

# Davis officials join 'rebuilding' summit

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Davis Mayor Pro Tem Don Saylor, Yolo County Supervisor Jim Provenza and Davis Board of Education President Gina Daleiden joined 400 other local government officials at a historic event in Sacramento over the weekend to explore state governance and fiscal reforms.

Also representing Yolo County were Supervisor Mike McGowan of West Sacramento, chairman of the Board of Supervisors; city council members from West Sacramento, Winters and Woodland; and several city and county staff members.

The two-day summit, 'Rebuilding California From the Ground Up,' was the launch of a local government effort to develop reform measures and strategies that provide greater autonomy, flexibility and fiscal tools to local governments.

'California's communities are suffering because of the state budget crisis,' Saylor said in a prepared statement. 'Local schools, road maintenance and public safety seem to be a piggy bank for the state to raid.'

The summit was hosted by the Cities Counties School Partnership, a joint effort of the League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties and California School Boards Association. The city, county and school leaders convened the summit because local government is the closest level of government to the people. The three associations have never before met together as full bodies to address any issue.

'The present state budget crisis has necessitated this unprecedented level of engagement and collaboration among local agencies,' Provenza said in a prepared statement. 'Reforms must include restoring a greater degree of local control over programs, taxation and spending decisions.'

One example of the dysfunction of state government is that the state has taken upwards of \$10 billion in city property taxes to help meet state budget obligations to schools since 1991, yet state spending on schools is among the lowest in the nation.

'It was an honor to represent Davis at the summit,' Saylor said. 'There is no more important question facing us today than how to bring about reforms that will restore strength to California's weakened fiscal and governance systems.'

'Local government officials are in touch with the people of our communities. I am constantly hearing from constituents who are worried about the quality of life not only in our city but across California. They know something must change and are looking to their city officials for leadership. Local control of local resources is key.'

Added Daleiden, 'Listening to the needs of schools, cities and counties from the perspectives of hundreds of local elected leaders, it's clear we share some common goals. As local leaders, we were all elected to make things happen in our communities, and so we're increasingly unhappy to just wait and see what happens as the state hands down decisions that affect our ability to govern proactively.'

Social media was a major component of the summit, with delegates texting and tweeting comments to moderators during the event. People could follow the summit's proceedings on Twitter remotely as well. At the end of the summit, delegates voted on reform priorities by texting.

Local residents can follow 'Rebuilding California From the Ground Up' on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/RebuildingCA> and on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Rebuilding->

[California-From-the-Ground-Up/101892621503?ref=ts](https://www.sfgate.com/california-politics/article/California-From-the-Ground-Up/101892621503?ref=ts).

Rebuilding California From the Ground Up is an ongoing project, Saylor said. Delegates to the summit will be engaging residents in their communities and the Cities Counties Schools Partnership's state fiscal reform task force will continue to meet to take the summit's results to the next level.

Saylor and Yolo County Board of Education member Davis Campbell are members of this state task force.