



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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NOTES FROM THE CALIF. DEMO CONVENTION

CAMPAIGN 2010: PRES. OBAMA, BOXER & BROWN BUILD A FIRE UNDER RANK & FILE CALIF. DEMOS.

Editor's note: Political pundits and insiders will be waiting and watching to see if [Jerry Brown](#), [Barbara Boxer](#) and President [Barack Obama](#) have built a bonfire under Calif. Demos. Or will it be a small camp fire? Demo sources think the recently concluded [Calif. Democratic Party](#) (CDP) and Pres. Obama's \$3.5 million dollar Calif. fundraising trip will give Demos a boost. Here's our analysis and commentary...

...President Obama first. The \$3.5 million dollars in funds will be split between U.S. Sen. [Barbara Boxer](#)'s campaign and the [Democratic Nat'l Committee](#) (DNC). The money is certainly good news for *TeamBoxer*. At this point, the SRCC is still leaning against funding the winner of a three-way GOP primary. But depending on polling data, that could change...

...Now to the CDP convention. Boxer followed Labor Sec. [Hilda Solis](#) to the stage. Solis' *Bring It On* speech – aimed at [Carly Fiorina](#), [Chuck DeVore](#) and [Tom Campbell](#) – was a dare to those three that if they go after Boxer and the new health care law, they're in for a huge fight...

...Boxer was really pumped and reminded the CDP delegates that although the U.S. economic numbers were improving, there was still a long way to go. And the senator gave a plug to the new finance reform bill moving along in the U.S. Senate. "Wall Street has been on steroids and we can't go back to that fiscal mess," she said...

...In talking about health care reform, Boxer bashed all three GOP rivals and noted during the fight in DC, opponents were talking about *pulling the plug on granny*. "I'm a granny, we should applaud health care reform." Boxer also returned to one of her best issue: protecting choice, "No matter how tough it gets," she said. Boxer really knows how to turn on the Demo base...

...Now to AG [Jerry Brown](#). Until the CDP convention, Brown was in his *rose garden* campaign mode, taking care of DOJ business. But when Brown puts on his political hat, there's really no one who can match him when it comes to political instincts...

...In his speech he wasted no time in going after the GOP frontrunner [Meg Whitman](#). He issued a challenge to both Whitman and [Steve Poizner](#) for a 3-way debate. That turned

on the CDP delegates and probably sent Whitman into a panic. She avoided all debates with Poizner while Campbell was still in the race – and sources suspect Whitman wasn't all that wild about a one-on-one debate with Poizner just after the Republican state convention. So Poizner said YES and Whitman said NO...

...In an ordinary political campaign for governor, Brown's current war chest of about \$14 million dollars would be about \$6-9 million dollars shy from where he'd like to be. But against Whitman and her \$59 million dollar campaign budget, *TeamBrown*'s finance team will have to go into overdrive just to stay competitive. As one of our favorite quotes goes, "You don't need the most money, just enough to win." There is no doubt that Whitman is trying to buy the governorship. However, Whitman does have negatives, such as her [non-voting record](#), the old and new [Goldman Sachs](#) brouhaha and her desire to [cut pensions](#) for Calif. public employees, include prison guards, police and firefighters. Poizner's attack about her [lack of experience](#) in elective office may have hit a nerve with the GOP base. One of Poizner's hit ads links Whitman to Gov. [Arnold Schwarzenegger](#) in a not so favorable light. *Calpeek* sources say that private polling is showing a drop for Whitman and a slight up tick for Poizner. Stay tuned...

CA Demo Paty Endorsements

CAMPAIGN 2010: ONE STATEWIDE CONTESTED PRIMARY RESULTED IN OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT.

Editor's note: Calif.'s major daily newspapers gave almost no coverage to the down ballot Demo primary contests at the Calif. Demo Party convention in L.A. Here's the list of the officially endorsed Demo candidates. An endorsement required a 60% vote. FYI: the [Calif. Republican Party](#) does not make pre-primary statewide candidate endorsements. Here's our brief update and analysis...

...U.S. Sen. [Barbara Boxer](#), AG [Jerry Brown](#), Treasurer [Bill Lockyer](#), Controller [John Chiang](#) and Secretary of State [Debra Bowen](#) are all running unopposed OR their opposition isn't considered serious. They were all endorsed unanimously...

...In the contest for Lt. Governor, S.F. Mayor [Gavin Newsom](#) got 52% vs. L.A. Councilwoman [Janis Hahn](#)'s 43%. Not enough for an endorsement, but it may give Newsom some bragging rights. Sources say it was Hahn who wanted to see if she could win the CDP's endorsement; Newsom would have been satisfied if the two had never tangled. NO endorsement...

...And there was no endorsement for Attorney General. Sources told *Calpeek* that CDP Chair John Burton didn't want a CDP primary endorsement fight. With six you could get everyone in a Demo circular firing squad...

...The fight for insurance commissioner was a classic convention endorsement battle. Assemblyman Dave Jones of Sacramento defeated Assemblyman Hector De La Torre of L.A. by a margin of 61% to 34%, with 5% voting for no endorsement for either. *TeamJones* had 50 whips working the convention floor and weeks before the vote, *TeamJones* did mailings to delegates and used phone banks. With undecided delegates, Dave Jones himself usually talked to them one-on-one or wrote personal letters. It takes a ton of work, but in an expected low primary voter turnout, the official CDP endorsement is worth all the effort. The consultant for Jones is SG&A Consultants. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2010: CALIFORNIA INITIATIVE UPDATE.

Editor's note: A number of short items of interest. Here's our analysis & update...

❑ ***Marijuana Initiative Slipping in New Poll*** – A survey of 500 likely Calif. voters conducted by Smith/Johnson Research (3/3 to 3/4) shows opposition has grown from 52% last November in a Probolsky Research poll to 56% in the new S/J Research survey. Is there any hope for supporters? Maybe. According to the poll's analysis, the initial tally was 18.3% definitely supported; 45.7% definitely opposed; and 32.2% wanted to wait and hear the pros and cons of marijuana legalization...

❑ ***Prop. 13 Gets a YES from the L.A. Times*** – This is a technical, non-controversial property-tax exclusion for new construction relating to seismic retrofitting. The legislation, sponsored by the Calif. Assessor's Assn., became a bill as a result of the 2003 earthquake along the Central Coast. It's just a little too complex to explain, but trust *Calpeek*, this is an initiative that won't cause any problems. There is no opposition or support committee, because there's no money. But SLO Assessor Tom Bordonaro (former assemblyman) can be contacted for info. (805)781-5636. The author of the bill is State Sen. Roy Ashburn of Bakersfield...

❑ ***Political Football with Prop. 17*** – In case you missed it, the Calif. Dept. of Insurance (Comm. Steve Poizner) issued a statement claiming that Mercury Insurance Group violated various state laws, a possibly overcharged lots of auto and homeowner policyholders. Mercury is Calif.'s 4th largest auto insurer and is the major sponsor of Prop. 17. Poizner, who is a GOP candidate for governor, really went after Mercury. A Mercury spokesperson says the company has not overcharged its policyholders and suggested that Poizner's release of this information was done for "political reasons." A DOI spokesman said the department follows the law. More in the weeks ahead...

❑ ***Trying to Repeal Redistricting Commission.*** Entertainment mogul Haim Saban has loaned \$2 million dollars to the campaign which is trying to repeal the Citizens Redistricting Commission established by the approval of Prop. 11 in 2008. Sources speculate that the reason Saban and other prominent

Jewish Californians want to repeal Prop. 11 is that Calif.'s Jewish community fears that a redistricting plan drawn by uninformed commission members could eliminate one or more U.S. House seats now held by Jewish U.S. Congress members. Any weakening of U.S. Jewish House members in Calif. could be considered a threat to Israel. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2010: CA COUNTY SHERIFF'S UPDATE.

Editor's note: *Calpeek* has three updates this week: El Dorado, Sacramento, Orange and San Diego counties...

◆ ***El Dorado Co.*** – Gunslingers, you're going to love this update. Sheriff Jeff Neves resigned at the end of last year. Interim Sheriff Fred Kollar decided not to run. So the open field has five candidates. And the issue which does **not** divide them is getting a license to carry a concealed weapon, known as CCW. The five all think the same way: getting a CCW should be made easier...

...Neves initiated a new policy on CCW last year. His new policy required that CCW licenses be handled the same way as first time handgun applicants...

...The five candidates are Robert Luca, retired chief of the Calif. Bureau of Investigation; John D'Agostini, a DA's investigator; Larry Hennick, a retired sheriff's sgt.; George Nielson, a retired Placerville PD chief; and Craig Therkildsen, an El Dorado Co. Sheriff's Capt...

...Who should get a CCW permit? According to a Sacto BEE story, some of the candidates say "personal protection" is sufficient cause. The most outspoken candidate is Hennick whose campaign theme is *Apply and Receive*...

...The BEE article say Calif. is a "may issue" state, where the sheriff has discretion on issuing CCW permits. That's why the CCW permits are different from county to county. Most of the candidates for sheriff favor a change from "may issue" to "shall issue." The gun grabbers think any new policy will result in "chaos..."

◆ ***Orange Co.*** – Santa Ana PD Chief Paul Walters has endorsed Sheriff Sandra Hutchens. Walters has been Santa Ana's chief since 1988 and in 2006 he ran for sheriff against ex-sheriff Mike Carona. Sources say it is considered an excellent endorsement...

◆ ***San Diego Co.*** – There are three candidates vying for sheriff. The top tier includes Sheriff Bill Gore and Sheriff's Lt. Jim Duffy. Former Assemblyman Jay LaSuer, a former Undersheriff, is in the second tier. Duffy can't use the Sheriff's Lt. title because he's on leave to run in this election...

...The San Diego Co. Deputy Sheriffs' Assn. has endorsed Duffy, but instead of giving a hefty 6-figure contribution, the association went cheap and gave Duffy only \$3,000. Why the pull back? There has been a change on the Board of Directors and this small contribution may be a kiss-off from the association. However, coming to Duffy's rescue was PO-

AC with a donation of \$25,000. With five weeks to go, Duffy's got to hustle if he is to catch up...

...And Gore, as the Sheriff, got a ton of news media coverage from the rape and murder of Chelsea King. He's not a media hog, but this unfortunate crime got him not only local exposure, but national attention too. **Calpeek** sources think it's Gore's primary to win – or be forced into a runoff, probably with Duffy...

◆ **Sacramento Co.** – **Calpeek** can't really judge this race because it appears to be one-sided with only two candidates. The frontrunner is Jim Cooper, who spent 25 years with the department and is now Commander of the Sacramento Valley Hi-Tech Crime Task Force. He was Elk Grove's first mayor. He's got a huge list of endorsements, including the Sacto Co. Deputy Sheriff's Assn., Sacramento POA and Sacramento Area Firefighters Local 522. He's also endorsed by the Sacramento Central Labor Council. Cooper's most recent endorsement is from his hometown: the Elk Grove POA. Cooper's opponent is Sheriff's Capt. Scott Jones, who has been endorsed by outgoing Sheriff John McGinness. Our last news release from *TeamJones* was on 2/1/2010. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2010: UPDATE ON U.S. HOUSE RACES.

Editor's note: The 36th CD in L.A. and the 19th CD in Calif.'s Central Valley are the two hottest primaries on June 8th. Here's our analysis & commentary...

☒ **19th CD Update** – Although **Calpeek** has written about this open seat GOP slugfest before, there are some items which need updating. The *money trail*: who is ahead? State Sen. Jeff Denham of Atwater sent out a news release with this headline: *Jeff Denham Leads All Challengers in Money Raised, Cash on Hand*. Michael Doyle of the BEE's DC bureau wrote a story with this headline: *Pombo tops money race in Valley district...*

...So who is right? The story by Doyle says Pombo raised \$463,000 and had cash on hand of \$213,000 – as of 3/31. The BEE reporter's story says Denham reported raising \$341,000 and had lent his campaign \$150,000. If Denham hadn't given himself a loan, Pombo would be the fundraising champ for the quarter. *TeamDenham* didn't mention the loan in its news release. Fresno Councilman Larry Westerlund raised \$95,000 and had \$62,000 cash on hand. And former Fresno Mayor Jim Patterson raised \$85,000 and had \$72,000 cash on hand...

...FYI: **Calpeek** reported last week about a dust up when U.S. Rep. Devin Nunes defended Pombo against a radio hit ad aired by the Defenders of Wildlife Action Fund. Their ad called Pombo "corrupt." The quote by the DWAF was lifted from former White House political guru Karl Rove's new book, "Courage & Consequences." In 2004, Rove tried to get Pombo to back off on his ties to convicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff and to stop pushing for domestic oil drilling. He also wanted Pombo to ease off his attempts to scuttle parts of

the Endangered Species Act. Accord to Nunes, Pombo said no. It amounted to a digital salute." The payback is in Rove's book...

☒ **36th CD Update** – This is a long story, but **Calpeek** will make it short. U.S. Rep. Jane Harman(D) fended off primary rival Marcie Winograd with a 60% to 40% vote to win the official Calif. Demo Party endorsement. One reason why she's got the nickname of "G.I. Jane" is that she shows absolutely no fear of her opponents, Demo or GOP. Harman unexpectedly walked into a Progressive Caucus meeting (hostile turf for Harman) at the CDP convention and made her pitch an hour before the vote. Harman consultant Harvey Englander told **Calpeek**, "We sucked the momentum out of her (Winograd's) campaign." Harman won the Demo endorsement at the local level, but those crazy CDP rules made it possible for Winograd to challenge Harman on the convention floor by gathering 325 delegate signatures – of that number only 3 were from the 36th CD. The raw vote was Harman 599 vs. 417 Winograd. FYI: Winograd comes from the far left wing of the Demo Party. And she has a big problem with Israel. One source told **Calpeek** that, "Marcy makes GOPer Tom Campbell look like a Zionist." Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2010: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are some political items NOT taken from the just completed Calif. Demo Party convention...

☒ U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein(D) will serve as the Chair of the Boxer Reelection Campaign. They were both elected in 1992, making Calif. the first state in history to elect two female U.S. Senators. *Queen of Mean*, GOPer Carly Fiorina, doesn't waste any news event involving Boxer to bash her. "Dianne Feinstein coming on as her campaign is another example of just how worried the Democrats are about losing in November. We are witnessing a rescue mission in action." Don't think so...

☒ Latest fundraising reports for the GOPer in the U.S. Senate race shows Fiorina with \$2.8 million cash on hand; former Calif. Finance Director Tom Campbell with \$1.1 million; and Assemblyman Chuck DeVore with \$412,000 cash on hand...

☒ L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa has endorsed Demo S.F. DA Kamala Harris for attorney general. It would be a cold night in hell if Mayor Antonio had endorsed another AG candidate, Demo Rocky Delgadillo, the former L.A. City Attorney. The two really hate each other. Wonder if Mayor Antonio reads the SFGATE.com, the S.F. Chron's website???

☒ In their battle for the Demo nomination for Lt. Governor, both S.F. Mayor Gavin Newsom and L.A. Councilwoman Janis Hahn have been endorsed by the Calif. Labor Federation...

☒ In case you missed it, Insurance Comm. Steve Poizner's new book called *Mt. Pleasant* is on the NYTimes best seller list at #5, behind Karl Rove's new book...

☒ GOP Board of Equalization candidate George Runner(R-Antelope Valley) has won endorsements from Fresno Co. Sheriff Margaret Mims and Stanislaus Co. Sheriff Adam Christianson. The senator has also been endorsed by the Ventura Co. Republican Party...

☒ Here's a correction from last week. *Calpeek* said that GOP AG candidate John Eastman had been endorsed by both the Orange Co. and L.A. Co. Lincoln Clubs. Orange Co. yes, but L.A. Co. doesn't make pre-primary endorsements in contested partisan races. But two L.A. Co. Lincoln Club executives did make individual endorsements of Eastman: Dr. Forest Tenant, vice chair of the L.A. chapter; and Frank Colonna, former chair of the Long Beach chapter of the Lincoln Club...

☒ And finally, Orange Co. attorney and GOP candidate for Secretary of State, Orly Taitz, was disinvented to an April 15th *Tax Day Tea Party* event in Pleasant Hill last week. Event organizers were getting lots of negative feedback about Ms. Taitz. Taitz is the person who insists that Pres. Barack Obama should not be president because he was not born in the U.S. She's the *Queen of the Birthers* and ordinary GOPers are afraid of being seen on the same platform. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES

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

♦ *CA Majority Report Straw Poll on Demo AG's Race* – To the question, *Who is the most likely to be the Demo nominee for Attorney General* – Assemblyman Albert Torrico 39.1%, Assemblyman Ted Lieu 23.3%, S.F. DA Kamala Harris 13.8%, Chris Kelly 12.4%, former L.A. City Atty. Rocky Delgaddo 5.6%, and Assemblyman Pedro Nava 5.5%. This poll isn't scientific. No kidding!!!

♦ *Calif. Demo Party Endorses YES on 13 & 15, Dumps on 14, 16 and 17* – This should not come as a surprise. Prop. 14 is the open primary, which the CDP fears; Prop. 16, which is all about electricity and the right to vote on whether local funds can be used for a buyout; and Prop. 17, the car insurance proposition...

♦ *Drug Lab Scandal in S.F. Drags Harris in Deeper* – The newest disclosure by the S.F. Chron's ace crime reporter Jaxon Van Derbeken (4/14 – just before the CA Demo Party's convention) says Asst. DA Sharon Woo wrote a Nov. 19, 2009 email memo to Chief Asst. DA Russ Giuntini telling him about the "chronic staff shortages" at the SFPD drug analysis unit and specifically named Deborah Madden. The problem was, according to Van Derbeken's story, that Giuntini didn't pass the email memo up the line to DA Kamala Harris. And Woo isn't the only one complaining. So is SF Public Defender Jeff Adachi. He called Woo's Nov. 19th email "a burning red flag."...

CALPEEK To End Hard Copy Renewals

Calpeek is no longer offer hard copy renewals. It's a matter of economics – printing & postage. **Email now accounts for 80% of all our subscriptions.** Email is faster and more reliable. FYI: the U.S. Postal Service just announced an end to Saturday deliveries. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS & PERSONNEL NOTICES

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

☐ A sad note: former LAPD Chief Daryl Gates, 83, died April 16th after a battle with cancer. Gates served as chief from 1978 until he retired in 1992. He is best known for starting SWAT to handle high profile crisis situations and the successful anti-drug program known as DARE. There was no middle ground with Gates: you either liked him or hated him. He had a long running feud with both the late Tom Bradley and the L.A. Times. The city was in transition when Gates was chief and some speculate that he was out of touch with the change. He'll also be remembered as the chief during the riots when L.A. went up in flames after a jury acquitted officers in the Rodney King beating. The last line in the L.A. Time's obit/editorial after Gates death was this: *He was a guy you'd want by your side in a war, but not while you're trying to keep the peace.* R.I.P...

☐ Ross Johnson has retired as chair of the Calif. Fair Political Practices Commission. The former assemblyman cited health reasons...

☐ First Deputy L.A. Mayor Austin Beutner has been appointed interim head of the LADWP. This appointment is in addition to Beutner's other duties at City Hall. After a dismal six months on the job at DWP, S. David Freeman resigned April 12th as general manager. Stay tuned...

The June 8th Calif. Primary is 6 weeks away

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CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Apr. 23	60-day report on Calif. registration
May 24	Last day to register to vote in Calif.
June 1	Last day to request absentee ballot
June 8	Calif. primary election, 37 th SD runoff.
July 9	Nat'l Governors Assn. meeting, Boston
July 24	Last day to qualify initiatives for the Nov. 8 Calif. ballot