



# CALPEEK

## CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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### SAN DIEGO POLITICS

#### **CAMPAIGN 2012: ELECTION TO REPLACE MAYOR SANDERS IS JUNE 5, 2012 – A YEAR FROM NOW.**

Editor's note: San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders is termed out next year. Thus far it looks like a crowded field and a lively June 5, 2012 primary. Here is our first report & analysis...

...San Diego Councilman Carl DeMaio announced his candidacy on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Republican Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher tossed his hat into the ring the next day, June 6<sup>th</sup>...

...Others in the race or are close to declaring are San Diego Co. DA Bonnie Dumanis, Councilman Kevin Faulconer, U.S. Rep. Bob Filner and State Sen. Christine Kehoe. The contest is supposedly non-partisan, but everyone knows that Kehoe and Filner are Demos and Faulconer, Dumanis, Fletcher and DeMaio are GOPers...

...DeMaio and Dumanis are probably the two best known candidates. Some sources consider Dumanis to be the frontrunner and she has a solid base of support from the downtown establishment. If Dumanis has a weakness, it's that she's not that great on the campaign stump. DeMaio was a Tea Party type before the Tea Party actually formed in 2010. He can raise money and has good organizational skills. Demos and labor hate him...

...Filner and Kehoe have been in elective office for many years and they both have fair to good name ID. Sources say Filner is the best campaigner in this field and he has a solid base. When he runs, he will have to give up his 51<sup>st</sup> CD seat. If Kehoe runs, she has one problem: she was on the council and she voted for the pensions which are now bankrupting the city. She is termed out of her 39<sup>th</sup> SD seat. Depending on the new lines, sources say Kehoe should look at the house seat of U.S. Rep. Brian Bilbray(R). Sources think he's vulnerable in a Demo year in Calif. It's the kind of contest she can win...

...Fletcher is new and will have to build name ID. He is best known as a former U.S. Marine who served in Iraq. His key legislative achievement was his work and support for Chelsea's Law. That was a law to beef up penalties for sex offenders. But make no mistake, Dumanis will get the bulk of the public safety endorsements...

...Regardless of their areas of expertise, the main subject in this upcoming 2012 primary will focus on the *city's fiscal crisis* which has been with city hall for many years. The city's

**pension deficit** is about \$2.1 billion dollars. Sanders, Faulconer and DeMaio are backing a ballot measure next June and, if approved, would replace guaranteed pensions with 401ks for all new employees, except police officers...

...DeMario has just released a plan he calls *Road to Recovery*. It's 80 pages long and if adopted would slash or freeze salaries for most city workers, except for police...

...All the candidates who just declared are now able to raise money for their campaigns. The individual campaign contribution limit is rather low for Calif.'s 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city: \$500. According to our sources, the first major test in the race will be how much each candidate raises in the first 24 days of June...

...FYI: There is a rather good sized gay/lesbian population in San Diego and both Dumanis and Kehoe are lesbians. Our sources say many gays/lesbians are supporting the Dumanis, despite the fact she's a GOPER. Stay tuned...

#### **CAMPAIGN 2012: PRESIDENTIAL MERRY GO ROUND**

Editor's note: The field of GOP presidential candidates is almost set. The pundits and political news media are just waiting for a few others to declare. There's a new Gallup Poll and now that former MA Gov. Mitt Romney is in the race, the nasty and negative shots have started to fly in his direction. Here's our commentary and analysis...

...It was a perfect day on June 2<sup>nd</sup> in Stratham, NH, except for the fact Sarah Palin and former NY Mayor Rudy Giuliani tried to rain on Romney's announcement parade by stealing news media coverage with their own events in New Hampshire. That's SOP (standard operating procedure) for Palin. Romney's 20 minute speech was what pundits expected: he promised to cut spending, lower business taxes and balance the budget. He also took some pokes at Pres. Barack Obama, calling the president's first three years a failure. "Barack Obama has failed America..."

...He also attacked the president over Israel and for a flawed Afghan policy. Sources don't think that will fly because of the U.S. mission which killed Osama bin Laden. Some insiders think Romney was on thin ice with these attacks...

...Romney has his own problems. He's not that well liked by the religious right and fiscal conservatives don't like what he did while governor of MA – RomneyCare, health care with mandates. He is wrong for not accepting the fact that much of

what's in ObamaCare came from his plan. And voters may have forgotten that Romney was opposed to the auto bailout, which has been one of the bigger pluses for Pres. Obama. All three U.S. auto makers are now on solid financial ground...

...Still, there's a reason why Giuliani, Palin, U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann, TX Gov. Rick Perry and maybe NJ Gov. Chris Christie are testing the waters. It's because GOP insiders don't think Romney has *the right stuff* and some are fearful that Romney at the top of the 2012 GOP ticket could be a disaster for the whole Republican ticket – nationwide...

❖ **The Gallup Poll** – The newest GOP survey has Romney leading with 17% to Palin's 15%. TX U.S. Rep. Ron Paul got 10%, Newt Gingrich 9%, Herman Cain with 8%, former MN Gov. Tim Pawlenty with 6% and Bachmann with 5%. The poll also showed that Romney, Paul, Gingrich and Palin have the highest name ID – recognized by at least 75% of potential GOP voters. Cain only has 33% name ID, but the Gallup poll analysis suggests he could play a key role in determining who gets the nomination...

...The poll also found that if Palin decided not to run, Romney would begin to pull away from the GOP pack. And the *will she/won't she* run debate is still going on. Calpeek sources say she'll tease for a while longer and then stay with FOX...

...FYI: Next week Calpeek will report on a new ABC/Washington Post survey matching President Obama against the major GOP candidates. Sneak preview: Romney is ahead of President Obama among registered voters by a margin of 49% to 46%. That's within the margin of error. Among all Americans, they are tied at 47% each...

❖ **Former U.S. Senator Santorum Enters Race** – Rick Santorum is a social conservative who is opposed to abortion and gay marriage. In his June 6<sup>th</sup> announcement in Somerset, PA, Santorum went after social security. That won't go over well with millions of retired Americans...

❖ **Western PAC Goes Against Romney** – Western Representation PAC, one of the fastest growing conservative PACs, is gearing up to go after Romney. The NV-based group is chaired by Joe Miller, Palin's U.S. Senate guy in Alaska in 2010. Miller said in part, "We will never get behind Mitt Romney. On issues like gun rights, abortion, immigration and health care, Romney has flipped more than John Kerry."...

❖ **Will CNN Let Karger In The June 13<sup>th</sup> GOP Debate?** – Fred Karger is still pushing, but no decision yet. Even if there is no invite by CNN, Karger's earned media campaign (run by Rina Shah) is paying off big time with a David Frost interview and a profile story in the Sacramento BEE by Dan Morain...

❖ **Media Matters Goes After Chris Wallace** – Fox News Sunday host Chris Wallace couldn't say enough nice things about Sarah Palin on his most recent show. He proclaimed her performance on his show as "boffo." He also said she is a serious possibility to be president. Oh really!!! Stay tuned...

**BROWN'S TAX EXTENSION PLAN ON BALLOT???**  
**PPIC SURVEY: POLL GIVES GOV. BROWN SLIM HOPE FOR EXTENDING HIS TAX PLAN THIS YEAR.**

Editor's note: A new survey by the Public Policy Inst. of Calif. (PPIC) doesn't really hold out much hope for Gov. Jerry Brown's plan to put a *tax extension initiative* on a September ballot. A new poll shows **41%** are in favor vs. **51%** oppose, with **7%** no opinion. Here's our commentary and analysis...

...The PPIC survey was taken May 17-24 among 2,005 adults, 1,338 registered voters and 989 likely voters...

...In January Gov. Brown's budget deficit was \$26 billion dollars. Mostly through spending cuts and some unexpected revenue, the gap has been closed to \$11 billion dollars. Despite the numbers in our first paragraph, when voters are given the details of what is in Brown's plan, the numbers don't seem that horrible...

...*His plan includes increased funding for K-12 public education and community colleges, and places about \$1 billion dollars in reserve. Do you favor or oppose the governor's plan?* Favor **62%** vs. oppose **34%** and don't know **5%**. These were likely voters. Among independent voters, **59%** favor Brown's plan, **34%** are opposed and **7%** don't know...

...However, when it comes to raising revenue, the likely voters revert back to mostly opposing tax hikes. Raising personal income taxes: 35% favor, 61% opposed and don't know 4%. Raising state sales taxes: 30% favor, 68% oppose and 2% don't know. Raising the Vehicle License Fee (VLF): 38% favor, 61% oppose and 1% don't know. And finally, extending the sales tax to services that are not currently taxed: 42% favor, 52% oppose and 6% don't know...

...K-12 education, higher education and health & human services do fairly well, but prisons and corrections get stomped: only 19% would vote for higher taxes for prisons, 79% would not and 2% don't know. Looking at these numbers, sources believe Gov. Brown is not only going to have a tough sell to GOP lawmakers, but also to likely voters. Stay tuned...

**PPIC POLL – BROWN'S JOB RATING ONLY FAIR. JOBS AND THE ECONOMY ARE THE TOP ISSUES.**

Editor's note: Californians still have a gloomy assessment on how things are generally going – right direction or wrong direction. Here is Part II of the PPIC survey. Here's our commentary and analysis...

...Among likely voters in this survey, 27% say Calif. is going in the right direction, while **66%** say it is headed in the wrong direction. The most important issues to likely voters are Jobs/Economy **52%**; budget/deficit, taxes 16%; education/schools 11%; and immigration, illegal immigration 4%...

...Gov. Jerry Brown's job approval rating among likely voters is 46%, disapprove 28% and 25% don't know. There is a big partisan divide on Gov. Brown. Demos give him a 58%

approval rating vs. 45% for independents vs. only 26% for Republicans. Brown does best in the S.F. Bay area with 54% approval. In the Central Valley the governor's numbers drop to 44%. In L.A. his approval is 41% and in other Southern Calif. areas 32%. One would think he'd do better in L.A. County than 41%...

...The job approval rating for the Calif. Legislature is in the toilet. Only 17% of likely voters approve of their job performance. Pathetic...

...The PPIC survey also polled voter attitudes about the **initiative process**. One question asked if *having a period of time in which the initiative sponsor and the legislature could meet to see if there is a compromise solution before the initiative goes on the ballot?* 81% favor and 16% oppose, with 3% don't know. Given the divide between labor unions and businesses, this won't happen...

...A second question on initiatives asks if voters favored only having initiatives in the November elections, instead of any statewide election, such as primaries and specials? 59% of likely voters favor this; 35% are opposed; and 7% don't know. Campaign consultants won't like this suggestion...

...Another question was about hiking the number of signatures required to qualify an initiative? 51% of likely voters favor, 42% oppose and 7% don't know. And finally, is the Calif. initiative process in need of major changes 37%, minor changes 40%, fine the way it is 17% and don't know 5%. Stay tuned...

#### **SB 653 SENATE LEADER STEINBERG HAS A LOCAL TAX PLAN THAT IS DRIVING GOP LAWMAKERS NUTS.**

Editor's note: What if the power to tax many items were taken away from the State Legislature and given to local government? One thing is fairly certain: it might drive Calif. businesses to pressure the GOPers in the Legislature to pass a budget that places an extension of personal, sales and auto taxes on either a September or November ballot. Right now the Republicans are holding the entire budget hostage and won't provide the necessary votes. Here's our analysis & commentary...

...The bill in question which would accomplish this policy change is SB 653 and already the outfit which always goes on the attack against any tax, Californians Against Higher Taxes, is on the warpath. Steinberg's purpose in authoring SB 653 is to move GOP lawmakers off their butts and put up the necessary 2/3rds vote...

...Even if SB 653 passes both houses and is signed by Gov. Jerry Brown(D), there is still **no guarantee** that county supervisors or city council members will place tax hike proposals on their ballots. Can you see supervisors in Orange Co. or some other GOP-leaning county like Placer doing this? The answer is **no**. Ditto for cities with conservative and GOP voting bases, like Fresno or Newport Beach.

...And, before *Calpeek* forgets, there is **no guarantee** that voters in these various jurisdictions would supply the necessary **2/3rds**

**vote** to approve these proposed taxes...

...So all this yelling, screaming and posturing by CAHT may be for nothing. If you believe the newest PPIC survey, most voters, even Democrats, don't like raising taxes...

...And if Steinberg's threat works, and enough Calif. businesses put pressure on GOP lawmakers, then SB 653 would be pulled, according to Steinberg. And believe it or not, Gov. Jerry Brown's proposal to extend taxes on income, sales and cars, isn't nearly as bad as potential taxes on a whole host of new products and services. Stay tuned...

#### **JULY 12<sup>TH</sup> SPECIAL**

#### **CAMPAIGN 2011: HAHN HITS CABLE TV WITH FIRST AD. THE TV AD IS CALLED PALIN-HUEY.**

Editor's note: The Janice Hahn for the U.S. House committee has begun airing its first tv ad of the special election. Here's our very brief analysis & commentary...

...The cable tv ad was produced by media consultant Joe Trippi. It is titled *Palin-Huey*. It will run on cable tv in the 36<sup>th</sup> CD area. How long a run depends on money. The commercial's aim is to spell out Huey's positions and compare them to Tea Party darling Sarah Palin. The ad tells viewers that both oppose abortion in all cases and both support House Budget Comm. Chair Paul Ryan's plan to end Medicare, while giving tax breaks to the wealthy. According to the Hahn news release, Huey has gone too far by calling Planned Parenthood a "murder mill." Hard hitting stuff...

...FYI: Huey has been endorsed by Torrance Mayor Frank Scott. Huey owns and operates a business in Torrance. L.A. Councilwoman Hahn has won the endorsement of the Sierra Club. Stay tuned...

#### **CAMPAIGN NOTES: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.**

Editor's note: Here are some items of interest, including *Calpeek*'s spin on the fallout from liberal Demo NY Congressman Anthony Weiner's escapade with a lewd photo on his Twitter account. There's are new angles to this story every 24 hours. Here's our analysis & Commentary...

◆ Weiner is one of the brightest and most outspoken Demos in the U.S. House. He's also the biggest **news media hog** in the U.S. House and is not a Demo Caucus favorite. On June 6<sup>th</sup>, Weiner finally admitted he was the one who was responsible for the underwear photo and the photo was Mr. Weiner himself. And his internet playing around wasn't with just one woman – it was at least six and the encounters were on Twitter and Face Book...

...Some of Weiner's actions took place before his marriage and go back three years. He held a news conference in NY and apologized thousands of times. He almost broke down in tears. But he also said he is not going to resign. He has talked to Demo House Leader Nancy Pelosi and from what we're hearing, she's was **not** happy about this situation. There will be an ethics investigation. If it gets worse, Weiner could be toast – and that may happen. Weiner's ef-

fectiveness as a strong Demo advocate is over because his credibility is in shambles. And he can forget running for Mayor of New York...

...Here's our advice to Weiner and other elected officials who use social media and have an account with Twitter, Face Book or Craig's List. Close your account ASAP. Turns out that Weiner wasn't hacked, but hacking is possible. Our sources don't know what Weiner's future is in the U.S. House, but he's been in public service almost all of his adult life. Maybe it's time for a change...

◆ The chair of the WH Council of Economic Advisers, Austan Goolsbee, is leaving the White House to return to the Univ. of Chicago as a tenured professor at the Booth School of Business. If he doesn't return to his teaching post, he could lose his tenure. Goolsbee has been with Pres. Barack Obama since 2004 in the U.S. Senate campaign and in 2008 in the presidential campaign...

◆ Ending the current electoral college system is the aim of an outfit called the National Popular Vote. RNC Committeeman Shawn Steel of Calif. says it is crazy. And Steel has written an op ed piece called *It's Madness for Republicans to Support a Liberal Attack on the Electoral College*. Here's how it works: regardless of which presidential candidate wins in Calif., the electoral votes from Calif. go to whoever win the popular vote nationally. Do a Goggle search to find out more about this crazy scheme...

◆ The case against former U.S. Sen. John Edwards won't be a slam dunk, according to *Politico* writers Ben Smith and Josh Gerstein. The *Politico* sources in the story say DOJ success in such cases is mixed. And *Politico* suggests that if Edwards gets a conservative judge in the Winston-Salem federal court, the case could be dismissed...

◆ Until June 6<sup>th</sup>, Calpeek publisher Dick Rosengarten had never heard of the Faith & Freedom Coalition. But there they were on C-SPAN at a DC conference with a number of GOP presidential candidates and some who are still exploring, like U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann. I don't think there was a piece of red meat left in the hotel kitchen after Bachmann's speech, where she praised marriage between a woman and a man. But her most outrageous claim during her speech is when she said Planned Parenthood ignores sex trafficking of young girls. Don't know where she came up with that one, but the convention delegates loved it. FYI: Bachmann also got a standing ovation when she went to bat for Israel...

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## **CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS & PERSONNEL NOTICES**

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

□ Dresner Wickers and Associates have added two new partners to the firm, which was founded in 1993 by Richard Dresner and Bob Wickers. The new partners are Carolyn Barber and Bryan Sanders. Barber is a media placement specialist; Sanders is a campaign mgr...

□ CA Atty. General Kamala Harris has appointed Matt Rodriguez as acting chief deputy AG for legal affairs. He has been with the CA DOJ for 24 years. Harris also appointed Terri M. Carbaugh as chief deputy AG for administration and policy...

...Harris also hired Michael Troncoso as AG Harris' senior counsel. Troncoso was in the S.F. DA's office in charge of the DA's mortgage and investment fraud unit. Also coming over from the S.F.'s DA's office is Suzy Loftus who specialized in domestic violence and elder abuse cases...

...Another new AG staffer is Shum Preston who will be director of communications. He most recently served as a communications specialist with the Calif. Nurses Assn...

□ Gov. Brown has named Janelle Beland, 41, of Sacramento to be undersecretary of the Calif. Natural Resources Agency. Beland had been a sr. advisor and caucus director for Senate PPT Darrell Steinberg...

□ Austin Burke has become a partner at VR Research, working in the firm's DC office. VRresearch.com...

□ Gov. Brown has named Adam Torres, 47, of Riverside to the Commission on Judicial Performance. Previously he was the U.S. Marshal for the Central District of Calif. (2003-10). He was also with the IRS...

□ Dr. Ronald W. Chapman, MD, MPH, has been appointed director of the Calif. Dept. of Public Health. Two other appointments by HS Sec. Diana Dooley: Kathleen Billinglsey as Chief Deputy Direrctor of Policy & Public Health and Daniel C. Kim as Chief Deputy Director of Operations...

□ L.A. based Englander Knabe & Allen has acquired The Cherin Group(TCG). TCG's principal, Alex Cherin, will be a Sr. VP and will lead the firm's clean-technology and transportation groups...

□ The Calif. High Speed Rail Authority Board of Directors has elected Tom Umberg of Orange Co. as its new chair, replacing Curt Pringle whose term expired. Tom Richards was elected vice chair and Lynn Schenk was reelected to a second term as another vice chair. Stay tuned...