



# CALPEEK

## CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213  
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

(310)659-0205 FAX(310)657-4340  
Website: [www.Calpeek.org](http://www.Calpeek.org)

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## ELECTION ANALYSIS & RESULTS

Editor's note: *Calpeek* anticipates doing two more issues with additional election results. From what *Calpeek* has seen, there are only a few contests where additional ballots (provisional & regular absentee) may have an impact. *Calpeek* will attempt to cover some local races too, but in the Oakland Mayor's race, final results from the instant runoff election may not be known until Monday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>. Here's our analysis & commentary...

### NATIONAL OVERVIEW

...If either GOP businesswomen Meg Whitman or Carly Fiorina had won on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Republican Party would not be looking for a big wave, but a *tsunami*. As of 5:14 a.m., while *Calpeek* was writing, it appears that the entire Calif. Democratic ticket was victorious, even Demo AG candidate Kamala Harris...

...According to the National Journal's Ron Fournier, while it was a huge win for House Republicans and good news for U.S. Senate Republicans, DC GOPers "acknowledged that the results were more of a referendum against Washington than a vote for the GOP." New House Speaker-elect John Boehner said, "We're witnessing a repudiation of Washington, a repudiation of big government and a repudiation of politicians who refuse to listen to the American people."

...The biggest loser was President Barack Obama. On MSNBC presidential historian Michael Beschloss offered this opinion: Pres. Obama decided to trade his large majorities in the U.S. House and U.S. Senate for long term policy goals. In other words, he put Demos in the House & Senate at grave risk to secure the passage of the \$850 billion dollar Recovery & Stimulus legislation AND the still very controversial Healthcare Reform legislation. Some House GOPers have vowed to repeal or replace parts of the healthcare bill...

...How is Pres. Obama doing with respect to 2012? A new Zogby Interactive poll indicated that 50% of likely voters plan to vote NO on Obama, while 40% say they will support him. Among independents 54% won't support him in 2012. The poll was taken Oct. 29-Nov. 1,

with 2,956 likely voters...

### TRENDS & CALIF. OVERVIEW

◆ *Voter Turnout* – It may go upward, but The Field Poll and *Calpeek* sources said the turnout would be about 55%. We'll wait until next week to update...

◆ *Money, Money, Money* – GOP businesswoman Meg Whitman spent around \$160 million dollars, of which about *\$142 million dollars* was her own. That's a record. There also was a huge amount of money spent on ballot measures...

◆ *Tea Party Goes Plop Plop Fizz Fizz in Calif.* – The Tea Party did better in other parts of the U.S. But in Calif., both Whitman and GOP U.S. Senate candidate Carly Fiorina kept their distance from the sometimes flaky Tea Party ideas – like getting rid of Social Security. Next door in Nevada, Sharron Angle gave Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid a huge scare, but he won and the Tea Party's #1 campaign was a bust. But they'll be back because they had other wins...

◆ *Did Brown Have Coattails?* – Some probably, but the Demo with the most votes was Calif. Treasurer Bill Lockyer with a winning percentage of 57% vs. Brown 54%...

### GOVERNOR'S RACE

...Even though he was outspent by better than 6-1, AG Jerry Brown(D) proved again that he is one of the most resilient politicians in Calif. and perhaps the U.S. Brown won by a 54% to 41% margin over Meg Whitman. *Calpeek* will have another update next week...

...Brown acknowledges that he owes his political comeback to his wife, Anne Gust. They dated for 15 years and married in 2005. She is much more than a political wife. She has a keen political nose and was Jerry's key strategist during the campaign...

...As for EMeg, her gubernatorial campaign started to

unravel four weeks out. The things that hurt Whitman more than anything else were her failures to secure Calif.'s conservative base and her war on Calif.'s labor unions – big mistake. Of course the negative tv spots against Whitman didn't help. A great story in the *S.F. Chron* by political writers Carla Marinucci and Joe Garofoli. They interviewed former Calif. Republican Party chair Michael Schroeder who rightly compared Whitman to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, a RINO (Republican In Name Only). Other GOP sources in this story said Whitman was bottled up by her consultants. The final nail was *Nannygate*, the huge media uproar over Whitman's former illegal nanny Nicky Diaz. Whitman was brutalized and she kept blaming Brown...

### DOWN BALLOT STATEWIDE RACES

❑ **Lt. Governor** – *Calpeek's* Demo sources were more concerned about S.F. Mayor Gavin Newsom's campaign than all of the others, except for S.F. Co. DA Kamala Harris. Newsom had to run against the appointed Lt. Gov. Abel Maldonado(R). And Maldo had resources. But the LG had problems on the right as he voted for the 2009 budget with big tax increase. Not sure how conservative write-in candidate Karen England did, but we'll find out and let you know. Newsom won with 50% vs. 39% for Maldo and a Pamela Brown with 6%. The Newsom win will set off a huge scramble in S.F. to see who runs to replace him. Sources expect a big field of candidates...

❑ **Attorney General** – If the results as of 5:41 a.m. Wednesday, hold up, Harris will have pulled a major upset by defeating L.A. Co. DA Steve Cooley. Right now it's Harris 46.2% vs. 45.4% for Cooley. In terms of raw numbers, Harris has a lead of 11,837. The final outcome depends on the absentee and provisional ballot. *Calpeek* saw Cooley on tv around 10 p.m. and he seemed very confident about winning and decided to call it a night. He might have been a little premature...

❑ **Secretary of State** – The computers in the SOS's office went down again election night so many insiders were left in the dark. SOS Debra Bowen(D) won with 53% vs. Damon Dunn(R) with 38%. It was an unspectacular campaign on both sides...

❑ **Controller** – Another unspectacular redo campaign between winning incumbent John Chiang(D) with 55% vs. GOP State Sen. Tony Strickland with 36%. Considering the terrible fiscal condition of Calif., one would have thought more news media coverage would have been given to this repeat contest...

❑ **Treasurer** – Incumbent Bill Lockyer(D) didn't even

break a sweat, despite some brave talk by some GOPers to keep your eyes on this race. Lockyer defeated GOP Orange Co. State Sen. Mimi Walters by a margin of 57% to 36%...

❑ **Insurance Commissioner** – Demo Assemblyman Dave Jones of Sacramento was definitely worried after his campaign and consumer group began yelling about the \$5-6 million dollars that the auto insurance industry was pumping into the campaign of GOP Assemblyman Mike Villines of Fresno. Most of the money went to JOBSPAC, who then went with direct mail and tv to pound Jones. The insurance industries tactics didn't work and Jones won with 51% vs. 38% for Villines...

❑ **Supt. of Public Instruction** – This is a non-partisan post, but everyone knew that Assemblyman Tom Torlakson was a Demo. They weren't sure about former school superintendent Larry Aceves and in fact he changed his voter registration from Demo to independent (DTS). It didn't make any difference. Torlakson won by a 55% to 45% margin...

❑ **Board of Equalization** – All of the incumbents, Betty Yee, Michelle Steele and Jerome Horton won reelection. The newest BOE member is State Sen. George Runner...

❑ **Calif. Supreme Court** – Associate Justices Carlos Moreno and Ming Chin won reconfirmation. And new Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye also won her first term...

### THE INITIATIVES

...Editor's note: Thankfully, there were only nine initiatives in this Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> election cycle. A tenth measure, the multi-billion dollar water bond was removed. Had it been on the ballot, it would have gone down in flames. The first three measures in this part of the story were the **three most important** from a public policy point of view. Here's the rundown and commentary...

☒ **Prop. 19** – Supporters of legalizing, regulating and taxing marijuana took it on the chops. The final vote was 54% NO vs. 46% YES. This initiative got more news coverage than any other measure on the ballot, even in the U.S. And zillionaires George Soros and Peter B. Lewis pushed in millions. They had to because before these guys opened their wallets, YES on 19 was really in money trouble. The NO side got a \$250,000 infusion from the Chamber of Commerce, but that only paid for radio. NO on 19 was on many slates. The YES on 19 folks on election night in Oakland vowed to come back in 2012. From *Calpeek* to the

please have an attorney with smarts draft the next initiative. Your initiative was loaded with flaws and that's why it lost...

☒ **Prop. 23** – This initiative to repeal parts Calif.'s greenhouse gas law until the unemployment goes down to 5.5%, was soundly defeated by a large coalition of environmentalist, labor unions and deep pocketed venture capitalist Thomas F. Steyer and toward the end of the campaign, Microsoft billionaire Bill Gates. The NO side won by a margin of 61% vs. 39% for the YES side. Funding from oil interests (guys who still wear black hats – thanks to BP) sunk the YES side. The happiest camper in Calif.: Gov. Arnold. He considers this to be a part of his legacy...

☒ **Prop. 25** – The Calif. Legislature will now have a Majority Vote Budget beginning next year. No more delays like this past year – 100 days is a record for failing to pass a budget on time. And if lawmakers still can't get the budget on time, they will have to give up their salary. *Calpeek* still can't figure out what the strategy was behind the NO on 25 side. Their ads kept saying if 25 is OKed, the lawmakers will raise taxes. NOT without a 2/3 vote...

☒ **Prop. 22** – Despite being hit with tv and radio ads, YES on 22 won with 61% vs. 39% NO. This is the third time supporters of this kind of measure have gone to the ballot. What happens? The legislature simply disobeys the law. The measure is supposed to stop the legislature from raiding funds targeted for local government...

☒ **Props. 20 and 27** – Both dealt with the complex issue of redrawing district lines for Legislators and now for members of the U.S. House. Prop. 27 would have killed the whole thing. *Calpeek* is predicting lots of trouble ahead for Prop. 11 (from 2008) and Prop. 20 (for 2010). The 14-member commission is still not complete thus voters don't even know who is going to be on the commission...

#### ***U.S. SENATE & U.S. HOUSE***

...U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer won a fourth term. She said on election night (standing next to U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein) that this was the 11<sup>th</sup> campaign she's been in and she's won them all. It really wasn't that close: Boxer 52% vs. Carly Fiorina(R) 42%. Our sources think Boxer's negative ads about Fiorina's leadership of HP is what did Carly in. She kept pointing to her experience at HP, but while she was there she fired 40,000 workers and shipped their jobs to China and other Asian countries. Fiorina ran a very aggressive campaign and got millions in indep. expenditures from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and from the Senate GOP campaign committee, who at first weren't

going to fund this race. They should have stayed with their first instincts...

☒ **20<sup>th</sup> CD** – Sources figured Demo U.S. Rep. Jim Costa of Fresno was fairly safe. He wasn't. Farmer Andy Vidak got 51% to Costa's 49%. There is a 693 raw vote gap...

☒ **11<sup>th</sup> CD** – Incumbent U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney has a slim 568 vote lead over GOP candidate David Harmer. They were tied at 47% each. It will take a day or two longer to figure this out...

☒ **3<sup>rd</sup> CD** – U.S. Rep. Dan Lungren(R) survives again, defeating Dr. Ami Bera by a 51% to 43% margin...

☒ **47<sup>th</sup> CD** – Demo U.S. Rep. Loretta Sanchez of Orange Co. had a scare from Assemblyman Van Tran, but she pulled it out with a solid win: 51% Sanchez vs. 42% Tran and Ceci Iglesia at 7%...

#### ***STATE ASSEMBLY & SENATE RACES***

...Editor's note: We just didn't have space for all the hotly contested races. But we have four State Senate races and seven State Assembly contests. Here's our brief analysis & update...

☒ **1<sup>st</sup> SD Special Election** – The special was called to replace the late Dave Cox(R) who died earlier this year. In this 3-way GOP slugfest, the last report had Assemblyman Ted Gaines at 46%, Assemblyman Roger Niello with 34% and Barbara Alby at 18%. There is one Demo: Rancho Cordova Mayor Ken Cooley. And because there was no candidate with 50%+1, there will be a Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> runoff...

☒ **12<sup>th</sup> SD** – This was the big GOP vs. Demo battle in Jeff Denham's district. Sources suspect both sides spent \$1 million dollars each. The winner was Ceres Mayor Anthony Cannella(R) who defeated Demo Assemblywoman Anna Caballero by a margin of 53% to 47%. This seat was in GOP hands and it will stay that way...

☒ **34<sup>th</sup> SD** – Demo sources who were worried about State Sen. Lou Correa(D) didn't have to be concerned. Correa mashed his GOP rival, Lucille Kring by a huge margin of 64% vs. 36%...

☒ **28<sup>th</sup> SD** – This is the Long Beach area district of the late Jenny Oropeza(D) who died within the last month. She won with 58% vs. 36% for GOPer John Stammreich. Oropeza's name remained on the ballot...

☒ **10<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Ads** – Both Demo Assemblywomen Alyson Huber and Joan Buchanan won reelection over their same opponents from 2008: Jack Sieglock in the 10<sup>th</sup> and Abram Wilson in the 15<sup>th</sup>. Sieglock didn't run a very effective campaign in 2008 and ditto for 2010...

☒ **5<sup>th</sup> AD** – This was an open seat previously held by Assembly member Roger Niello(R). It featured Dr. Richard Pan(D) vs. attorney Andy Pugno, the former attorney for YES on 8, ProtectMarriage.com. This race was high on Speaker John Perez's list of must-win open seats. Pan got 49% vs. 46% for Pugno...

☒ **30<sup>th</sup> AD** – Fran Florez, mother of retiring State Sen. Dean Florez, lost to David Valadao(R) by a margin of 62% to 38%, a real blowout...

☒ **35<sup>th</sup> AD** – GOPers thought they had a shot with Mike Stoker, but he lost to Das Williams by a 54% to 46% margin...

### LOCAL ELECTIONS

◆ **Oakland Mayor's Race** – Former State Sen. Don Perata(D) finished first in a large field of candidates, but failed to win a majority. Councilwoman Jean Quan was second and Councilwoman Rebecca Kaplan and professor Joe Tuman were behind Kaplan. It will take several days to sort out the instant runoff numbers. This is the first time Oakland has used an instant runoff system. What it means is that lesser known candidates such as Don Macleay and Greg Harland may play a big role in selecting the next mayor of Oakland...

◆ **San Diego Measure D** – San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders has to go to plan #2 because city voters rejected Measure D by a wide margin. The idea was to rise the sales tax to solve the city's large deficit IF Sanders and voters approved a set of conditions to help reduce the pension costs...

◆ **San Diego Board of Supervisors** – Longtime serving County Supes. Bill Horn and Ron Roberts both won reelection, defeating Steve Gronke (Horn) and Stephen Whitburn(Roberts) Horn won with 53.37% and Roberts got 57.31%...

◆ **San Francisco Ballot Measures** – A number of hot ballot measures in San Francisco. Measure B was a pension and healthcare reform proposal sponsored by Public Defender Jeff Adachi. It lost 42.37% YES to 57.63% NO. Public employee unions were totally against Measure B...

...Measure D would have allowed non-citizen voting in school board elections. It was shot down by a margin of

54.17% NO to 45.83% YES...

...One of the better measures to win approval was to allow Saturday voting. Measure I passed with 59.04% vs. 40.96% NO...

### CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS & PERSONNEL NOTICES

Editor's note: Here are some items you might want to take note of...

◆ A sad note: Ellen "Muffie" Meier, 59, passed away on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>. Meier was a well known political consultant from the S.F. Bay area. She was partnered with Don Cecil in the firm known as MC2 Bay Area. R.I.P...

◆ Another sad note: Theodore C. Sorensen died Oct. 31 from complications from a stroke. He was 82. Sorensen was JFK's speechwriter who gave Americans such great lines as, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." R.I.P...

◆ Fired GOP Assembly Leader Martin Garrick has bounced GOP Assemblywoman Connie Conway as second ranking GOPer in the lower house. She ran against Garrick last January and he won, but appointed her to be Caucus Chair. Now Garrick may be on borrowed time as Assembly Republicans lost ground. Will Conway go after Garrick???

◆ Fired Demo State Sen. Leland Yee of S.F. was terminated from his job as Asst. President Pro-Tem by Senate President Darrel Steinberg. Yee double-crossed Steinberg by refusing to vote for the new budget. It probably helps Yee because he's getting ready to run for S.F. Mayor. That will happen pretty soon because Gavin Newsom is Calif.'s new Lt. Gov...

◆ The Demo campaign firm of MSHC is closing down its business. MSHC client list included the DNC, the AFL-CIO, and Emily's List. They also represented Bill Clinton, Al Gore and Hillary Clinton. Three of the partners will form new firms. Hal Malchow is saying goodbye to politics...

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