



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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VOL. XXXIII
No. 9

February 28, 2011

HIGH SPEED RAIL: FLORIDA, OHIO REFUSE BULLET TRAIN FUNDS. CALIF. WANTS THOSE FUNDS

Editor's note: Florida Gov. Rick Scott(R) has rejected the \$2 billion dollars in U.S. funds to build a high speed bullet train between Orlando and Tampa. Florida wasn't the only state to refuse high speed rail funds: Ohio and Wisconsin also turned down the funds. Calif. high speed rail supporters are saying, "Fine, give the money to us." Here's our analysis & commentary...

...Construction work on a 120-mile section of the Central Valley route is expected to start next year. The price tag on that part of the route is estimated to cost more than \$5 billion dollars. According to a story in the L.A. Times, if additional funds arrive, then the routes could be expanded west toward San Jose or south toward Palmdale. If the Florida funds were to come to Calif. right now, work could be started immediately, according to a statement from the Calif. Federation of Labor's top honcho, Art Pulaski...

...The overall cost of the S.F. to Anaheim route will be about **\$43 billion dollars**. Calif. voters approved a \$9.95 billion dollar high speed rail bond in 2008, but that's just a down payment. The HSRA (High Speed Rail Authority) was created in 1996 in anticipation that voters would approve a large infrastructure bond...

...But hold on. There is a monkey wrench which has been thrown at the wheels of the proposed Calif. bullet train. Demo State Sen. Alan Lowenthal of Long Beach, who is head of the new high-speed rail authority oversight committee, has blasted the authority for what he considers lack of financial planning and accountability. And his bill, SB 517, would force all nine members of the authority to resign before the end of 2012...

...Most of the nine members are former elected officials or have close ties to politicians. They include Curt Pringle(chair), Tom Umberg, Lynn Schenk, David Crane, Fran Florez, Russ Burns, Quentin Kopp, Matthew Toleda and Thomas Richards...

...According to a story in MercuryNews.com, new panel members would have to include a financial guru, an engineer with experience on major infrastructure projects, a construction law attorney and reps from local government and labor. They couldn't be on the panel if they or their firms have taken "significant" funds from firms working on the project...

...Gov. Jerry Brown is a bullet train fan. If SB 517 becomes law, it would be under the authority of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. And that agency would be reporting to Gov. Brown...

...Both Calif. U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein have requested Transportation Sec. Ray LaHood to redirect the Florida funds to Calif. Last year, Sec. LaHood redirected about \$624 million dollars to Calif. after several other states rejected the federal funds...

...FYI: The House Transportation Committee chaired by U.S. Rep. John Mica, held hearings in DC, Fresno and L.A. this past week to discuss the high speed rail funds. Organizers of Calif.'s HSRA planned to turn out supporters in an effort to discourage critics who think HSR is a waste of money. Some critics think the \$43 billion dollar estimate is about **\$20 billion dollars too low**. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2011: GOP CANDIDATES ENTER 36TH CD RACE. HAHN INJECTS ISRAEL AS KEY ISSUE.

Editor's note: Demo Jane Harman(D-36th) postponed her departure from the U.S. House at Gov. Jerry Brown's request so that a date for a 36th CD special election would coincide with a special election on taxes that Brown hopes will get on a June special election ballot. But the **big news** in the 36th CD is all about **foreign policy/Afghanistan/Israel and the Palestinians**. We'll get to the new Republicans in the 36th at the end of this story. Here's our analysis & commentary...

...All of this foreign policy/Israel stuff started about 10 days ago when L.A. Councilwoman Janis Hahn sent Calif. Sec. of State Debra Bowen(D) a *Dear Debra* letter asking her position on Israel. Harman was a strong supporter of Israel and mixed it up with her 2010 Demo primary rival Marcy Winograd, who is **not a friend of Israel**. Winograd is still undecided about running in the 36th CD primary, but it wouldn't surprise **Calpeek** sources if she did...

...There is some speculation that Hahn's letter to Bowen (which was emailed to the news media) was really an attempt to goad Winograd into running. Hahn is very pro-Israel, like Harman. **Calpeek** sources aren't sure about Bowen because they've never heard her discuss mid-east politics. Why should she – her positions on issues are pretty much restricted to state and local politics and election/campaign law. But most Demos, like Bowen, are generally pro-Israel...

...Hahn's positions on Israel are clear: oppose a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state; support Pres. Obama's \$3 billion dollars in security assistance to Israel; implement and enforce sanctions on Iran; and condemn anti-Israel rhetoric. This last point was aimed at Winograd...

...Some of Winograd's quotes were used by U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman in a support letter for Harman in the Demo primary of 2010. Here are several Winograd quotes: "Not only do I think a two-state solution is unrealistic, but also fundamentally wrong." And: "As a citizen of the United States, I do not want my tax dollars to support institutional racism. As a Jew, I do not want my name or country associated with occupation or extermination." Is Winograd out of the mainstream to be elected? *Calpeek* readers can judge for themselves...

...In a NationalJournal Hotline on Call article, Winograd wanted to know if elected whether Bowen would join the Out of Afghanistan Caucus and the Progressive Caucus and whether Bowen would be willing to lead a peace delegation to Palestine? In the same article Winograd said she was "particularly concerned about Hahn's support of Israel."...

...Hahn's newest endorsements are from U.S. Reps. Karen Bass, Lucille Roybal-Allard and Xavier Becerra and new State Sen. Ted Lieu...

...FYI: There are two new GOPer in the 36th CD primary. One is Redondo Beach City Atty. Mike Webb. He's a career prosecutor and was elected as city attorney in 2005 and reelected in 2009. His website is info@mikewebbforcongress.com. The other GOPer is Redondo Beach Mayor Mike Gin, a mainstream GOPer from the 36th CD's second largest city. Gin was reelected two years ago. He works for L.A. Co. Sup. Don Knabe. Sources say he is a gay Chinese Reagan GOPer and a policy wonk. Stay tuned...

PENSION REFORM AS A DEAL-MAKER

CALIF. BUDGET BATTLES: MARCH 10TH IS DROP DEAD DATE TO GET A BUDGET TO GOV. BROWN.

Editor's note: If *Calpeek* publisher Dick Rosengarten had to put a bet on whether the Calif. Legislature will meet Gov. Jerry Brown's deadline of March 10th to produce a new 2011-12 budget, I wouldn't bet my life. In fact, I'd probably bet against a budget being passed until the end of April. Here's our analysis and commentary...

...Just about every day *Calpeek* looks at the Sacramento BEE to read about Brown's countdown: Thursday, Feb. 17th was Day 39 without a budget. And it was the day that the BEE ran an interview with State Sen. Bob Dutton of Rancho Cucamonga. Dutton is the GOP senate leader. He said GOPers have no interest in providing votes to put Gov. Brown's proposed tax extension on a June ballot – even if the governor and the Demos agreed to more pension reform or put on spending caps. That's not very encouraging...

...Monday, Feb. 21st, Day 43 without a budget. In 2010, former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger was all smiles when he got some pension cuts (he called it major reform). Now some GOPers are

talking about some sort of deal if pension changes are part of the Brown plan. In other words, moving away from defined pension benefits to 401(K)- plans...

...As of this moment, the public is not particularly focused on the Calif. budget, budget deadlines or pension reform. Except for Sacramento insiders and special interest folks, there is more interest in the budget fight in DC where the prospect of a total U.S. government shutdown is very real...

...A little late in coming, but State Sen. Mimi Walters(R-Laguna Niguel) has introduced a package of 10 public employee pension reforms. The main one in this package is SB 520 which would transition new public employees from the current defined benefit plan to 401(k) type retirement plans. "We must first stop the bleeding, which is why it is critical that we establish a viable defined-contribution plan for new employees. Our pension plans are massively underfunded and unsustainable."...

...The Legislative Analyst, Mark Taylor, has proposed a series of pension reforms, the most interesting being that new hires be given a "hybrid" plan. That's a combination of a traditional pension and a 401(k), with employers making contributions to both. Insiders say hybrids could solve the problem, but no one knows for sure what the full ramifications of any of these proposals are legally or in terms of employer costs...

...The governor needs to persuade 2 GOP members of the Assembly and 3 GOP members of the State Senate to get his tax plan on the June ballot. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2011: IF BROWN GETS TAX MEASURE ON JUNE BALLOT, 3 OTHER MEASURES ON TOO.

Editor's note: Very little chatter about three other measures that have already qualified for the next ballot. If Gov. Jerry Brown's tax extension proposal is put on the ballot, then voters will also be looking at a reform/revision of Calif.'s term limit law; a cigarette tax to raise money for cancer research; and ACA 4, a measure which changes the budget process. Here's our brief analysis...

☒ ***Term Limits*** – This reform qualified on 7/28/2010 – it just missed making the November ballot. Maybe that was lucky. *Calpeek* has written about this constitutional amendment before so we're not going into a long description. The measure reduces the number of years a lawmaker can serve from 14 to 12 years. They can spend all 12 in one house or split it up – as long as it doesn't go over 12 years...

...The official name of the committee is *Californians for a Fresh Start*. The lead consultant is The Strategy Group; earned media will be handled by Cerrell Associates; and polling will be done by The Feldman Group. So far, there is no opposition, but sources are sure there will be some...

☒ ***Cigarette Tax for Cancer, Heart Disease Research*** – This measure would hike the cigarette tax by \$1 per pack. The initiative qualified on 8/24/2010. The money raised,

approximately \$500 million dollars a year, would be use to fund cancer research and prevention programs. Key supporters are the [American Cancer Society](#), the [American Heart Assn.](#), the [American Lung Assn.](#) and the [Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids](#). The supporters call their measure [Hope 2011: Calif. Cancer Research Act](#). The YES side has hired two consultants: [Steve Smith](#) of the Dewey Square Group and [Sandy Polka](#)...

...There will be well-funded opposition. To date in recent filings, [Phillip Morris USA](#) has raised \$128,106. No filings from the other big tobacco firm, [R.J. Reynolds](#). The NO side goes by the name of [Taxpayers Against Out-of-Control Spending](#). Altria Group is Phillip Morris' parent company...

☒ **ACA 4** – This constitutional amendment was authored by Assemblyman [Mike Gatto](#)(D-Burbank) and placed on the ballot by the Legislature. If approved, it would change the budget process, limit spending and increase the “rainy day” fund. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2012: FOX NEWS POLL HAS PRESIDENT OBAMA LEADING 5 REPUBLICAN CHALLENGERS

Editor's note: A new Fox News Poll taken Feb 7-9 among 911 registered voters shows President [Barack Obama](#) ahead of five potential challengers. The survey was conducted by [Anderson Robbins Research](#)(D) and [Shaw & Company Research](#)(R) for Fox News. Here's how it looks, side by side:

Barack Obama(D)	48%	Wouldn't vote 3%
Mitt Romney(R)	41%	
Other	2%	
Don't know	5%	

Obama(D)	49%	Wouldn't vote 2%
Mike Huckabee(R)	41%	
Other	2%	
Don't know	6%	

Obama(D)	56%	Wouldn't vote 4%
Sarah Palin(R)	35%	
Other	2%	
Don't know	3%	

Obama(D)	55%	Wouldn't vote 3%
Newt Gingrich(R)	35%	
Other	3%	
Don't know	4%	

Obama(D)	54%	Wouldn't vote 4%
Jeb Bush(R)	34%	
Other	3%	
Don't know	5%	

...It's still early and the Fox News survey didn't include a number of GOPers who may run, including [Jon Huntsman](#), [Donald Trump](#), [Tim Pawlenty](#), [Haley Barbour](#), [Mitch Daniels](#), [Michele Bachmann](#) and [Rick Santorum](#). Stay tuned...

POLITICAL SHORT TAKES: ITEMS TO NOTE

Editor's note: Here are some news items you may have missed...

☐ A [Draft Trump 2012](#) committee has been formed. The news release announcing the formation was not so much about [Donald Trump](#) as it was about [Nick McLaughlin](#) of St. Charles, Missouri. In the announcement, McLaughlin noted that he was in combat on three tours in Iraq with the U.S. Marine Corps and was wounded. McLaughlin has filed the committee with the FEC and the committee is not directed, authorized or funded by Trump. There is a website: [draft-Trump2012.com](#)...

...McLaughlin's aim is to collect one half million signatures on petitions urging Trump to run. The National Political Director of the Draft Trump 2012 committee will be [Lynn Krogh](#), a former deputy press secretary to NY Gov. [George Pataki](#). [Mark J. LaLiberte](#) will serve as New Hampshire Draft Trump coordinator...

☐ There's a new poll in the 36th CD contest done by the [Progressive Change Campaign Committee](#)(PCCC), taken Feb. 17-18 among 890 likely voters. It breaks down 52% D, 28% R, 20% indep...

Definitely Debra Bowen	Leaning toward Bowen	Undec.
21%	11%	39%
Definitely Janice Hahn	Leaning toward Hahn	
20%	9%	39%

...Here's a quote from [Adam Green](#), PCCC co-founder: "This race is neck & neck among the top two contenders."

FYI: there was a second poll taken for Hahn by [Fairbank Maslin Maullin Metz & Assoc.](#) but it didn't have any head-to-head match ups. The poll was taken Feb. 13-14 among 400 likely voters. The first paragraph of the polling news release said, "Janice Hahn begins the special election campaign for the 36th CD with a five-point lead." Only one problem: they didn't give the one-on-one match ups. [John Fairbank](#) told [Calpeek](#) its too early, the field is too unsettled and we don't know for sure who is in or out...

☐ With GOP U.S. Sen. [John Kyl](#)'s announcement that he's not running for his AZ seat in 2012, Senate GOP Conference Cmt. chair [Lamar Alexander](#) of TN announced he will run for the GOP's #2 post in the U.S. Senate. Two other senators have surfaced, according to [Politico](#): [John Cornyn](#) of Texas and [John Thune](#) of So. Dakota...

☐ And speaking of U.S. Sen. John Thune, he issued a statement on Tuesday, Feb. 22nd that he's going to remain in the U.S. Senate and not run for president...

☐ 4th AD GOP assembly candidate [John Allard](#) of Roseville has been endorsed by the [CDF Firefighters](#) and by [PO-RAC](#)...

☐ The list of potential candidates taking a serious look at

running for Los Angeles Mayor on Mar. 5, 2013 is getting a little bit longer. Current Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa is termed out. Filing for the mayor's post opens just around the corner in March. The long list includes L.A. City Council President Eric Garcetti; 1st Deputy L.A. Mayor Austin Beutner; L.A. Councilwoman Jan Perry; L.A. Controller Wendy Greuel; State Sen. Alex Padilla; L.A. Co. Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky; and businessman Rick Caruso...

...Caruso and Beutner both have deep pockets, but Beutner says he won't self-fund. Just a guess, but one *Calpeek* source believes that Yaroslavsky has the best name ID, followed by Garcetti and Greuel. FYI: a rather long a story by Rex Weiner about Yaroslavsky in the Feb. 25th issue of Forward.com. It's worth a read. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: ODDS & ENDS IN CALIF.

Editor's note: Here are a few news items of interest...

⌘ *Lisa Cuddy and Lisa Edelstein* – In case you haven't seen it, there's a :30 ad running on cable television sponsored by Planned Parenthood starring actress Lisa Edelstein. The focus of the ad is the cuts to federal funding for Planned Parenthood. On tv, Edelstein plays *Dr. Lisa Cuddy* on the Fox TV series House

⌘ *Senate OKs Airline Passengers Bill of Rights* – The U.S. Senate has approved the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2011 which includes the Airline Passengers Bill of Rights, written by U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer(D-CA) and Olympia Snowe(R-ME). "Senator Snowe and I have fought for four years to end the disgraceful practice of stranding airline passengers on planes without adequate food, water or restrooms." The DOT began implementing key parts of the Boxer-Snowe bill last year, but the bill passed by the U.S. Senate codifies those protection laws...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS & PERSONNEL NOTICES

Editor's note: Here are some items you might want to take note of. *Calpeek* has lots of announcements...

◆ A sad note: former GOP Congressman Steve Horn of Long Beach, died Feb. 17th at his Long Beach home from Alzheimer's disease. He was 79. Horn was a moderate Republican and served from 1993-2003. He was also president of CSU/Long Beach for about 20 years – 1970 to 1988. R.I.P...

◆ Another sad note: Jim Tabilio died Feb. 17th of a massive heart attack. He was a political consultants (a partner of Tony Fazio at Winning Directions) and until mid-2009 was president of *Poker Voters for America*, a non-profit advocacy group that pioneered the concept of regulated intrastate online poker. He was also chair of Secured American Games. He'll be missed by his many friends in politics. R.I.P...

◆ Another sad note: Carolene Marks, widow of former State Sen. Milton Marks(D-SF), died Feb. 13th at an assisted-living center in S.F. She was 89. In later years she served on S.F.'s Commission on the Status of Women. R.I.P...

◆ Retiring: S.F. Sheriff Michael Hennessey announced Feb. 18th that he will retire at the end of his term after 31 years of service. The sheriff had been elected eight times and is the longest serving elected official in S.F...

◆ Retiring: Ramona Ripston, the executive director of the ACLU of Southern Calif. for 40 years, is about to step down. She is 83. She is best known as a critic of the LAPD, especially the late Daryl Gate. She is married to 9th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Stephen Reinhardt...

◆ Former Assembly Majority Leader Alberto Torrico who was termed out at the end of 2010, has opened his own lobbying firm in Sacramento. He has formed a strategic partnership with Capitol Advocacy. His office is at 1301 'I' Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. (916)273-1320 Email ATorrico@Torricolaw.com...

◆ Daryl L. Osby has been sworn in as the new L.A. County Fire Chief. He was deputy chief prior to his new appointment. He is the 1st African-American to hold these posts...

◆ Marc Mitchell has joined Cerrell Associates as Director of Public Affairs. Prior to joining CAI, Mitchell was legislative coordinator for SEIU Local 721 in L.A...

◆ Leonor Ehling is the new director of the Senate Office of Research. She replaces Agnes Lee who jumped to Speaker Perez's policy team...

◆ Gary Crummitt has formed Crummitt & Associates, a nonpartisan political reporting services firm. He is the former director of Political Compliance with Reed & Davidson.. The firm is located in Long Beach at 110 Pine Ave. #1010, Long Beach, CA 90802 Email: gary@crummittandassociates.com. Phone (562)983-0815...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Mar. 7	Iowa presidential forum, West Des Moines
Mar. 8	L.A. City primary + many other local primaries.
Mar. 9-11	The 20 th Annual Pollie Awards & AAPC Convention, Fairmont Hotel, Wash. DC
Mar. 18-20	Calif. Republican Party spring convention at Hyatt Regency and Sacramento Convention Center.
May 5	Fox News and the South Carolina GOP host a Republican Party presidential debate, Peace Center, Greenville, SC