covered by Medi-Cal. An additional 10 million persons nationwide would likely lose coverage due to changes in the rules that apply to the insurance exchanges. This would hurt our low income and middle class population. A Medicaid program that funds special education would also be affected.

The Republican health care proposal would also diminish coverage locally in many ways big and small.

For examples, older and sicker persons would receive fewer subsidies. States would be given the option to permit insurance companies to exclude basic items, such as maternity, cancer treatment and emergency room visits from coverage. States could also permit insurance companies to charge prohibitive rates for those with pre-existing conditions. While California is unlikely to adopt these options, Californians who get their insurance through their employers could still be affected. Employers would be permitted to opt into the rules of any state for determining certain limits on coverage.

Prior to Obama's Affordable Care Act (ACA), the county was health care provider of last resort for persons now covered by Medi-Cal. This meant paying top dollar to reimburse primary care and emergency room visits but not much care in-between. It was not cost-effective and resulted in cuts to other social services programs as we struggled to pay for an expensive program that did not deliver an acceptable level of care. The ACA saved our county budget and resulted in a quality continuum of care for our low-income residents. Coverage was also expanded to better serve those suffering from mental illness.

The impact of the House legislation in Yolo County would be devastating. Many of our neighbors would lose coverage, suffer deteriorating health and plunge further into poverty. Some would likely suffer premature death. Our county budget would also be severely impacted, limiting our ability to fund other essential services. For example, child welfare services, adult protective services, assistance to the homeless, and service for seniors could be affected. Moreover, we would be spending more money to go back to a system that was working poorly before the enactment of the ACA.

Why would a political party dedicate itself to a course of action that it knows will result in suffering, deteriorating public health, economic dislocation and the untimely deaths of many of its citizens? **Why?** One answer is that they need money for a large tax cut for those in the top 10 percent and more specifically, the top one percent of our economy. Obama put us on the road to full employment without giveaways to the wealthy class. What problem do they seek to address in creating so much suffering for the rest of us?

We should all be making calls for and donating money to Democrats running in special elections across the country. If compassion and fundamental decency do not motivate the Republicans who control the Congress, perhaps fear of the next election will.

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Democratic Newsletter

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

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See the website photo gallery:

www.davisdemocraticclub.org

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