

Similar stances seen at candidates' forum

Assembly hopefuls from opposing parties share most views; however, they differ on health care.

By Danny Bernardini

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For candidates from opposing parties, the two hopefuls for the 8th District Assembly seat share many of the same ideas.

Republican candidate and businessman Manuel Cosme, of Vacaville, and Yolo County Supervisor Mariko Yamada, of Davis, participated in a forum Wednesday, showcasing many of the same stances on issues.

The forum, the third of four, was sponsored by the Vacaville Chamber of Commerce took place in the Community Room at Travis Credit Union.

Both Yamada and Cosme said they have agreed to run a clean campaign and even gave each other a high five before taking their seats. Like many people in California, both candidates had concerns about the budget stalemate.

Yamada said she is in favor of a 55 to 60 percent threshold for approval rather than a super majority.

Both candidates said they were in favor of a two-year budget cycle and said the solution was probably a combination of budget cuts and an increase in taxes.

"In a perfect world, we should lock them in a room until they agree," Cosme said. "Expect another storm

to come. I think it's going to get worse."

The topic of illegal immigration was raised and both candidates felt California should receive some help from the Federal Government. Both discussed the problems and the advantages of allowing illegal aliens in the country.

The candidates talked about a way to utilize the work done by immigrants, by eliminating the under-the-table payments, and limiting the money spent on incarcerating them.

"Every time we go to the grocery store, we are benefiting from these people," Yamada said. "I would expect all of us to look for people to blame. I would prefer to build bridges, not walls."

One issue the two did disagree on is universal health care. Yamada said it would benefit small businesses by lowering the overall costs of health care, while Cosme said it would add extra costs to business owners already strapped for cash.

"The money we saved would go back into the economy and back into the pockets of small businesses," she said. "This is a discussion long over due."

Cosme said business owners already have enough to worry about.

"It's not like small businesses make a lot of money. There are other solutions," he said. "Having it shoved down their throats doesn't make sense."

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