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## County and State Budgets: Good News and Bad News by County Supervisor Jim Provenza



**Yolo County Budget:** The good news is that Yolo County's budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year includes almost no new layoffs of county employees, avoids further cuts in social services and health care, and maintains a contingency fund for unexpected costs. Departments and services have been consolidated and administrative overhead reduced. Revenue was also saved through temporary furloughs and other generous contributions by Yolo County employees. Although the budget remains very tight, we now contribute to a special fund to assure that Yolo County meets its long term obligation to pay for retiree health care.

The bad news is that further cuts in the county budget may become necessary if we receive less than expected in state or federal revenue or if a double dip recession causes a decline in tax revenue. However, Yolo County is fiscally sound and well prepared to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

The very good news is that there is a long tradition in Yolo County of protecting services for the poor and middle class during times of economic downturn. For example, the county is expanding the availability of health care for lower income residents by early entry into the President Obama's expanded Medicaid (Medical) program. We are turning to volunteers and foundations to expand services to victims of domestic violence and child abuse through our new Family Justice Center. Similarly, Yolo County and local nonprofit organizations are working together to expand and improve services to seniors through better use and coordination of existing resources. In short, when it comes to protecting our most vulnerable citizens, failure is not an option. We are hoping for the best but are prepared for the worst.

**State Budget:** The good news on the state budget is that there is one. An on-time budget provides at least some certainty to local government and is a step forward toward long term fiscal sustainability. Governor Brown's realignment proposal will also give local government increased responsibility as well as funding to address public safety and mental health issues that have eluded state solutions for years. This progress will enable the Governor and the Legislature to begin to address long term budget solutions.

The bad news, however, is that California Republicans, like their counterparts in Washington, DC, have dug in their heels and refused to vote for any new revenue. Because taxes require a two-thirds vote, it was necessary for Democrats to adopt an all cuts budget. Although Texas and Alaska tax oil companies for the oil removed from the ground, Republicans killed an oil severance tax for California. Also rejected was an effort to restore a higher tax bracket for the richest tax payers in California. Many of these folks currently pay a lower tax rate than their secretaries and domestic help. Republicans would not even consider extending existing taxes to sustain our state services.

The all cuts budget will be devastating for the poor and much of the middle class. For example, six billion dollars was cut from health and human services. CalWorks grants to the working poor were further reduced. A family of four will be now be limited to \$638 per month, not even enough to pay for rent in most communities. Child care has been decimated, further limiting opportunities for low and moderate income parents at this time of economic upheaval. Cuts to UC, CSU and our community colleges also will make it increasingly difficult for children in poor and working class families to maintain or improve their economic circumstances. Moreover, funding intended to permit seniors to remain in their homes, such as Adult Day Health Care, have been drastically reduced (continued p2).

Davis Democratic Club Board  
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## Calendar of Events

**Tues., September 6, 7:00-9:00 pm, regular DDC Board business meeting, general members and public welcomed.** Davis Library Meeting Room.

**Sun., Sept. 18, 4:00-6:00 pm, Fall BBQ,** Enjoy a variety of sausage and beverage, served in friendly surroundings (Hawaiian shirts recommended). Hosted by Stephen and Robin Souza at their home 2424 Rodin Pl., Davis: Contact Richard Yamagata 848-8634.

**Sun., Oct. 23, 6:00-9:00 pm Annual Bean Feed,** (excellent BBQ chicken and tri tip served with Democratic beans) Keynote speaker TBA, local, state and national elected officials, former congressman Vic Fazio will attend. Veterans Memorial Center Davis, Contact Bob Schelen

(Budget continued from p.1) The good news is that Governor Brown and the Democratic majority in the Legislature are committed to protecting the safety net in California while assuring that our K-12 schools and colleges are funded. They also recognize that our long term economic success depends on creating jobs and improving California's infrastructure.

The very good news is that Democrat Party has the opportunity to increase its margins in the Legislature as well as our influence over the direction of the state budget. My hope is that Yolo County's values and the values of the Democratic Party will once again become the policy of our state. Our state was once second to none in education, economic opportunity, environmental protection, and innovation. We can achieve this again if we work hard and elect those who are committed to providing an opportunity for a good and productive life for each and every resident of California.

## What Happened to Arun Sen? ( first-

hand account by DDC Pres. Sen)

**7/3:** massive blood transfusion, hospital #1

**7/4:** lower GI surgery, in ICU

**7/5:** placed on ventilator

**7/6:** multiple organ failure, ARDS diagnosis

**7/19:** tracheostomy & stomach feeding tube surgeries

**7/20:** eyes opened for the first time

**7/23:** transferred to Kindred San Leandro ICU for vent weaning, hospital #2

**7/26:** transferred to Eden Castro Valley ICU, hospital #3, for GI complications

**7/31:** off ventilator & breathing on my own

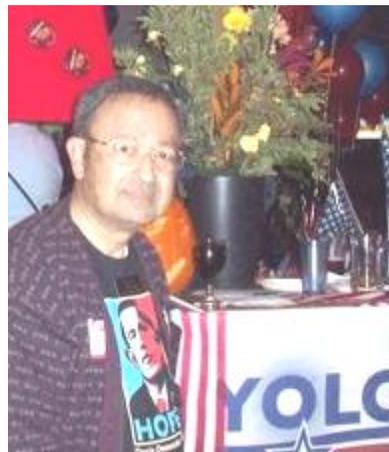
**8/6:** transferred out of ICU to regular med surge floor

**8/10:** spoke for the first time since 7/3

**8/11:** transferred to Kindred Folsom, hospital #4

**8/16:** first time eating solids since 7/3

**8/17:** tracheostomy taken out and starting to walk



I am feeling a lot better now. Got a couple of great ideas and contact persons to have DDC sponsor a seminar on water conservation. Thanks for your cards, visits, thoughts and prayers - I know it is working. Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

## 2011 Donors

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(continued p.3)

## Yolo County Fair by Carl Schmid



Yolo Democrats and the Club were well represented at Yolo County's annual fair. The Democratic fair booth designed and assembled by Democratic

Central Committee volunteers, Lyle Smith, four waters, Mark Johansen, and Central Committee Chair Bob Schelen presented an inviting public reception. Lyle (photo above) deserves special recognition for personally supervising activities during each day of the Fair!. DDC Members, you will be glad to know that your Club dues provided partial funding for voter outreach at the Yolo Fair.

Volunteers greeted the public, distributed information and registered voters. It was fun. Greeters included State Senator Lois Wolk, City Council member Sue Greenwald and Davis School Board Member, Sheila Allen. DDC volunteers included Mike Syvanen, Richard Yamagata, Tim Fenton, Bob Bockwinkel, Mary Serra, Barry Wilson, Rick Gonzales and Luba Schmid. Luba (for full disclosure, she is this writer's wife) did a particularly outstanding job in engaging the public to register new voters!

Demonstrating their continuing popularity, the cardboard cutouts of Barak and Michelle Obama (photo above) once again a favorite photo backdrop for families enjoying a day at the Fair. Obama's "presence" naturally invited frequent public commentary on the President's performance, which I found fascinating and informative. During a two hour period, numerous voters, who supported the President in 2008, told me that they wanted him to take a different course of action (most often using the phrase a "tougher" course of action) in confronting either his adamant Republican opposition, the severe economic downturn or any of the many other vexing problems now facing our nation. As a recurring theme, the obvious sympathy and support that these voters have for the President was conflicted by their sense that he needs to take new approach. The upcoming challenge for Democrats is to explain what has been accomplished, while developing even better programs for the future.



Registering voters at the  
Yolo County Fair

Sheila Allen and Bob Bockwinkel  
distributing information

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Democratic Newsletter

Fall BBQ  
Sunday, Sept. 18,  
4:00-6:00 pm  
Relax and join the fun

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See the website photo  
gallery

www.davisdemocraticclub.org

To JOIN or RENEW (circle one) membership in the Davis Democratic Club, fill out this form and send a check to the following address: Davis Democratic Club, P.O. Box 73014, Davis, CA 95617

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

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