

The Activist

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News from the Silicon Valley Democratic Club

Summer 2010

Welcome to *The Activist*

A quarterly publication of the Silicon Valley Democratic Club

Margie Mitchell
President

Progressive Democrats have our work cut out for us this year. In an election season where most pundits claim Republicans have the upper hand, we'll have to fight the tide that threatens to push us backwards on everything from health care and financial reform to the environment and public education. The Silicon Valley Democratic Club prides itself in developing a growing and diverse community with an organized and unifying voice in the political arena. The Club provides a forum for its members to focus, discuss, prioritize positions and promote important issues. Working together, our members help to elect Democratic candidates in local, state, and national elections.

Inside this issue, you'll find a list of local progressive candidates that we support, a calendar of events where you can interact with fellow Democrats, and specific ways you can get involved and make your voice heard. Remember, change starts with you!

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Call to Action!

You can make a difference by taking that first step

Frustrated with government problems that never seem to get solved? Tired of yelling back at your TV or the car radio? Then it's time to roll up your sleeves and get involved!

There are many ways that you can make your voice heard in your community, and the Silicon Valley Democratic Club is here to help. Here are just a few:

Contact your representative. Whether it's a local issue or a national one, representatives at every level look for feedback from their constituents. If you've taken the time to call or write a letter, elected officials assume that others also feel the way you do. When your voice joins in with others on a particular issue, its power is magnified many times over.



SVDC members came out on a rainy day in January to show their support for health care reform. The rally was covered by the San Jose Mercury News.

Write a letter. Despite the myth of a liberal bias in the media, liberal viewpoints often get short shrift in major media outlets. Help correct the record by penning a concise letter to the editor or an e-mail to a reporter. Be polite, but firm. Taking the time to correct an error,

SVDC-Endorsed Candidates Look To November

With the June Primary season over, candidates endorsed by the Silicon Valley Democratic Club are setting their sights on the November election. Thanks to all club members who walked precincts or make phone calls! The following candidates either won their races outright or made the run-off:

San Jose City Council, District 5 (made run-off):
Xavier Campos

Born and raised on San Jose's East Side, Xavier Campos grew up in a family who cherished the values of community service and social justice. Currently a member of the city's Planning Commission, Campos has vowed to make sure that hard-won improvements in East San Jose are not lost in the current budget environment. His priorities include preserving core neighborhood services, improving public safety and reducing gang violence, and supporting equal and equitable access to education for all students.

San Jose City Council, District 7 (made run-off):
Madison Nguyen

SVDC members are well-acquainted with Madison Nguyen, the first Vietnamese-American ever elected to San Jose's City Council. Since 2005, Nguyen has worked tirelessly on behalf of her constituents in the 7th District and has played a key role in bringing in jobs, affordable housing and significant neighborhood improvements. Her successful battle against last year's misguided recall effort only strengthened her base in the district as well as her resolve to fight for those she represents, particularly in today's tough budget climate.

San Jose City Council, District 9: Donald Rocha

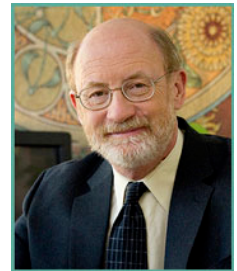
A lifelong resident of San Jose and a 15-year resident of the District 9 community, Don Rocha was elected to the Cambrian School Board in 2008, where he has worked closely with administrators and teachers to navigate the rocky environment of the state budget crisis. Rocha's professional experience will enable him to hit the ground running once he is elected. For the past five years, he has worked for the San Jose Redevelopment Agency in a variety of positions, concentrating on neighborhoods as well as industrial, residential and commercial development.

Santa Clara County District Attorney: Jeff Rosen

Jeff Rosen is committed to restoring the highest professional standards to the District Attorney's office. As our first Democratic District Attorney in over 30 years, Rosen has vowed to reform the office by, among other things, funding Cold Case investigations, creating a Conviction Integrity Unit, demanding transparency and openness, and, in his words, "establishing the highest professional standards of any D.A.'s in the state."

Action Alert: John Laird in SD 15

We need all hands on deck for this special election! Former Assemblyman and Santa Cruz Mayor John Laird is running to replace Abel Maldonado in the 15th Senate District. Snaking all the way from San Luis Obispo to Saratoga, the district was carved to be reliably Republican, but Democrats now hold a majority in party registration. *Santa Clara County is key to re-taking this seat.* Those Democratic voters are concentrated here in Santa Clara County.



Unfortunately, county Republicans edged out Democrats in the special primary on June 22nd – we can't let that happen again!

The stakes couldn't be higher. Snatching this seat from the Republicans would bring us within one seat of the two-thirds majority Democrats need to get our state moving again. John Laird is an excellent candidate – a strong supporter of higher education, a long-time opponent of offshore oil-drilling, and a talented and creative lawmaker whom the San Jose Mercury News deemed the state's most effective legislator in 2008. His opponent, Sam Blakeslee, not only voted to expand oil drilling off the California coast but is a hardened tax ideologue who will only add to the legislative gridlock in Sacramento.

You can make a difference today. Absentee ballots begin going out July 20; the election is August 17. Phone banking and precinct walking are ongoing. Meet at the Santa Clara County Labor Center, 2102 Almaden Road, San Jose, 95125 Monday-Thursday,

5-8; Saturday-Sunday, 10-8 to help out. Call (408) 715-7023 or visit lairdforsenate.com for more info.

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SVDC HOSTS ALL-CLUB PICNIC

Invite your friends and bring your family! The SVDC is hosting the Santa Clara County Democratic Party's annual All Clubs Picnic on Saturday, July 31. Enjoy a BBQ with old friends and make some new ones while meeting local Democratic office-holders and those running for office. A representative from Jerry Brown's campaign is expected to make an appearance. See Calendar below for details.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

HOLIDAY INN, SAN JOSE
JULY 16-18

Workshops and strategy sessions, with a focus on tools and planning for the November election. Visit cadem.org/eboard for more information.

ALL CLUBS PICNIC

RAINBOW PARK, 5801 RAINBOW DRIVE, SAN JOSE 95129
JULY 31, 11 AM-1:30 PM

Annual Democratic Party picnic. We'll be precinct-walking for John Laird after the festivities. Contact Clarence Madrilejos at clarencem99@gmail.com for more information.

SILICON VALLEY DEMOCRATIC CLUB MEETING

SAN JOSE SELF-HELP CENTER, 525 W. ALMA AVE.
SAN JOSE, 95110
7:00 PM

Monthly board meeting; everyone is welcome.

SCC DEMOCRATIC PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

COUNTY BUILDING CAFETERIA, 70 W. HEDDING ST.
SAN JOSE, 95110
7:00-9:00 PM

Monthly meeting of the Central Committee for the conduct of Democratic Party Business. Agenda will be posted at least 72 hours in advance at sccdp.org/sccdcc.php.

articulate a viewpoint or suggest a topic to investigate helps ensure that a progressive point of view is part of the media feedback – and it works more often than you might think.

Take charge of your neighborhood. Talk to your neighbors and learn about your precinct. The Santa Clara County Democratic party now has the tools to help you identify like-minded voters in your own neighborhood who, like you, care about their community and want to take action. Contact Rachel Sumi at rachel_sumi@sbcglobal.net for more information on the Santa Clara County Democratic Party's Neighborhood Leader program.

Take it to the streets. You'd be surprised at how many local events take place where you can make your voice heard. In addition to action organized by local Democrats, MoveOn and Organizing for America are two other organizations that regularly stage events to raise awareness about critical issues. Whether it's a rally or a townhall meeting, your participation ensures that you've had your say and helps counter misleading impressions that are often left by a vocal minority.

Join the party. Watch for SVDC opportunities or contact Judy Pipkin at the Santa Clara Democratic Party (jypipkin@aol.com) and let us know that you want to volunteer. In a crucial election year such as this, we need your energy in electing more and better Democrats. You'll feel great knowing that you *did* make a difference!



**Join the Silicon Valley Democratic Club!
Membership is \$20 for individuals, \$30 for families, and \$10 for students and seniors.**

Races to Watch in 2010

Off-year elections usually pale in comparison to the excitement generated in presidential election years, but there are plenty of high-stakes races on the ballot this year.

Governor: While Meg Whitman may be a new face, her policy prescriptions come straight from the old, dog-eared Republican playbook. California can't afford to experiment with yet another Republican celebrity. Jerry Brown is a proven innovator with a long track record of fighting for everyday Californians. We'll need to flex our grassroots muscle to defeat Meg's millions. Visit jerrybrown.org for more info.

Senate: Voters have a stark choice between Barbara Boxer and Carly Fiorina; expand opportunities for workers, or protect corporate giants; protect a woman's right to choose, or side with religious zealots; improve healthcare reform, or repeal it. Any progress on these issues and many more depends on returning Barbara Boxer to the Senate. Learn more at barbaraboxer.com.

The November ballot also has a slew of **propositions**, some of which may have important consequences for our party and our state. A rundown:

Prop 18: The \$11 billion water bond. (This may be delayed until the 2012 ballot.)

Prop 19: Cannabis legalization.

Prop 20: Expands Prop 11 redistricting commission to include Congressional races, which could cost Democrats seats in the House.

Prop 21: The state parks initiative, raising the vehicle license fee by \$18, keeping all parks open at restored hours, reducing the maintenance backlog, and allowing all Californians with a registered vehicle to get into any park free of charge.

Prop 22: Bans state government raids on local government funds for good.

Prop 23: Repeal of AB 32, the state's landmark global warming law, an initiative funded by \$2 million in campaign contributions from oil companies. This must be defeated.

Prop 24: Closes corporate tax loopholes that add at least \$1.7 billion annually to the budget deficit.

Prop 25: Restores majority rule for the state budget process. We cannot afford to let this one fail.

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