



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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WILL PENSION FIX GO WITH NEW BUDGET FOR GOV. BROWN? OR WILL IT BE A SEPARATE BILL?

Editor's note: Toward the end of last week, The Little Hoover Commission released its report on Calif.'s massive pension problem. There's the good, the bad and the super bad in this report. The question on pensions is whether legislative GOPers will vote for a budget if there is no bill to fix pensions? Here's our analysis & commentary...

...Last week *Calpeek* wrote a story about the Legislative Analysts' spin on pensions: Mac Taylor suggested that one way out of the pension mess is to have a two-tier system: one for new public employees and the other for longterm employees. For the new workers, half of their fund would be in traditional pensions and the other half in 401(k) plans, with employer contributions to both. The LHC plan has one big difference from Taylor's idea: the LHC recommended that in some ways, pension payments to current state employees be reduced. Don't know if that can be done legally and union sources think that part of the LHC's report stinks. And none of these proposals have been costed out and they may only save money many years from now...

...In terms of what is on the table for new employees under the LHC report, it's a complete switch to 401(k) plans. Who on the LHC approved the pension report is unclear. Sources think a lot of people are ducking for cover. All the legislators on the LHC were blindsided, according to sources, and so were several legislative appointees to the LHC. For one, Senate Pres. Darrell Steinberg(D) can't be attacked because the LHC Chair is Daniel Hancock, who is a fixed term appointee of the Speaker. But John Perez did NOT appoint him – previous Demo Speakers did starting with former Speaker Cruz Bustamante...

...With the LHC supporting the 401(k) plan for new hires, the most vocal support is coming from State Sen. Mimi Walters(R-Orange Co.) in the senate. However, Senate GOP Leader Bob Dutton doesn't want the 401(k) plan for new prison guards (CCPOA) or other public safety new hires, but it is clear that public safety employees have to be part of any new pension changes. Gov. Brown said as much recently to the Calif. PD Chiefs...

...The LHC report also noted that outside of prisons, the state work force is aging and many employees are nearing retirement. And with a hiring freeze, Calif. agencies and departments have reduced their number of workers, even at a faster

pace than Meg Whitman proposed. This rate of retirement can be dangerous. In San Francisco, the city is talking about taking away an optional benefit that helps it retain skilled police who investigate violent crime...

...The report did note the fact that the lion's share of pension costs are for city/county cops, firefighters and teachers. It is also true that 70% of police and firefighters and 40% of teachers will vote for Republican candidates unless the GOP screws them over. In the Inland Empire, the Central Valley and Northern Calif. public employees are a key GOP voting bloc. With competitive districts and the open primary, the Little Hoover Commission report could be toxic for GOPers if approved...

...**Now for the budget.** March 10th is just days away. That's the deadline for getting a budget to the governor. Is there a chance that Gov. Jerry Brown can find some GOP lawmakers who are willing to put the governor's tax plan before voters in June? Maybe. In a Kevin Yamamura story in the Feb. 24th edition of the Sacto BEE (day 46 without a budget), he wrote about the GOP's new caucus: The Taxpayers Caucus, with 30 members pledged to vote NO on Brown's budget plan. The co-chair of the caucus is State Sen. Tony Strickland of Moorpark. Who didn't sign up to be in this new GOP group? GOP Assembly Leader Connie Conway, GOP Senate Leader Bob Dutton, State Sen. Sam Blakeslee, freshman State Sen. Anthony Cannella and Assemblyman Bill Berryhill. Brown is still short on GOPers...

...FYI: there was a story in the Sacramento BEE (another Yamamura story) that said the Legislative Counsel (Diane F. Boyer-Vine) has told Republicans that Dems could put taxes on the ballot with a majority vote – under narrow circumstances. The opinion was requested by GOP Senate Leader Bob Dutton. In the same story, Gov. Brown and legislative leaders say the only "sound way to place the taxes on the ballot is by a 2/3rds super majority vote." Stay tuned...

8th CD IS THE ONE TO WATCH CAMPAIGN 2011: L.A. CITY ELECTION IS ALMOST HERE. SEVERAL HOT COUNCIL RACES MAR. 8TH.

Editor's note: What started out as a fairly dull and unexciting L.A. primary election is finishing up with some very hot City Council primary battles. Here's our analysis & commentary...

...The hottest contest is in the 8th council district in South Los Angeles. In this race the incumbent is under siege by a well-funded rival...

☒ **8th Council District** – L.A. Councilman Bernard Parks is in the fight of his political life. He has two challenger: L.A. City Firefighter Jabari S. Jumanne and community development CEO Forescee Hogan-Rowles. Hogan-Rowles has challenged Parks once before and lost, but this time she's got **\$552,503** in independent expenditures as of 1/24. By the time the primary is over, it's estimated that IE's on behalf of Hogan-Rowles could be close to **\$1 million dollars**...

...Her big IE backers are the L.A. County Federation of Labor, Working Californians to Support Forescee Hogan-Rowles and the L.A. Police Protective League. These three groups are hitting Parks with direct mail, radio/tv and a GOTV effort. And they obviously are scared of Jumanne because the LAPPL pumped in \$11,500 in an anti-Jumaane mailer. The L.A. Times thinks H-R is beholden to the L.A. County Federation of Labor because of all the money they've given her. Ditto blogger Ron Kaye...

...Calpeek went to H-R's website to see who has endorsed her: L.A. Co. Sup. Mark Ridley-Thomas is at the top of the list. As one source told Calpeek, "This is a rematch from 2008 when Ridley-Thomas defeated Parks in a nasty battle for Yvonne Burke's Board of Supervisor's seat." Organized labor spent about **\$8 million** to elect Ridley-Thomas. The key difference back then was Ridley-Thomas had excellent name ID. In 2011, Hogan-Rowles isn't well known in the 8th CD and Parks is...

...Other H-R supporters include State Sen. Curren Price, Assemblymembers Steve Bradford and Holly Mitchell, IBEW Local 18, SEIU 721, ALADS, and the L.A. League of Conservation Voters. H-R also lists former Congresswoman Diane Watson, but so does Parks. They're good people, but not well known in the 8th district except for Watson...

...Parks has been endorsed by the L.A. Times, La Opinion and the L.A. Sentinel. Other Parks supporters include U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters and Magic Johnson. These two alone are better known than all of H-R's supporters and have strong political clout throughout South L.A. Among the L.A. Councilmembers who support Parks are Jan Perry, Tom LaBonge, Janice Hahn, Dennis Zine, Greig Smith and Tony Cardenas. Council Pres. Eric Garcetti is also with Parks. Organizations in Parks' corner are the Central City Assn., L.A. Fire Chief Officers Assn. and VICA. Former Co. Sup. Yvonne Burke and current L.A. County Supervisors Mike Antonovich, Zev Yaroslavsky and Gloria Molina are all with Parks. Parks' **real strength** is with seniors, women and the area churches...

...The hardest hitting stuff aimed at Parks is coming from the L.A. Police Protective League. One source called their campaign, "Vendetta Politics." LAPPL was doing high fives when Parks was fired by then L.A. Mayor Jim Hahn. Parks says the LAPPL ads are distortions of his record. Remember: *one person's lie is another person's fact sheet*. Sources say this contest leans toward Parks, despite the money coming from labor to help H-R...

☒ **4th Council District** – This is incumbent Tom LaBonge's seat. He's been around L.A. City Hall for what seems forever.

The L.A. Times described LaBonge as a **legendary pothole politician**. He works very hard for his 4th District constituents and is well liked by them. The L.A. Times editorial was picky, picky and they endorsed Tomas O'Grady. The Daily News endorsed Steve Box. La Opinion endorsed LaBonge. LaBonge lawn signs are all over the district. This is going to be a tough call, but an edge to LaBonge for an outright win. Our sources say LaBonge has done a good job and deserves another term...

☒ **14th Council District** – Like Parks, incumbent Jose Huizar is in a tough and nasty battle against his one-time friend, businessman Rudy Martinez. Calpeek doesn't have a clue about the frontrunner, but we have heard that the L.A. Co. Federation of Labor isn't giving much if anything to Martinez. Just speculation. Both sides have been negative, but Huizar had to fire his communications director when he said he'd like to put a political bullet in Martinez's head. That got lots of news coverage. The L.A. Times endorsed Martinez, for what its worth. Probably a toss up going into the last week. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2011: 3 GOP RIVALS WANT TO REPLACE HARMAN. CHAMNESS GOES TO COURT.

Editor's note: There are now three Democrats and three GOPers in the primary to replace Jane Harman(D). No special election date, but Gov. Jerry Brown is expected to call one any day. Here's our analysis and commentary...

...In Calpeek's previous stories about this 36th CD special, we listed GOPers as Redondo Beach City Atty. Mike Webb and Redondo Beach Mayor Mike Gin. Now add another well-known Goper to the mix: Hermosa Beach Councilman Patrick "Kit" Bobko. He is a former USAF officer and is a partner in the downtown L.A. law firm of Richards, Watson & Gershon. And he's got some good political connections: he's a member of the L.A. Co. GOP Central Committee. FYI: forgot to note that Webb has been endorsed by L.A. County DA Steve Cooley. Webb's website is www.mikewebbforcongress.com...

...And as expected, ultra-liberal Demo activist Marcy Winograd has declared her candidacy. She recently moved to Santa Monica, which is outside the district, but in a House race one doesn't have to live in the district to run there. Her entry will make for a very interesting open primary: Winograd on the far left, Janice Hahn is in the middle and Sec. of State Debra Bowen on the left – but not as far as Winograd. Don't how they'll do in terms of raising money, but if history is any indication, all three are fairly weak in the fundraising department. We'll have to see who the independent expenditure committees favor. It's good bet that pro-Israel money will go mostly to Hahn and perhaps Bowen and zip, nada, nothing to Winograd...

...There is another candidate in this race. His name is Michael Chamness from Venice. He is a minor party candidate and has filed suit against the new open primary law. Chamness wants to list his party affiliation as coffee party. Problem is that coffee party is not among those political parties

nized by the State of Calif. – read that as Sec. of State Bowen. This isn't the first time Chamness has complained about the open primary. He is supposed to have a court date March 21st. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2011: HOT MEASURES FLOOD LOCAL BALLOTS, INCLUDING SIGNS, POT & PARKING.

Editor's note: In addition to Measure A (billboards & huge signs in West Hollywood) and Measure 2P (free 2 hour parking in Beverly Hills), voters in L.A. City face Measure G (fire & police pension reform); Measure H (limits on campaign contributions); Measure I (DWP) office of accountability and ratepayer advocate; Measure M (taxation of marijuana); and Measure O (L.A. oil production tax). Here's our brief analysis & commentary...

...Not much news media coverage for the *L.A. City measures*. It's like the news media is asleep at the switch. Sources hope that *Measure G* will be approved, because police and firefighter pensions are way out of control and will eventually break the city, financially speaking. Sources haven't seen any campaign in favor or against *Measures O*, except for a NO on O news conference with good visuals in West L.A. This proposal will add a tax of \$1.44 per barrel. Measure O is not a tax on big oil. Instead it targets small firms which are located in L.A. City. As for *Measure M*, we don't expect this pot tax to be approved. We have seen very little evidence of any solid campaign. *Measure I* is a worthy measure to install an office of accountability for the DWP and a ratepayer advocate. Sources are sure the large & powerful IBEW Local 18 doesn't like anything about this measure...

...The only L.A. City ballot measure with funds is *YES on Measure L*, the library charter amendment to lock in library funding at its current level. In 2010 more than \$22 million was gutted from the library budget. L.A. City Libraries are now open only five days a week, closed Sundays and Mondays. If L is defeated, more cuts and closures are likely. The Library Foundation of Los Angeles just kicked in \$200,000 for voters outreach efforts. FYI: there is opposition from some public safety groups who fear they'll be sliced in a crunch. Their attitude is, "What's mine is mine and what is your's is negotiable." Kind of shallow thinking...

◆ *West Hollywood's Billboard & Sign War* – There's more mail going out on Measure A than for the 10 candidates for the City Council. This initiative is sponsored by Sunset Strip, Inc., but the real backer of YES on A is Michael McNeilly of Skytag (a supergraphics company). There are two parts to A and they are written so that if a court throws out the tax part of A, the installation of super-size billboards can go forward on Santa Monica and Beverly Boulevards. Because of the tax, Measure A may require a 2/3rd vote. Incumbent Councilmembers John Heilman, Abbe Land and Lindsey Horvath are getting beat up in direct mail hits by Skytag because of their NO on A stand. NO on A forces are fighting back with direct mail pieces saying, "*Don't Be Fooled.*" The NO side goes under the name of Concerned Neighbors Against Illegal Billboards. It is a much longer name, but you get the idea. One of the NO on A slogans is "Measure A is a Trojan Horse."...

...FYI: other candidates running for council include Scott Schmidt, Lucas John, Mark Gonzaga, Mito Aviles, former Councilman Steve Martin, John DiAmico and Martin Topp. Among these candidates the ones with some funding are Schmidt, Martin and DiAmico. Of these three Martin has the best name ID. Stay tuned...

◆ *Parking Lot Wars in Beverly Hills* – A sure sign of a hot race in Beverly Hills is all the YES on 2P lawn signs up and down the residential streets of Beverly Hills. Hundreds of them! But YES on 2P also has mail and is on cable tv. The supporters of 2P are in a war with the City Council who wanted to kill off free parking in most of Beverly Hills' parking structures. The YES on 2P (and NO on 3P) appear to have the upper hand. YES on 3P allows only Beverly Hills residents to have 3 hours of free parking – all non-residents are screwed. The YES on 2P group goes by the name of The Committee to Save Free Parking in Beverly Hills. The website is www.bhfreeparking.org...

...There are two seats up for reelection and three candidates: incumbent Nancy Krasne, Dr. Julian Gold and Lilli Bosse. The three have lawn signs all over Beverly Hills. Bosse was endorsed by the Beverly Hills Courier. That surprised some sources. The election didn't start out as a three-way race, because Gold was slow out of the box. He's now caught up. Sources think it is a fairly tight three-way contest as of now. Toss up. Stay tuned...

Calpeek's Cyber Directory of Campaign Consultants is on sale, by subscription only. And you must be a *Calpeek subscriber*. It's a must for political insiders. **COST** is \$50.00 – checks only, no credit cards and no invoicing. And there is a subscription form which potential subscribers must fill out. email: Calpeek@aol.com to get a form. *Calpeek* has made 3-4 updates in recent weeks...

CALPEEK'S EASY REFERENCE GUIDE

One of your favorite newsletters is *Calpeek's Easy Reference Guide*. It has elected officials, phone numbers, websites and email. It is almost ready. Just have to proof it one more time. We're planning to distribute the Easy Reference Guide sometime before March 21st. Stay tuned...

SOME INFO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CALPEEK.

Here is some helpful information about *Calpeek* that you may need to know. Deadlines for news and Marketplace Network: 9 a.m. Wednesday. The email version of *Calpeek* is distributed on Thursday or sometimes on Friday mornings. *Calpeek's fax phone* is (310)657-4340; e-mail calpeek@aol.com. The cost for Marketplace Network is now \$50 for 40 words. *Calpeek* does NOT make refunds on cancellations...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: ODDS & ENDS IN CALIF.

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

❑ ***CNN's Parker/Spitzer End Partnership*** – It's so over. Former NY Gov. Eliot Spitzer's co-host has left the show. Award winning journalist Kathleen Parker decided it was better to quit than continue with the Parker/Spitzer Show, which was a ratings disaster. So who is going to replace Parker? Ex-Madam Kristin Davis, who supplied call girls for Spitzer, says she's available. Davis said in part, "Now that Kathleen Parker has learned that Eliot Spitzer is a misogynist pig, perhaps it's time for CNN executives to pair Spitzer with someone who will challenge his sanctimonious know-it-all rants." Odds of CNN hiring Davis: slim and none. Davis gives great quote...

❑ ***No Federal Shutdown for Two Weeks*** – That's the good news out of DC. And U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer(D-CA) and Bob Casey(D-PA) won unanimous approval of their legislation that would prevent members of Congress and President Obama from being paid during a shutdown of the U.S. Govt. Both have urged House Speaker John Boehner to quickly pass a companion bill in the U.S. House...

❑ ***Gingrich to Announce His Plans in Early March*** – This item is from *Political Insider*. It says former House Speaker Newt Gingrich will *maybe* announce the formation of his exploratory committee on March 3rd in Atlanta. Gingrich has been looking for office space in Buckhead, GA...

❑ ***L.A. Mayor Backs Cigarette Tax for Cancer Research*** – With Lance Armstrong, former Sen. Don Perata, Dr. Dalazs Bodai, Laura Ziskin and David Veneziano, L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa on Feb. 28th threw his political weight behind an initiative that will raise \$500 million dollars annually by placing an additional tax of \$1 per pack on cigarettes. The measure is known as the Calif. Cancer Research Act. Perata and Armstrong are both cancer survivors and will serve as campaign co-chairs. Dr. Bodai is the founder of the Breast Center Research stamp and is CEO of CureBreastCancer, Inc. Ziskin is the founder of Stand Up to Cancer and Veneziano is CEO of the American Cancer Society, Calif. division...

❑ ***Sen. Lugar vs. Indiana Treasurer*** – U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar(R) will be challenged in 2012 by Indiana Treasurer Richard Mourdock. Mourdock is a hardline conservative and Lugar has sided with Pres. Obama on several issues, including the Dream Act. There is another conservative with Tea Party links who might also jump in to challenge Lugar. He is State Sen. Mike Delph. Lugar is one of the *adult GOPers* in the U.S. Senate...

❑ ***Maldo's Next Run in 2012*** – Former Lt. Gov. Abel Maldonado(R-Santa Maria) has formed a campaign committee to run for the U.S. House against U.S. Rep. Lois Capps(D-Santa Barbara) in the 23rd CD which runs along the coast...

❑ ***Internet Gambling???*** – There is a bill making its way through the legislature to legalize Internet gambling in Calif. The bill is SB 40 by State Sen. Lou Correa(D-Santa Ana). It would legalize online poker. The measure has backing from the

Calif. Nations Indian Gaming Assn...

❑ ***U.S. Sen. Feinstein Wants to Repeal DOMA*** – Here is a statement from Calif. U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein(D) on the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). "As a member of the Judiciary Committee, it is my intention to introduce legislation that will once and for all repeal the Defense of Marriage Act...I opposed the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996. It was the wrong law then; it is the wrong law now; and it should be repealed."...

...Fred Karger, a gay GOPer exploring a run for president, wrote an op ed piece in the Guardian on 2/24 on DOMA. In an email, Karger said, "I welcomed Pres. Obama to the right side of history for finally ending his administration's opposition to the repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act." Rick Santorum, who was also in Iowa yesterday, predicted the president's action would cause gay marriage to be an issue in 2012...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS & PERSONNEL NOTICES

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

⌘ Yvette Martinez has joined the staff of U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer(D) as Deputy State Director & Sr. Advisor. Her contact phone is (213)894-5000 or email to yvett.martinez@boxer.senate.gov. Prior to joining Sen. Boxer, Martinez was a partner with Rose Kapolczynski in the L.A. firm of Progressive Strategy Partners...

⌘ Kapolczynski has renamed the firm Rose Kapolczynski Consulting, 5015 Eagle Rock Blvd., Ste. 203, L.A. 90041. (323)254-5700. Email: rose@rosekconsulting.com. The firm specializes in strategy and communications...

⌘ Tina Y Choi, formerly principal of tchoi & associates, has joined Englander Knabe & Allen as a partner to manage and enhance the firm's land-use/development consulting division...

⌘ Gov. Brown has named Ann Ravel chair of the Fair Political Practices Commission(FPPC). She replaces Dan Schnur. Ravel, 61, of Los Gatos, was county counsel for Santa Clara Co. before becoming a Deputy Assistant AG in the U.S. DOJ in 2009...

⌘ Robert W. Naylor and Paul Gough have joined Sacto-based Bell, McAndrews & Hiltachk LLP as of counsel...

⌘ Former NM Gov. Bill Richardson has joined APCO Worldwide as chair of Global Political Strategies. He'll have an office in DC, but will be based in New Mexico...

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