



CALPEEK

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CAMPAIGN 2010: CA SENATE CONFIRMS MALDO FOR LG. BATTLE LOOMS TO FILL OPEN 15TH SD.

Editor's note: There was absolutely no drama in the Calif. State Senate's confirmation vote to make State Sen. Abel Maldonado(R) into Lt. Gov. Abel Maldonado on April 26th. He was sworn in April 27th. Here's our analysis & update...

...The vote to confirm Maldo was 25 AYES, 7 NOES and 7 NOT VOTING. There were five GOP senators who voted for Maldo. They included Roy Ashburn, Dave Cox, Dennis Hollingsworth, Bob Huff and Tony Strickland. The hypocrite was again that no new taxes/Club for Growth lawmaker from Ventura Co., Sen. Strickland...

...The huge amount of criticism thrown at Maldo after he crossed party lines to cast one of three key votes in April of 2009 for the budget with \$12 billion dollars in new taxes was extraordinary. The GOP Senate Caucus also took their fury out on Sen. Dave Cogdill of Fresno and bounced him from his job as GOP Senate Leader after he too voted for the budget. The caucus couldn't retaliate against Ashburn because he was termed out, but there may have been pressure to withhold funds from him in case he tried to run for another office...

...State Senate President Darrell Steinberg(D) made it clear to GOP Leader Dennis Hollingsworth that if Maldo was to be confirmed, the Republicans had to put up votes. Hollingsworth delivered...

...Voting NO from the GOP Caucus were Senators Jeff Denham, Tom Harman, George Runner and Mark Wyland. Denham, Harman and Runner are all termed out, but are running in GOP primaries. Denham is running for the 19th CD, Harman is running for AG and Runner is in the BOE's 2nd District race. All three portray themselves as anti-tax Republicans. If they had voted to confirm, their rivals might have rammed it down their throats...

...The fifth NO vote against Maldo came from his GOP rival for Lt. Governor, State Sen. Sam Aanstad. The lawmaker from Grass Valley in Northern Calif. issued a defiant statement after the vote. "Today, the Governor and his politicians choose their Lt. Governor. This June, however, Republican voters will have their say. Voters can either choose Abel Maldonado, who broke his promise to the voters by *making a deal* in exchange for his vote for the largest tax hike in Calif. or me..."

...Part I of the deal with Maldonado was that the legislature

would place an Open Primary measure on the June 8th ballot. Part II was Gov. Arnold naming Maldo as LG...

...Now that Maldo has departed, the Coastal 15th District is up for grabs. For years this was a Demo seat, but it has been in GOP hands even before Maldo arrived. The registration is 41%(D), 34.5%(R) and 23% DTS. Lining up for an August primary is GOP Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee(33rd AD). The Demo will be former Assemblyman John Laird, a very popular progressive lawmaker who was termed out in 2008. The Demos want the special to coincide with the general election in November, but Gov. Arnold is balking. Time for Steinberg & Perez to play hardball. If Gov. Arnold picks the runoff on another date other than the Nov. 2nd general election, it will cost the three counties about \$2.5 million dollars more. And a lower turnout will help Blakeslee...

...If the Demos were to win the 15th SD and were to take over Sen. Denham's 12th SD, they'd have a 2/3rd majority in the upper house. The November battle in the 12th SD between Demo Assemblywoman Anna Caballero and Ceres Mayor Anthony Cannella(R) will be the top State Senate contest in the 2010 election cycle. Stay tuned...

HANGING OVER THE PRIMARY IS PROP. 17 CAMPAIGN 2010: INSURANCE COMMISSIONER'S RACE IS A DEMO AFFAIR. A LONE GOPER IN RACE.

Editor's note: "The problem with *down ballot* statewide primaries is that voters don't know what offices do what - nor do they care," says Sacto based Demo consultant Paul Kinney. He also told *Calpeek* that in these down ballot primaries, "Voters have the attention span of a gnat." Here is *Calpeek's* analysis & commentary about the State Insurance Commissioner's primary and the battle over *Prop. 17*, a ballot measure totally paid for by Mercury Insurance, one of Calif.'s biggest auto insurers...

...The IC could be a great office if one wants to climb the political ladder. But Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner(R), on the job for 3+ years, hasn't used his office effectively to advance his name ID, thus finding himself far behind his GOP rival, former Ebay CEO Meg Whitman...

...Assemblyman Mike Villines is the only Republican in this primary. He was the GOP Assembly Leader until April of 2009 when he got dumped by his caucus for voting for the budget with \$12 billion dollars in new taxes. It was an act of courage. He doesn't have Poizner's deep pockets, but he is

well liked in the Capitol...

...Now to the Democrats. The two Demos are L.A.-based Assemblyman Hector De La Torre and Sacto Assemblyman Dave Jones. Jones is considered to be the more liberal and has an aggressive style, according to Sacto sources. Both Demos have raised more than \$1 million dollars in the latest reports and both have a ton of endorsements. De La Torre's strong points are the labor unions. He's been endorsed by the CA Federation of Labor-AFL-CIO. Jones has a number of labor endorsements too, but his most important endorsement comes from the Calif. Demo Party...

...Best bet is that neither Demo will have enough for a big tv buy – a week's time at most. And between Poizner, EMeg, Props. 14, 16 and 17, the down ballot candidates are going to get lost. That leaves targeted mail and slate cards. According to TeamJones, they have purchased the majority of the major Demo slates -12 million circulation. This will be a real test of slate mail power...

...One of two hot issues in Calif. politics is the proposed Anthem Blue Cross 39% rate hike to their Calif. health care policy holders. Nothing on Villines' website about this subject, except for a vague question of whether respondents approve or disapprove of Anthems' rate hike. But Jones, along with Assemblyman Mike Feuer(D-L.A.) and Sen. Mark Leno(D-S.F.), have introduced AB 2578 which requires that health plans and premium increases get prior approval from the Dept. of Insurance and the Dept. of Managed Health Care. De La Torre has also gone after Anthem, but he doesn't have a bill to promote...

...The other hot issue is Prop. 17. This is tailor-made for these three candidates. De La Torre and Jones are both opposed. Jones says Prop. 17 is an attack on Prop. 103, the landmark insurance reform law. De La Torre says "Mercury Insurance is a company that can't be trusted." Poizner has kept his distance from Prop. 17. Haven't heard boo from Villines. The most recent opposition endorsement is from the Calif. Labor Federation. Many consumer groups as well are on the NO side. The name of the opposition is Stop Prop. 17: sponsored by the Campaign for Consumer Rights. www.stopprop17.org. At this point there isn't a formal NO on 17 campaign committee, but the contact phone is (310)392-0522...

...The YES on 17 side goes by the name of Californians for Fair Auto Insurance Rates. Mercury Insurance will probably spend millions on tv. The campaign team includes Goddard Claussen as lead consultant; Nielsen Merksamer et al on legal; polling is done by Public Opinion Strategies; and Bicker, Castillo & Fairbanks are doing earned media and coalition building. The cmp. HQ phone is (916)325-0056. Web: YesProp17.org...

...The key argument in favor of Prop. 17 is this: under current law, insurance firms are allowed to offer a discount to their existing customers who maintain continuous auto coverage. However, according to CFAIR, there is a glitch in the law which prohibits drivers from being allowed to take their continuous coverage discount with them if they change carriers. Prop. 17 fixes this inconsistency and makes the coverage portable. Despite

this innocuous language, the opponents say auto rates will increase if Prop. 17 is approved. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2010: AZ's IMMIGRATION LAW HAS TOUCHED A RAW NERVE IN U.S. AND CALIF.

Editor's note: Arizona's new immigration law, SB 1070, won't take effect for several months. There is little doubt that AZ and the City of Phoenix are ground zero for human and drug smuggling from Mexico. And that's why the AZ Legislature is so frustrated. The lawmakers and Gov. Jan Brewer(R) insist the Feds have to do more to control the U.S. border with Mexico. Here's our commentary and analysis...

...The SB 1070 law allows law enforcement officials to stop persons who they reasonably suspect are in the U.S. illegally and can demand their papers. The *dirty little secret* is that Federal cops (Immigration & Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol) have had that kind of authority since 1975, but not the state and local governments. The U.S. Supreme Court case which handed the Feds these powers is called U.S. v. Brignoni-Ponce. And B-P explicitly bans racial profiling. There's more, but this is as far as *Calpeek* goes with the legal mumbo jumbo...

...The new law would probably be a non-starter in either New Mexico or Texas – and maybe Calif. The reason is that Brewer's predecessor was Janet Napolitano, the current U.S. Sec. of Homeland Security. As governor, Napolitano routinely vetoed bills like SB 1070...

...Politically, both Brewer and U.S. Sen. John McCain(R) face a tough primary election. McCain supports SB 1070 because he has to keep up with conservative radio talk show host and former Congressman J.D. Hayworth. A huge flip flop from a few years ago when McCain worked with the late Ted Kennedy to draft a comprehensive immigration reform bill. Ironically, up until now, AZ GOP candidates statewide had been getting about 40% of the Latino vote. After SB 1070, cut that 40% in half, according to recent polls from last week...

...In fact, SB 1070 creates major problems for GOP candidates in all of the Western States – just like Prop. 187 here in Calif. In terms of Demos, the party has been a haven for foreign born individuals...

...The future of an immigration bill is very uncertain. Neither White House COS Rahm Emanuel nor Speaker Nancy Pelosi are anxious to touch immigration reform unless the U.S. Senate acts first. The negotiations between U.S. Senators Lindsey Graham(R-SC) and Chuck Schumer(D-NY) stalled at first and now they are *on again*. Here is what some think will be in a new bill: tough enforcement laws and a real push to reduce the backlogs in processing immigrants for U.S. Citizenship. Both labor and Tea Baggers oppose a *guest worker program*...

...In Calif., the City & County of S.F. is calling for a boycott of AZ. That's the work of S.F. City Atty. Dennis Herrera. Cardinal Roger Mahony is also attacking the new AZ law,

but he has his own problems. The AZ law makes what gubernatorial candidate Steve Poizner has proposed in his tv ad look pretty tame. Poizner's ideas include stationing NG troops at the border, forcing cities, such as S.F., to end the policy of *Sanctuary City*, and businesses that act like magnets for illegals should have their business licenses pulled. KNX Radio called Meg Whitman for a response to Poizner proposals, but she and her staff ducked...

...The only AG candidates who have spoken out about SB 1070 are GPer John Eastman, who supports the law; and Demo AG candidate Rocky Delgadillo, who is opposed, saying, "Today AZ set a dangerous precedent. The law that AZ Gov. Brewer signed will lead to "racial profiling," which is counter productive and wrong." Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2010: SALAS VS. VARGAS FOR THE OPEN 40TH SD SEAT. KEY AREA POLITICIANS ARE SPLIT.

Editor's note: This Demo primary battle for the open seat of termed out State Sen. Denise Moreno-Ducheny(D) might turn out to be expensive and perhaps nasty. Here's our brief analysis and commentary with side-by-side polling...

...Polling first. There are competing surveys taken by the Demo rivals: Assemblywoman Mary Salas and former Assemblyman Juan Vargas. Salas's survey was conducted by pollster Jim Moore, Feb. 14-15, 400 likely primary voters. Vargas's survey was done by Alex Evans & Molly O'Shaughnessy of EMC Research, 400 likely voters March 30 to April 1:

| | Moore | EMC |
|-----------|-------|-----|
| Salas | 36% | 30% |
| Vargas | 29% | 38% |
| Undecided | 35% | 32% |

...The data isn't that far apart and with a large undecided this primary is a toss up for now...

...Salas has a solid list of endorsements. They include CA League of Conservation Voters, the San Diego Demo Club, Teamsters Joint Council #42, the San Diego DSA, the Calif. Nurses Assn., SEIU of Calif., UFCW and most important, the Calif. Labor Federation and the Calif. Demo Party. Salas has a support edge with elected officials. They include U.S. Rep. Bob Filner(D-San Diego), the incumbent Ducheny, Senate Pres. Darrell Steinberg, Assembly Speaker John Perez, State Sen. Gil Cedillo, and Assemblymembers Marty Block and Manuel Perez. FYI: Filner and Vargas aren't on speaking terms. Vargas has run against Filner several times, coming up short...

...Vargas also has some good support. They include the San Diego City Firefighters #145, CDF Firefighters #2881, Black Police Officers Assn. of San Diego, Chula Vista Chamber, AF-SCME and AFSCME Local 3299. Among Vargas' support from elected officials are Assemblywoman Lori Saldana, former Speakers Fabian Nunez and Bob Hertzberg, Sen. Ron Calderon, Coachella Mayor Pro Tem Steve Hernandez and retired State Sen. Waddie Deddeh of San Diego and Chula Vista...

...In terms of fundraising, after he retired from the assembly Vargas went into the insurance business. Sources say the insur-

ance industry is backing Vargas. In the last contribution report (3/17) Vargas had \$139,362 cash on hand, with debts of \$108,000. Salas reported cash on hand of \$244,766...

...Salas was on the Chula Vista Council before being elected to the Assembly in 2006. Vargas is from the larger San Diego part of the 40th SD and was on the council. And Vargas is known for being big on walking precincts. If the insurance industry comes through for Vargas with an independent expenditure, that evens the odds. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2010: CALIF. INITIATIVE UPDATE.

Editor's note: Here's another update on initiative activity in Calif...

❖ *Another Term Limits Reform Initiative* – The committee backing this measure just turned in 1,050,000 signatures from all 58 Calif. counties. The committee's name is *Californians for a Fresh Start*. No website, but the contact is Matt Klink at Cerrell Associates (310)283-6267. This term limits plan is very different from the one which was rejected by voters in 2008. No funny business. It will reduce a politician's term in the State Legislature to just 12 years. The time can be served in one house entirely or split. No sitting or former legislators or anyone on the ballot in 2010 will benefit from this change. *Californians for a Fresh Start* is chaired by Gary Toebben, president of the L.A. Chamber of Commerce; and Maria Elena Durazo, exec. Secretary of the L.A. Co. Federation of Labor..

❖ *Pot Poll* – Survey USA has just released a Calif. poll on the marijuana initiative set for the Nov. 2nd ballot. The poll was done for KABC-TV, KFSN-TV, KGTV-TV and KPIX-TV. The survey was taken April 20th, but there is no sample size...

...To the question: should the state of Calif. legalize the use of marijuana? Should 56%, should not 42% and not sure 3%. In *Calpeek's* issue #17 a poll by the opposition showed 56% opposed to legalization. The survey was conducted 3/3 to 3/4 by Smith/Johnson Research. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2010: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES

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

☒ *McClintock Calls Whitman a RINO* – In a *politicsBlog* by Joe Garofoli of the S.F. Chron, he notes that U.S. Rep. Tom McClintock(R) is now in a radio ad for IC Steve Poizner, the *other* GOP candidate for governor. McC describes Meg Whitman as the *second coming of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger*. "I am afraid if Whitman were the nominee, the Republican base would have no reason to turn out...It's obvious to me that she lacks the background or the conviction to speak for herself." FYI: RINO means Republican In Name Only. The radio ad's best line is, "Calif. can't afford Arnold Schwarzenegger's third term, and that's all that Meg Whitman offers. More borrowing, more environmental extremism and more spending at our expense..."

☒ **All in the Family** – David Woodley Packard, the son of HP co-founder David Packard, says in an op-ed article that neither his father nor Bill Packard would endorse former HP ceo Carly Fiorina for the U.S. Senate...

☒ **Labor to Mount Grassroots Drive Against EMeg** – On April 26th Calif. AFL-CIO Sec.-Treasurer Art Pulaski announced a huge grassroots campaign aimed at union members to educate them about Meg Whitman's *Wall Street agenda*, the same corporate policies which led the 2009-10 financial collapse in the U.S. The campaign begins with 25,000 volunteers going door-to-door. The website is www.WallstreetWhitman.com...

☒ The Calif. Labor Federation has endorsed Assemblyman Hector De La Torre(D) for Insurance Commissioner. De La Torre also won the endorsement of former Speaker Karen Bass...

☒ L.A. Co. Supervisor Don Knabe has endorsed Meg Whitman for governor. Whitman also got the endorsement of former GOP Assemblywoman Bonnie Garcia, who had been a Poizner supporter...

☒ It's not too early to write about the upcoming Oakland Mayor's contest. And it is not just former Senate Pres. Don Perata(D) who is running. Councilmembers Jean Quan and Rebecca Kaplan are also in the running. Perata just picked up the endorsement of U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein(D)...

☒ In his primary to win the nomination of insurance commissioner, Demo Assemblyman Dave Jones has won the endorsement of SEIU Local 1000 representing 95,000 state workers...

☒ Demo AG candidate Chris Kelly has pumped another \$4 million dollars into his campaign...

☒ Former GOP Sec. of State Bill Jones has endorsed Meg Whitman for governor. Another CA Chamber director on *TeamWhitman*...

☒ State Sen. Sam Aaenestad(R) has picked up two solid endorsements. Low Uhler of the Nat'l Tax Limitation Committee and the Calif. Pro-life Council PAC...

☒ A new poll taken by Adam Porbolsky Research for GOP AG candidate John Eastman shows Eastman leading with 16.1%, L.A. DA Steve Cooley with 12.2% and State Sen. Tom Harman with 10.5%. The poll had a sample size of 304 GOP likely voters and was taken April 10-13. There is a large undecided response. Stay tuned...

The June 8th Calif. Primary is 5 weeks away
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CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES

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

◆ **Nahabedian Quits 43rd AD Race** – Demo Nayiri Nahabedian won't participate in the June 8th Demo primary, but her name will remain on the ballot. So now it's first place finisher Mike Gatto vs. Chahhe Keurogheian in the Demo primary and GOPer winner Sunder Ramani. A set back for new L.A. Councilman Paul Krekorian who used to represent the 43rd AD. He was supporting Nayiri...

◆ **Big Surprise by the L.A. Times Editorial Board** – In the contest for State Supt. of Public Instruction, the L.A. Times endorsed retired school superintendent Larry Aceves. They passed over State Sen. Gloria Romero(D) and Assemblyman Tom Torlakson(D). Don't know if Aceves has the ability to compete with the other two, but this editorial endorsement may help with fundraising...

◆ **Survey USA Polls in U.S. Senate and Governor's Races** – The pollster surveyed 538 likely GOP voters and 705 likely Demo voters. The poll was taken April 19-21. The poll did not match Demo U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer with her GOP rivals; ditto AG Jerry Brown in the governor's race.

| | U.S. Senate |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Tom Campbell | 34% |
| Chuck DeVore | 14% |
| Carly Fiorina | 27% |
| Undecided | 26% |
| | Calif. Governor |
| Meg Whitman | 49% |
| Steve Poizner | 27% |
| Other candidates | 9% |
| Undecided | 15% |

...So Poizner appears to be correct. Whitman has dropped in this poll. Had to happen because Poizner has been beating her with some good negative ads, including the Goldman Sachs & Company mess...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS & PERSONNEL NOTICES

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

□ Political consultant Jeff Adler has moved back to Long Beach. His new address is 3745 Long Beach Blvd., Ste. 240, Long Beach, CA 90807. (562)595-5911. www.adlerpr.com...

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