

## ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 8

Manuel “Manny” Cosme

**Party:** Republican

**Residence:** Vacaville

**Age:** 56

**Occupation:** Small Business Owner

**Education:** Accounting; CSU, San Francisco; Golden Gate University; Hostos Community College, New York.

**1. List the three most important issues currently affecting your district and constituency and briefly describe your plans(s) for addressing these issues.**

Economy – Initiate an economic stimulus package encouraging new business, attracting out-of-state businesses and supporting businesses in the state; keeping and creating jobs.

Education Reform – Protect funding for schools. Improve Career Enhancement Training Programs, which develop a well-trained, educated workforce.

Health Care Reform – Develop comprehensive ways to reverse health care’s spiraling costs. Encourage establishing community medical clinics that provide quality care, free from insurance premiums.

**2. What statewide issues(s) will be your focus in your first year in office?**

Budget Reform – We need to be answerable to the people. We can no longer let our schools, elderly, municipalities, constituents, and our economy suffer because of the legislature’s inability to pass a balanced budget on time. (Proposal outlined in Question #5.)

American with Disability Reform - protect our businesses and citizens from frivolous lawsuits, such as those not relevant to ADA compliance.

**3. What is your opinion of California’s stance on climate change and energy issues?**

Climate change is real and here. We must take action. The state needs to develop and aggressively encourage green technologies and renewable energy. We need to aggressively conserve and protect the environment for the future of California and for the sake of future generations.

**4. What is your stance on Proposition 11, Redistricting?**

I support Proposition 11(Redistricting) – I believe that elected officials should be held accountable to all citizens in the district they represent.

**5. What will you do to assist with stabilizing California’s financial system and improving the budget process?**

I propose an eight (8) point budget reform:

- (1) Majority vote to pass the budget; tax increase(s) require a 2/3 vote.
- (2) Implement a two (2) year budget.
- (3) Create a “Rain Day Fund.”
- (4) Limit the growth of government spending.
- (5) Review and reform tax codes.
- (6) Review and reform state programs/departments; eliminate “use it all budget or else” policy.
- (7) Implement a business economic stimulus program/package.

- (8) **HOLD LEGISLATORS ACCOUNTABLE** –merit pay based and tied to the budget – penalties for not balancing or passing the budget.

**6. What in your background, experience and education qualifies you for this elected position?**

Resident of District 8 for 22 years, served in the Navy, married for 31 years, an advocate for small business and a business-owner since 1990. I served as Legislative Committee Chair of the CA Hispanic Chamber and on the Northern CA Leadership Council for the National Federation of Independent Business, working with both parties on issues concerning business and California's economic future. I am involved with schools, PTA, Little League, Boy/Girl Scouts & have mentored "At-Risk" youth.

Mariko Yamada

**Party:** Democrat

**Residence:** Davis

**Age:** 57

**Occupation:** Yolo County Supervisor

**Education:** Master's Degree, Social Work, USC, 1974; Bachelor's Degree, Psychology, University of Colorado, Boulder, 1972.

- 1. List the three most important issues currently affecting your district and constituency and briefly describe your plan(s) for addressing these issues.**

Sustaining services in a "no-new-taxes" environment: We must streamline and prioritize, consider revenue-sharing for greater efficiencies.

Water and the Delta: As "ground-zero" for agricultural, municipal supplies, we must be vigilant, assertive in this area.

Healthcare in an aging society: An integrated services model will serve care seekers and caregivers alike.

- 2. What statewide issue(s) will be your focus your first year in office?**

Protecting "safety-net" services; preserving education funding; investing in prevention programs to reduce strain on our public safety and emergency services providers.

- 3. What is your opinion of California's stance on climate change and energy issues?**

I wish the rest-of-the-country and the federal government would follow our lead. AB 32 and SB 375 are good places to start.

- 4. What is your stance on Proposition 11, *Redistricting*?**

While I agree that redistricting should be taken out-of-the-hands of the Legislature, Proposition 11 is unduly restrictive, and exempts Congressional redistricting from the proposed 14-member commission's purview. Nearly every civil rights organization in California opposes Proposition 11. I also believe that redistricting reform is hollow without term-limit and campaign-finance reform.

- 5. What will you do to assist with stabilizing California's financial system and improving the budget process?**

I currently serve on the Board of Supervisors Finance and Treasury Oversight Subcommittee, and will seek assignments in Assembly Budget and/or Appropriations. I will advocate for a 55% to 60% threshold for budget passage and a two-year budget cycle to align with the legislative session.

**6. What in your background, experience, and education qualifies you for this elected position?**

Counties are State political subdivisions; I have worked in three--Los Angeles, San Diego, and Yolo—and for ten years in Washington, D.C. for the U.S. Commerce Department. With a Masters in Social Work and thirty years of experience, I am prepared to take on California's problems on your behalf.

## STATE SENATE

Greg Aghazarian

**Party:** Republican

**Residence:** Stockton

**Age:** 44

**Occupation:** State Assemblyman/Small Businessman

**Education:** Law degree, UOP, McGeorge School of Law, 1993; Bachelor's Degree, USC, 1986.

**1. List the three most important issues currently affecting your district and constituency and briefly describe your plan(s) for addressing these issues.**

The most important issues affecting my district are the economy, budget crisis, and home foreclosures. I want to expand and improve career technical education, making our area a center for people working on green technology. California needs a larger "rainy day" fund, a 2-year budget system and more power for the Governor to act in a fiscal crisis. I've been working to provide financial relief for people caught in the mortgage crisis.

**2. What statewide issue(s) will be your focus in your first year in office?**

My focus on statewide issues in my first year in office will be the ones listed above but also the fundamental reform of making the Legislature non-partisan. The Legislature is currently crippled by hyper-partisanship which is negatively impacting its ability to deal with California's on-going budget crisis and a wide range of other issues.

**3. What is your opinion of California's stance on climate change and energy issues?**

My opinion of California's stance on climate change and energy issues is that we need a comprehensive solution to our energy needs and climate change. We should work at conserving energy and developing more alternatives such as solar, wind and hydro-electric. We also need relief at the gas pump through environmentally responsible domestic energy exploration for oil and natural gas.

**4. What is your stance on Proposition 11, Redistricting?**

My stance on Proposition 11, Redistricting, is that I support it. We need to make the Legislature more accountable to the people and redistricting reform is one of the fundamental changes that are required. The current gerrymandered districts have much to do with why the Legislature is so overly partisan.

**5. What will you do to assist with stabilizing California's financial system and improving the budget process?**

What I will do if elected to assist with stabilizing California's financial system and improving the budget process is to push for a larger rainy-day budget reserve, support additional authority for Governors to act in a fiscal crisis, and push for adoption of a 2-year budget for the state, so there is less chaos and better fiscal planning by state government.

**6. What in your background, experience and education qualifies you for this elected position?**

The particularly unique thing in my background, experience and education that qualifies me for this elected position is my record as a state legislator of working in a bi-partisan manner to solve problems. We need less partisanship and fewer political games in Sacramento and that is what I offer.

Lois Wolk

**Party:** Democrat

**Residence:** Davis

**Age:** 62

**Occupation:** State Assemblywoman/Former teacher

**Education:** Master's degree, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, 1971; Bachelor's degree, Antioch College, 1968.

**1. List the three most important issues currently affecting your district and constituency and briefly describe your plan(s) for addressing these issues.**

The economic crisis is a major concern. Foreclosures and unemployment have reached record highs. The practices that led to the foreclosure crisis must be changed. I jointly authored legislation to eliminate some of these shoddy lending practices.

Education from pre-Kindergarten through the university level must be fully funded. Education is the key to our economic future and vitality; it provides California's competitive advantage.

As Chair of the Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee, flood protection and the health of our Delta remain priorities.

**2. What statewide issue(s) will be your focus in your first year in office?**

As your Senator, I will continue the effective, bi-partisan work started in the Assembly. This common-sense, solutions-oriented work resulted in Governor Schwarzenegger signing more of my bills than any other legislator in our region.

I will continue to work with both parties to create jobs for Californians; to strengthen our educational system ensuring our students are prepared for these jobs; to continue to fight for a clean, safe, and reliable water supply for our region and to expand and upgrade our aging transportation system.

**3. What is your opinion of California's stance on climate change and energy issues?**

California is a national and global leader in both innovation and environmental stewardship and elected to provide that leadership on a global scale with Assembly Bill 32. I supported AB 32, believing it presents Californians the opportunity to curb their contributions to global warming while benefitting from 'green collar' jobs and alternative energy development that our region is well positioned to attract. Our energy policy in the state and nation should reflect the move away from fossil fuels by diversifying our energy sources.

**4. What is your stance on Proposition 11, *Redistricting*?**

I support and have publicly endorsed the passage of Proposition 11. I believe the removal of the drawing of California's legislative districts from the Legislature itself has the potential to result in more competitive districts. This could result in the election of more moderates and potentially help narrow the chasm between the two parties.

**5. What will you do to assist with stabilizing California's financial system and improving the budget process?**

A budget resolved 85 days late and now requiring a special session of the Legislature is clearly not sustainable. We must start the budgeting process earlier, and there must be true reforms for which I will continue to fight. These reforms include a healthy "rainy day" fund, placing severe restrictions on the use of these funds, a thorough review of all expenditures, establishing performance criteria for all programs, and revising the 1930's-era tax code as other states have done.

**6. What in your background, experience and education qualifies you for this elected position?**

I started my professional career as a classroom teacher. However, my experience as a soccer referee and coach was the best training for the rough and tumble of politics.

Elected to the Davis City Council in 1990, I served twice as Mayor during 8 years on the council. I was elected to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors in 1998, serving 4 years before election to the California State Assembly where, for the past 4 years I chaired the Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee.

## **ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 2**

Paul Singh

**Party:** Democrat

**Residence:** Live Oak

**Age:** 55

**Occupation:** Millwright/farmer/businessman

**Education:** Associate's Degree, Agricultural science, Butte, 1996; Indentured apprenticeship, Department of Water Resources, 1974.

### **1. List the three most important issues currently affecting your district and constituency and briefly describe plan(s) for addressing these issues.**

Growing unemployment, lack of medical insurance coverage and the lack of adequate funding to our schools; these are three of the most important issues.

Create jobs by legislation favoring local business creation. AB 2168 is a bill that would allow local farmers to sell home grown produce instead of exporting jobs overseas. Organize the northstate counties into a water alliance coalition to sell northstate water to the south state. Money received would aid in funding local schools and health plans for families.

### **2. What statewide issue(s) will be your focus in your first year in office?**

Invest in the repair of the infrastructure in the northstate that has been long-neglected by Republican representatives and Republican administrations. To have adequate roads, schools and thriving businesses requires an investment of the wise use of tax dollars. This can benefit all California citizens, especially in the northstate.

### **3. What is your opinion of California's stance on climate change and energy issues?**

Climate change is real and energy issues make the state a proactive leader. We have led in reducing smog emissions, and have forced the auto industry to look at higher miles per gallon. The energy issue is a new industry which places California at the forefront of alternative energy sources: wind turbines, solar power, thermal power, bio-fuels, and atomic energy.

### **4. What is your stance on Proposition 11, Redistricting?**

The proposal is a sham. It would only offer permanent gridlock on the budget. If the two-thirds requirement to pass a budget were removed, then the measure might be reasonable. However, giving one-third of the legislator a permanent veto is just plain stupid and harms the citizens of this state.

**5. What will you do to assist with stabilizing California' financial system and improve the budget process?**

The two-thirds vote majority is an out-dated budget procedure and must be revised. Unfortunately, bond issues become a more attractive method to fund programs. State bonds provide wealthy California investors with tax-free dividends. It is only the middle-class California who pays these bonds off.

**6. What in your background, experience and education qualifies you for this elected positions?**

I am qualified for this position because I am a documented resident of Assembly District 2. There are no questions about my residency. The voters of this district have never voted me out of office like they did my opponent. I am an organic farmer. I supervised the Metro Water System. I have an extensive knowledge of water. This will benefit the citizens of the northstate.

Jim Nielsen

**Party:** Republican

**Residence:** Gerber

**Age:** 64

**Occupation:** Rancher/Independent Businessman

**Education:** Bachelor's Degree, Agribusiness, CSU, Fresno, 1967

**1. List the three most important issues currently affecting your district and constituency and briefly describe your plan(s) for addressing these issues.**

--Economy. I will work to cut red tape and make it easier for small businesses to locate here and create new jobs.

--Water is the lifeblood of the North State. I will work for more water storage and against any state water plan that assumes shipping our water down south.

--Crime. I've worked to ensure our laws protected innocent crime victims while also punishing those who commit crimes. I will continue this fight to keep criminals behind bars, and oppose early release legislation.

**2. What statewide issue(s) will be your focus in your first year in office?**

It is vital that we keep jobs in California. During my senate tenure I authored Rural Renaissance to achieve these goals. I intend to expand the Rural Renaissance concept advancing a multi-faceted initiative to promote economic growth that is compatible with agriculture and our resources. A focus and prioritization of career technical education is critical to ensuring a capable and trained workforce.

**3. What is your opinion of California's stance on climate change and energy issues?**

California needs to focus on finding alternative energy methods. We should look at hydro-electric, wind, and solar. California should be a leading state in alternative energy.

**4. What is your stance on Proposition 11, Redistricting?**

I support Proposition 11. Politicians should not draw their own districts. We need to put that job in the hands of the voters. Districts should not be drawn as safe district for specific parties. The voters should have the right to chose who they want to represent them.

**5. What will you do to assist with stabilizing California's financial system and improving the budget process?**

With the budget process, a spending cap is required to gain control of budget expenditures and to ensure budget discipline. Tax increases would not reduce deficits - they would retain current spending and be used to increase spending. The application of zero based budgeting would ensure expenditures are justified and cost effective. A two year budget would reduce budget wars by half.

**6. What in your background, experience and education qualifies you for this elected position?**

As a former Republican Senate Leader, I have the experience that is needed to represent this district. I know how to balance a budget, I know how to protect our water, and I know how to work with both parties in order to get what this district needs.