



EMPOWERED VOICES

Women Democrats of Sacramento County

Issue 4 – Fourth Edition

October - December 2023



Sacramento Women Democrats 2024 Executive Committee

Front row: Kate Van Buren, Julie Chapman, Sandra Hazel,
Oranit Limmaneesprasert

Back row: Debbie Richardson, Linda Reed, Eric Wiesenthal,
Anna Ioakimedes, Annette Emery, Pam Dominisse, Sue Litsey,
Dr. Elizabeth Sherrell-Davis

Message FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year!

This is a special time of the year when we make new goals and resolutions, reflect upon our achievements, focus on self-improvement, health and professional development, and promise ourselves to partake in more community service.



2023 has been an amazing year for Women Democrats. I am truly grateful to be a part of this phenomenal club with so many dedicated and energetic members who are filled with the purpose of fighting to keep our rights and freedoms safe for generations to come.

2024 will be a significant year that will decide the fate of our democracy. As individuals, we need to stay vigilant and informed. And most importantly, we need to support our endorsed candidates by volunteering to help with phone and text banking and canvassing in the districts. I'm asking all members to show up in a huge way and let our candidates know that Women Democrats of Sacramento County will be there for them.

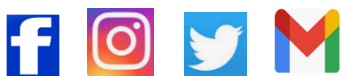
Save the Date for the installation Ceremony!
January 22, 2024 - 6pm
Park Terrace Club--5500 Parkfield Ct, Sacramento

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Women Democrats of Sacramento County
P.O. Box 161944 ■ Sacramento, CA 95814
www.sacramentowomendems.org



Can I count on you?

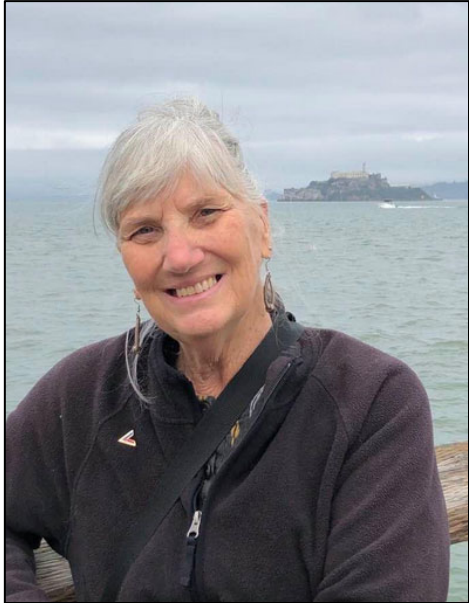


Past President Tracie Stafford was recently awarded DPSC's President's Choice Tower Bridge Award (L - R: Jo Souvignier, Tracie. Stafford, Sandra Hazel, Pam Dominisse, Nancy Fox)

WOMEN DEMS MEMBER

ANNETTE EMERY

LONG-TIME POLITICAL WONK



Annette joined the Women Dems over 20 years ago. She remembers long ago when the Women Dems' meetings were held at the teacher's lounge at the Sacramento City Teacher's Association on Elvas Avenue in Sacramento. Annette has always been interested in politics and recalls precinct walking and envelope stuffing when she was a teenager in Santa Cruz. Annette was a single mom of a boy and a girl when she decided to get her Bachelor's degree at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She was the first member of her immediate family to earn a college degree. In 1986, Annette and her children moved to Sacramento since there were more job opportunities and cheaper housing in the area. Also, being close to the State Capitol was exciting to her.

Annette worked as a long-term substitute teacher and as a waitress before getting a job with the Department of Transportation (CalTrans) as a Transportation Planner. She spent 18 years at CalTrans and retired as a Senior Transportation Planner. During her time at CalTrans, she worked on public transportation around Lake Tahoe, public transportation grants for improved mobility for welfare recipients and farmworkers, and she worked with Metropolitan Planning Organizations and the Federal Transportation Agency.

While still at CalTrans, Annette took classes to earn a Special Education Teaching credential. Upon retirement, Annette found that her skills worked better working one-on-one with students. She also worked with group home students in schools for emotionally disturbed students who have equal doses of school and therapy.

During all of this, politics and education were always an important part of Annette's life. She volunteered at her children's schools and served on School Site Councils and Parent Teacher Organizations. As her children entered high school, she regularly attended Grant School Board meetings. This was in the mid-1990s, and the Grant Board was highly dysfunctional with petty grievances taking up more time than the education of the students. A task force was formed to determine how to improve the District and one of the recommendations was a new board.

Annette was encouraged by the Grant Teacher's Union to run for the new school board and a slate of three candidates was supported that would change the five-member board. After too many instances of poor leadership than can be described, the Superintendent was bought out and new people were brought in. The educational results improved, the campuses were cleaner and safer, and awards were given to the District. However, 30 years of poor results are hard to get past and the Grant Board agreed on merging the Grant District with three smaller elementary school districts to form the Twin Rivers District. Annette ran for a seat on the new Board but campaigning in a 100-square mile district for a special election was not in her favor.

Annette continues to volunteer in her community and is a long-time member of the Gardenland Northgate Neighborhood Association in Sacramento.

She was both the Secretary and the Membership Chair of the Women Dems and belongs to several other organizations.

Every December, Annette and her husband, Patrick Cody, dress as Santa and Mrs. Claus and greet young fans and families throughout the area. For this New Year, Annette's wish is a complete Democratic victory in 2024 and a kinder, nicer country.



**MEET OUR POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR:
ORANIT LIMMANEEPRASERT**

Oranit Limmaneeprasert joined the Women Dems in August and has made it clear she will be an active member. When she saw that our club needed a political affairs director for 2024, Oranit realized her political and legislative background would be assets for the position and enthusiastically volunteered for the position.



So, who is Oranit? Oranit was born and raised in a working-class family in Thailand. Her parents were born and raised in Thailand, but only learned to read and write in Chinese. While her father was sent to China for four years of schooling, her mother only learned to read and write in Chinese with a relative. Oranit's mother wanted her to follow a more traditional path of finishing elementary school and getting married, but Oranit felt this was not her way and overcame many challenges and managed to receive advanced degrees.

To save enough money for one year of international student tuition at Michigan State University, Oranit worked several jobs for six and a half years: Thai language and cultural trainer for the U.S. Peace Corps; founder, director, and teacher for a Thai language and cultural program for the Maryknoll Fathers; and Mandarin Chinese instructor for a language school she founded and directed. She later earned a degree in engineering in Taiwan and a master's degree in teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) and a Ph.D. in educational psychology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

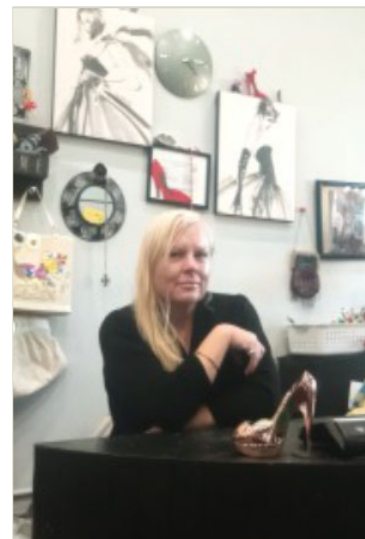
Oranit moved to Sacramento when she was offered a tenure-track position at American River College (ARC) and has taught ESL there since 2001. She also has been ARC faculty union president since 2018 Sacramento Chapter of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance and the vice president of the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges since 2021, and as her union's legislative liaison since 2020. Oranit also has been serving as the president of the

When asked about why Oranit got involved in Democratic Party politics, she asserted that Democrats share her values. As an Asian woman who has made her own way, she stands up for her community. Like so many, the election of "the last guy" was a wake-up call that American democracy needs champions and we must all stay vigilant to make sure everyone's rights are protected.

**MEET WOMENS DEMOCRATS MEMBER:
PATTI LITSEY**

Patti joined the Women Democrats in October after attending the 70th anniversary celebration event. Her mother is Sue Litsey, our new Membership Director.

Patti is the owner of "Cheap Frills", a thrift store located on Del Paso Blvd. She was inspired to open her own store after years of successfully managing other thrift stores.



Patti was born in Los Angeles and moved to Sacramento during her early teens. She earned a master's degree in educational counseling and worked 3-4 years as the Victim Advocate for Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Survivors for the UC-Davis Police Department's Campus Violence Prevention Program.

She joined the Women Dems to learn more about the election process and is concerned with the hypocrisy she sees happening in American politics at this time.

Patti has been married for 11 years to her loyal and loving husband, Randy. They have one son, Seth, who is preparing to transfer from Sacramento City College to Sacramento State and hopes to be a video game designer.

If you find yourself in the Del Paso area, please stop by Cheap Frills at 2012 Del Paso Boulevard and give a warm Women Dems welcome to Patti!

JOIN NOW

**WOMEN DEMOCRATS OF
SACRAMENTO COUNTY**

Pay Your Membership Dues [Here](#)

Be a part of Sacramento's
oldest political club!

General Membership: \$35 per year
Students and Seniors: \$30 per year



SACRAMENTO WOMEN DEMS

OUR GOALS

- Promote and expand the role of women in politics and their engagement in the political process.
- Facilitate understanding of, and engagement in, issues that concern and affect women through support, advocacy and ongoing educational programs.
- Maintain cooperative relations and coordinate activities with other community and Democratic Party organizations.
- Initiate and advocate for legislation that improves the civil, social, economic and political status of women and other underrepresented groups.
- Uphold the principles of the Democratic Party.
- Work to expand the Democratic Party Electorate and elect qualified Democrats to local, state and national office.



Learn More about Our Endorsed Candidates

On the next pages, information is provided about our endorsed candidates for you to learn more about the candidates, their campaign plans and teams, upcoming events and how to contribute, donate and volunteer to ensure our endorsed candidates gain leverage for winning elections.

1. Flo Cofer - <https://www.floformayor.com/contact-us>
2. Roger Dickinson - <https://www.rogerdickinson.com/help>
3. Eric Guerra - <https://electricguerra.com/>
4. Rosanna Herber - <https://www.rosannaherber.org/>
5. Braden Murphy - <https://www.bradenforsac.com/>
6. Katie Valenzuela - <https://www.katie4council.com/join>
7. Porsche Middleton - <https://www.porsche4assembly.com/join>
8. Mai Vang - <https://www.maivang.org/getinvolved>

Interviews were conducted by Eric Wiesenthal

Women Dems Attends Significant PPIC Events

By Linda Reed

Twice this fall Women Dems members have attended fascinating speaker events at the Public Policy Institute speaker series.



On October 26, President Sandra Hazel and members Linda Reed and Suzanne Flint attended a luncheon featuring the new State Supreme Court Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero. Guerrero is the First Latina Chief Justice and was previously an associate Justice on the State Supreme Court. She was appointed by Governor Newsom and overwhelmingly approved by voters in 2022.

Guerrero is the daughter of Mexican immigrants. She commented about her focus on the job, issues of diversity, access to the courts, civic education in schools, and she spoke about her earlier work on the Immigration Justice Project. In 2023, Guerrero was named Woman of the Year by USA Today due to her work making a significant impact on communities in California. Guerrero stated she does this work to honor her parents' sacrifices. Overall, it was an engrossing conversation from a very influential woman.

The second event was with Leon Panetta, former Secretary of Defense under former President Obama where he organized the capture of Osama Bin Laden. Other offices he filled were U.S. House Representative from California, CIA Director, Director of the Office of Management and Budget and White House Chief of Staff. Panetta spoke about his former positions and about the capture of Bin Laden. His comments were most entertaining and demonstrated his wide range of experiences. Panetta currently works with the Institute of Public Policy at Cal State Monterey and is dedicated to motivating people to public service and to become involved in the democratic process.



Patricia Guerrero, left, is sworn in to the California Supreme Court by Governor Gavin Newsom, far right.



Dr. Flo Cofer

Website:

<https://www.floformayor.com/contact-us>

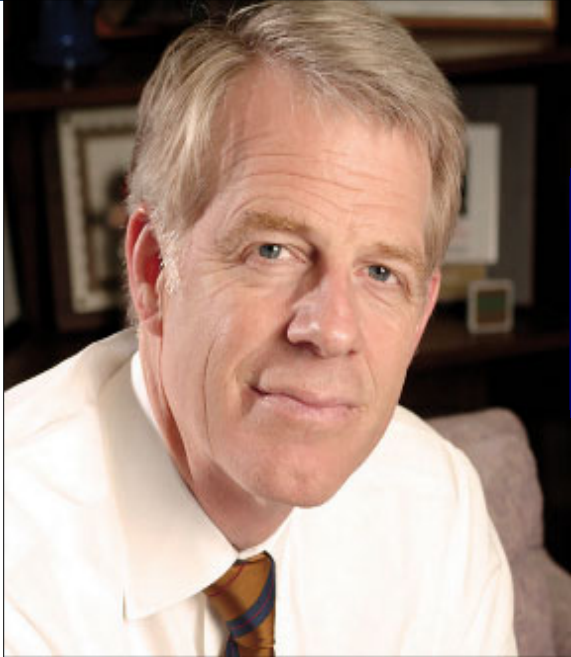
In her first campaign for public office, Cofer is running to succeed Darrell Steinberg as Mayor of Sacramento. She is a specialist in public health having earned a master's in public health and a Ph.D. in epidemiology from the University of Michigan where she focused on reproductive health for Indigenous Americans and aging women's health.

Since 2017, Cofer has been working for a public health advocacy group in Sacramento that has been successful in passing state and local policies focused on community safety, nutrition, diabetes prevention, and ending racial disparities in health care. Should she become our next mayor, Cofer has stated that those who are unhoused would be at the top of her agenda. "It should not be left to staff at the county jail to assess and initially treat those who are arrested and suffering mental illness," she said. "Often they are released at two in the morning with not so much as a bus pass to get home. Being poor is not a crime," Cofer added.

It is imperative that the city do more to establish safe grounds like Camp Resolution, Cofer stated. Last spring, the City of Sacramento, working with housing advocates, established the site in North Sacramento that now has 33 city-owned trailers for 100 residents in what is a self-governing property. A group of camp leaders, called the resident council, have created create rules regarding maintenance and security for the site and determine how to admit new residents as spaces become available. Still, Cofer said there are roughly 10,000 people who are unhoused in the city and just 2,300 shelter beds available.

Some of her other priorities as mayor would be to strengthen protection of tenant rights, improve public safety, and enact more of the city's climate action plan. "Working with our colleges and universities and SMUD [the Sacramento Municipal Utility District] we ought to be able to establish Sacramento as a green jobs hub," she said. Doing this, she added, "could make us a beacon on the hill in terms of establishing a living wage for people and diversifying our economy."

Cofer also would like to change some of the priorities of law enforcement officers "so that every 911 call does not result in officers being the first responders to what are often mental health crisis situations." She also would like the department to focus more on training new officers or hiring additional personnel who are from Sacramento and know their neighborhoods better than candidates from outside the area.



Roger Dickinson

Website:

<https://www.rogerdickinson.com/help>

Roger Dickinson is a name well-known to Sacramento Democrats. He served on the County Board of Supervisors from 1994-2010 and then in the State Assembly from 2010-2014. He's running to represent District 2 on the Sacramento City Council. His district borders Del Paso Boulevard and Arden Way.

Dickinson got into this race because "over the course of the last half-dozen years, we've seen our District moving backwards." One of his main concerns always has been youth development, especially the health and well-being of children and teens from working families. He has been involved with child nutrition programs and other programs focused on ending the "school-to-prison pipeline." Dickinson believes community-based policing fosters meaningful connections between law enforcement and community members. He also founded "Yes to Youth" and helped establish "Birth and Beyond" to invest in youth development initiatives, from early intervention for at-risk youth to job training and educational opportunities.

Just as important to District 2 is greater public/private investment. If he is elected to City Council, Dickinson wants to see the city tap into the state's \$500 million infill infrastructure program which funds the construction of roads, sewer and water lines, and new lighting that would make it easier for development of affordable residential and mixed-use properties in Sacramento.

"It's time for us to shine a light on North Sacramento," he said. "I want to build coalitions between federal, state, and local governments and with local non-profits to build our community. This area can be and deserves to be seen as a jewel," Dickinson added. "We need to put the kind of effort into our area that we've put into other areas of the city in the past."



Eric Guerra

Website:

<https://electericguerra.com>

Eric Guerra is running for re-election to represent District 6 on the Sacramento City Council. Located in the southeastern corner of the city, it includes the 50-East freeway, Folsom and Stockton Boulevards, and an area south of Fruitridge Road.

Guerra's backstory provides some insight into why he is committed to public service. He is the son of farmworkers and when he was in high school, labored during the summers picking peaches and harvesting other crops.

When he graduated, Guerra focused on his college education and earned both a bachelor's degree in electrical and electronic engineering and a master's in public policy at Sacramento State. As an undergraduate, he was elected student body president and succeeded in securing money for his fellow engineering classmates who needed funding to enter engineering competitions on their way to graduation.

He later was elected to become president of the Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association and then chaired the Sacramento County Planning Commission. In 2015, he won a special election to fill the seat being vacated by Kevin McCarty, who had just been elected to the State Assembly. Guerra was re-elected to a full, four-year term in 2016. His current term ends in December next year. Guerra wants to continue his focus on affordable housing, efforts to provide housing and services to the unhoused, and community development.

Currently, he's directly involved with the development of a site on Stockton Boulevard for 175 manufactured homes to "provide immediate respite for the unhoused." He added that the 12-acre site, which is being funded through a joint state-county-city partnership, will provide support services, mental health care, a substance program, and dental care. He also was instrumental in working with Mercy Housing in the development of a 200-unit property also located on Stockton Boulevard. This site provides affordable apartments for seniors and people with special needs in addition to full supportive housing for the formerly homeless.

Guerra also was one of a small group of community leaders who successfully negotiated changes to the Aggie Square project being built around the UC-Davis Medical Center. The group was able to secure commitments from UC-Davis to hire union construction workers for the building of a new research center and housing for medical students. Guerra and others are continuing work to ensure that new staff are hired locally to fill positions ranging from custodial workers to Ph.D.'s who might staff the new research center.

He also is committed to working with the Sacramento Police Department to hire a diverse group of new officers who have graduated from a high school law enforcement academy, have graduated with a degree in law enforcement from Sacramento State, and then complete their training at the department's police academy. "It's important that we continue to maintain this pipeline from our own community to hire officers who know our neighborhoods and are bilingual not just in Spanish, but also Mien, Hmong, Mandarin Chinese, and other languages," Guerra said.



Rosanna Herber

Website:

<https://www.rosannaherber.org/>

Rosanna Herber is running for the 6th District in the State Assembly which covers most of the City of Sacramento and the communities of Antelope, Arden-Arcade, Carmichael, Elverta, La Riviera, and Rio Linda. “I knew I wanted to run for office after being appointed the Citizen’s Advocate in the office of the mayor of Fort Wayne, Indiana,” Herber noted. Having just graduated from Indiana University with degrees in psychology and Spanish, she added the position “was the best

form of making government work for the people.” Herber noted, however, that she resigned from the office after serving four years when the mayor, who had promised to issue a proclamation celebrating “Gay Pride Day,” backed down, in part she said, because he was running for governor and a group of his major contributors were against it.

She left Fort Wayne shortly thereafter and headed to California moving ultimately to Sacramento in 1986. It wasn’t long before she became a member of the Women Democrats of Sacramento County. Herber also was able to join the staff of City Council Member Kim Mueller, who later would be succeeded by Darrell Steinberg. Herber worked for Mueller for her entire four-year term. While serving the council member, Mueller was selected to become vice mayor and served on the Council’s budget committee. Working with Mayor Anne Rudin, Mueller was able to get the city to enact its first set of campaign finance reforms. “I learned a about leadership and solving problems,” Herber said about her service with Mueller.

In 2018, Herber was the first openly gay woman to be elected to the Board of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD). She was re-elected in 2022 to continue her service to the \$2 billion public utility. And Herber will be serving as President of the Board starting January 1st. If she is elected to the Assembly, Herber is strongly in favor of the state buying motels or similar properties and converting them for families that have been unhoused or are the working poor in communities across the state.

She also wants the state to work with cities and counties to achieve more density-driven development. “Let’s focus on corridors that are close to transit and build affordable housing, low-income housing, and housing for the unhoused in addition to supporting small business,” Herber said.

As a member of the Assembly, she also would like to see utilities in California become leaders in fighting climate change. While she has been on the SMUD board, Herber was a member of the group that drafted the emergency declaration allowing the public utility to move away entirely from carbon-based energy sources by 2030. Herber also has worked with Congresswoman Doris Matsui’s office to secure a \$3 million federal grant to install energy-efficient heating and air conditioning and water heaters to a senior apartment complex in Sacramento.

“You’re going to see me be part of the drive for more workforce development,” she added, especially in jobs related to solar and wind power and the manufacturing and installation of more charging stations for electric vehicles across California. It is also key, Herber stated, that “we have child care for working families.” If elected, she would propose that any new public building built at the state, county, and city levels must include child care services on-site. She stated that “this is so important to individuals and couples having this kind of security in order to seek full-time employment.”



Braden Murphy

Website:

<https://www.bradenforsac.com>

Braden Murphy is running for District 4 on the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors which includes the City of Folsom and Rancho Murieta. He began to get involved in politics shortly before the 2016 presidential election and was very active in supporting Bernie Sanders and volunteered for local races that year. "When Trump won, that was the moment that made me want to run for office," he noted. "That was a frightening time."

Last year, as a political newcomer, Murphy took on Ted Gaines, the incumbent, and two other candidates for the District 1 seat on the state Board of Equalization which stretches from Sacramento to San Bernardino County. While he came in third in the primary, he still was able to garner over 225,000 votes.

For his current campaign, Murphy stated that "I looked at who would be running if I wasn't in there and we would be looking at two other candidates - an elected official and an extreme, right-wing candidate - and we'd be left with no person advocating for a caring, compassionate, and inclusive society."

If he becomes the new supervisor, Murphy would push for a joint powers effort covering affordable housing and mental health care. Cities in Sacramento County would focus solely on working with developers and others on affordable housing through repairs and upgrades to existing buildings and construction of rental properties and single family homes. And the county would release \$25 million it apparently has been holding to fund mental health needs and priorities for the unhoused.

His first action, however, would be to seek a significant increase in the hourly wages of in-home health care workers. Born with cerebral palsy, Murphy, who uses an electric wheelchair, counts on his wife to play this role, and he could be the majority vote on the Board to approve the wage hike.



Porsche Middleton

Website:

<https://www.porsche4assembly.com/join>

Porsche Middleton is running for State Assembly District 7 which represents Citrus Heights, Folsom, and Rancho Cordova. She was elected to the Citrus Heights City Council in 2018 and in 2022 became the Sacramento region's first Black female mayor.

Reflecting back on her childhood in Louisville, Kentucky, she remembered at age 8 watching something on the news and turned to her mother saying, "Some day I'm going to be president of the United States of America."

"I was the middle child with eight brothers," she continued, "and I knew if I could boss my brothers around, I can be the President. I could lead these kind of folks."

As an undergraduate at the University of Louisville, she interned in the mayor's office and was involved bridge construction projects, housing development projects, and the city's outreach efforts to small business owners. Before she left that position, Middleton was able to secure a federal grant to provide scholarships to 25 students from communities of color in the undergraduate engineering program at the university.

After moving to Sacramento, she became a member of the Citrus Heights planning commission and also focused her energies on developing job training and other opportunities for at-risk kids. Middleton also has served as a deputy director of Sacramento Self-Help Housing, where she assisted the transition of hundreds of families and individuals experiencing homelessness into secure housing.

After election to the City Council, she was later appointed by Governor Newsom to the California Housing Partnership Board which has leveraged \$30 billion over the last 30 years to create 85,000 affordable and sustainable homes in addition to providing financing and technical assistance. "As soon as I joined the Council, I knew I wanted to begin to address the economic and other disparities in our city. So I've tried to become a champion so all voices are heard," she said.

Middleton already has faced a major challenge on the City Council as an advocate for the development of a 91-unit workforce housing development project that would be located next to a middle school. The property would be targeted to provide new housing for teachers and other working families. It has been blocked, however, by a majority of the City Council and the city is facing a lawsuit as a result.

Should she be elected to the Assembly, two of Middleton's top priorities will be the unhoused and the construction of affordable housing for renters and first-time home buyers. "It's not fiscally responsible of us to have all these folks out on the street with all of these mental health issues in addition to the lack of proper health care," Middleton said.



Katie Valenzuela

Website:

<https://www.katie4council.com/join>

Katie Valenzuela scored a political upset in 2020 when she beat incumbent Steve Hansen for the City Council district representing Land Park and a section of Midtown.

For the primary in March next year, she will be running to represent the newly-configured District 4 much of which is in East Sacramento. She said she decided to run for City Council the first time because she became frustrated with the city's apparently slow pace of dealing with the range of problems facing the unhoused.

Growing up in Kern County, at 13, she got a first-hand look at local politics by attending meetings with her father who was a Vietnam vet and became a strong advocate for veterans' health issues. He also got directly involved with foster youth who were aging out of the system with no support network. "We had all these kids aging out of the system, ending up on the street, and winding up in juvenile hall," Valenzuela remembered. "My Dad always told me that politics shouldn't stop us from doing what's right."

Valenzuela worked her way through graduate school as a barista and was drawn to a master's degree program at UC-Davis in community development. After graduating in 2010, she was hired as a policy advocate on youth issues working with groups throughout the state as their representative in the Capitol.

Eventually, Valenzuela was chosen to become the first person to staff the Legislature's Joint Committee on Environmental Justice where she worked extensively with communities of color. While serving on the committee she helped develop and sought enactment of legislation that would mandate oil and gas companies to move their wells away from residential areas and schools because of the proven connection between exposure to the air and groundwater pollution to cancer. It took five years for the measure to be enacted.

Valenzuela knows she can be viewed as stubborn on the issues of affordable housing and protections for apartment renters. "I believe in keeping your True North Star about being a politician." She also noted that while she has openly opposed some of Mayor Darrell Steinberg's policy initiatives, "he respects me for being consistent with my values."

If she is re-elected to the Council, Valenzuela also is committed to developing alternatives to the use of 911 calls. A current proposal includes volunteer staffing using a small group of roving ambulances to provide counseling to people on the street. She also is optimistic the city can develop a "public bank" from unused funds in the city's budget to provide micro grants to seniors and other homeowners for maintenance. Valenzuela also is advocating for the city to enact a tax on vacant buildings and parcels of land which could raise up to \$19 million to be used to provide housing and services for the unhoused.



Mai Vang

Website:

<https://www.maivang.org/getinvolved>

Mai Vang is running unopposed for the City Council seat representing District 8—in the south area of the city including parts of Florin Road, Meadowview Road, and Bruceville Road.

The oldest of 16 children, Vang learned early how to compromise and work with her siblings. She has brought that understanding and her focus on helping her family and others as a public official. Vang earned a bachelor's degree at the University of San Francisco and went on to

graduate with two master's degrees from UCLA – one in public health and the other in Asian American studies. She considered running for public office after being an organizer with Hmong Innovating Politics (HIP), a Sacramento grassroots group focused on supporting low-income Hmong families in South Sacramento. Vang was one of the leaders to keep a handful of public schools open in the south area. It became apparent to the future City Council member that “the officials making decisions [on the schools] may not understand the lived experience of communities of color on the ground.” Through HIP, Vang fought successfully to keep the Susan B. Anthony Elementary school open where Hmong and English language skills are taught incrementally from kindergarten through sixth grade to assist students in becoming bilingual and bi-literate in English and Hmong. As a neighborhood organizer, her concerns for what was happening to younger students after school motivated her to run for a seat on the board of the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) in 2016.

In the wake of the Trump Administration's punitive efforts focused on undocumented immigrants, Vang was part of the effort to convince the district administration to declare SCUSD a safe haven for students who were undocumented. “We were one of the first school districts in the state to do this,” she noted. Vang also was successful in getting the school district to develop an ethnic studies curriculum. She stated, “Going through our schools here, I never once learned anything about the Hmong community and its history here, for example.”

Five years before George Floyd was murdered in 2022, she also was one of the school board members who were successful in re-appropriating money from staffing police officers on campuses to greater funding for school counselors across the district.

During the COVID pandemic, Vang learned that her district was being hit the hardest by the virus. She got directly involved in the largest community-wide, vaccine clinic for hard to reach residents. During her first term (which ends next year), Councilmember Vang has: led the effort to establish the Sacramento Children's Fund that will dedicate \$8 million annually to support children and youth affected by poverty, violence, and trauma; partnered with Councilmembers Katie Valenzuela and Caity Maple to propose Sacramento Forward, a comprehensive policy proposal to address housing and homelessness; and partnered with Mayor Darrell Steinberg to secure over \$5 million to support minority-owned small businesses and a commercial corridor in recovering from the pandemic.

Vang also advocated for a workgroup to analyze the language gap between non-English speaking Sacramentans and city government services which resulted in \$250,000 in funding for the city's first language access coordinator. Reflecting on the next four years, Councilmember Vang noted, “Our work is not yet done.”



Join us for Postcarding

It is vital that we come together to assist candidates with their campaigns. Writing strategic notes on postcards can help increase the turnout at elections. Voters who receive handwritten postcards are significantly more likely to vote.

- January 13, 1-3pm for Jackie Rosen (Nevada)
- February 15, 5-8pm for California House seats

Call (916) 370-7729 for the address or to pick up postcards!

INSIDE THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE WOMEN DEMS:

- 1 2023 Annual Report
- 2 Goals and Objectives
- 3 Membership Drive
- 4 Calendar of Events



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WOMEN DEMOCRATS
OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY



ARE YOU READY
TO ACHIEVE YOUR
2024 GOALS?

DR. ELIZABETH SHERRELL-DAVIS
BUSINESS AND LIFE COACH

Women Democrats of Sacramento County 2024 Executive Committee

The Women Dems' elected officers, directors and members-at-large are committed to enhancing the cause of democracy within the County of Sacramento and beyond. They are hardworking volunteers and share a passion to enhance the organization and mission of the Women Dems.

Officers

President – Sandra Hazel
 Vice President – Anna Ioakimedes
 Treasurer – Julie Chapman
 Secretary – Debbie Richardson

Directors

Sue Litsey, Membership Director
 Oranit Limmaneeprasert, Political Affairs Director
 Pamela Dominisse, Fundraising Director

Members at Large

Linda Reed
 Dr. Elizabeth Sherrell-Davis

Past Presidents

Tracie Stafford
 Kate Van Buren

Newsletter Committee

Debbie Richardson, Editor-in-Chief
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WDSC has an email for the purpose of hearing from you. Please send your questions or comments to: sacramentowomendems@gmail.com.

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