



CALPEEK

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MOVE MIGHT SAVE \$100 MILLION

CAMPAIGN 2012: SHOULD CALIF. ELIMINATE THE FEB. 7TH STAND ALONE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY?

Editor's note: As it is right now, Calif. will probably have three major elections in 2012: the February presidential primary, the regular June primary and the 2012 November general election. The cost for that February stand alone presidential primary could run close to \$100 million dollars. Given Calif.'s horrible economy there is movement in Sacramento to eliminate the Feb. 7th stand alone presidential primary and move it to June 2012 with all the Legislative & House primaries and any initiatives plus local contests. Here's our analysis & commentary...

...AB 80 is the bill that Assemblyman Paul Fong(D-Cupertino) has introduced which would eliminate the stand alone presidential primary. Sources say GOP Assemblyman Martin Garrick and Demo Assemblyman Tom Ammiano want to sign on as co-authors. Fong is chair of the Elections & Reapportionment Committee, the committee which will have jurisdiction. Sources say that in 2008, the stand alone presidential primary cost Calif. taxpayers \$96 million dollars. Don't forget, Calif. had contested GOP and Demo primaries in 2008...

...According to an L.A. Times story, Gov. Jerry Brown(D) has not taken a position on AB 80 as yet. If he did side with Fong and the bill became law, Calif. would join other states who are strapped for money and have pushed their primaries back to avoid a costly stand alone presidential primary. These include big states such as Illinois, New Jersey and Virginia. Smaller states who are moving their primaries back include Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma and Montana...

...Pushing the primaries forward is known as front-loading and it was done so that states like Calif. would have a greater voice in selecting the GOP and Demo presidential candidates. By 2008 every state wanted to be first, but New Hampshire won out and it looks as though NH will be first again...

...The first primary in 2012 is Feb. 14th in New Hampshire. But before NH there is the Iowa Caucus, followed quickly by the Nevada Caucus (for both Demos & GOPers) on Feb. 18th. The fourth state to hold a primary in February is South Carolina. One other state might try to jump the gun: Florida wants to set its primary for Jan. 31st...

...Don't know how the various GOP presidential rivals feel about moving the primary back to June, but with such a large

field of candidates, Calif. may still be in play come June...

...FYI: the first E&R committee meeting is set sometime in March. When *Calpeek* gets the word, we'll pass it along. Stay tuned...

ANOTHER SPECIAL ELECTION

CAMPAIGN 2011: U.S. REP. JANE HARMAN LEAVING U.S. HOUSE FOR WOODROW WILSON CENTER.

Editor's note: *Calpeek* sources were for the most part taken by surprise at the announcement Feb. 7th that Demo moderate Jane Harman(D-El Segundo) was resigning her 36th CD seat to succeed former U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton as president of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in DC. It's a done deal. Here's our analysis & commentary...

...Harman has represented the L.A./South Bay area since 1993. Why leave the U.S. House now? A Politico story by Mike Allen and Richard E. Cohen suggests Harman's decision in part was frustration of a well connected centrist Demo now in the minority in the U.S. House...

...She is an expert on intelligence and national security issues. Her nickname was G.I. Jane because she is rather hawkish. Others suggested the Wilson Center was like a magnet for Harman. In the Politico story one source said the think tank is a classy, well-funded operation and in the end Harman wanted the opportunity the Center presents. She doesn't have to worry about money. She's the wealthiest member of the U.S. House and is married to Sidney Harman who recently purchased Newsweek...

...Sources don't think redistricting had anything to do with Harman's decision, but her leaving certainly gives the new Redistricting Commission some wiggle room. As *Calpeek* noted earlier, the 36th CD is a Demo leaning seat...

...Sources believe Gov. Jerry Brown wants to call an election to coincide with his special on taxes sometime in June. *Calpeek* will keep you posted...

...Best bet to run for the 36th CD are L.A. Councilwoman Janice Hahn who represents much of the 36th in her council district. Hahn supporters were already beating the drums for her and Hahn has issued a statement saying she is running for the 36th CD. On Feb. 8th L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa endorsed Hahn for Harman's 36th CD. Hahn also won endorsements from Assemblyman Warren Furutani, former Assembly-

man George Nakano and Manhattan Beach Mayor Richard Montgomery...

...Other names mentioned include Kate Anderson, who is Harman's COS and a good fundraiser; and leaning toward a run is Secretary of State Debra Bowen(D) who also represented much of the 36th CD when she was in the State Senate. Haven't heard if Marcy Winograd, Harman's Demo primary rival in 2010, has any interest, but she is looking. She doesn't have the name ID of Hahn or maybe even Bowen. The lone GOPer is Mattie Fein who lost to Harman in 2010 by a 60% to 35% margin. She is testing the waters, but in an open primary, Fein may not finish second because the Demo field is very strong...

...Harman left her mark as ranking member of the House Intel Committee from 2003-06. She helped win support for the post-9/11 intel reforms and played a key role in helping to create the Office of Director of Nat'l Intelligence. Some new media sources described her as a *Blue Dog Democrat*, but that's pushing it too far. She's liberal on social issues, but a hawk on terrorism and foreign policy. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2011: THERE ARE OTHER L.A. COUNTY ELECTIONS ON MAR. 8. SOME CONTROVERSIAL.

Editor's note: *Calpeek* will wrap up our first round of updates about ballot measures in L.A. City. And we'll take a look at Measure 2P facing Beverly Hills voters and West Hollywood's Measure A dealing with billboards. Here's our brief analysis and commentary...

❑ ***Measure M in L.A. City*** – “M” stands for marijuana and Measure M allows L.A. City to tax medical marijuana dispensaries. Currently there is no tax on pot and backers of M say such a tax could bring in \$10 million dollars annually. The supporters say approval of M will protect vital services. The backers who signed the argument in favor of M include L.A. Councilmembers Janice Hahn and Paul Koretz; Pat McOsker, president of the United Firefighters of L.A. City; Marshall E. McClain, president of the L.A. Airport Police Off. Assn.; and retired LAPD narcotics detective Dave Doddridge. If the YES on M side had money, they might be a threat. The YES on M committee has yet to file a form 406...

...The NO on “M” side includes L.A. Councilmembers Bernard Parks and Jan Perry; LAPD Chief Charlie Beck; L.A. Co. Sheriff Lee Baca; and L.A. County DA Steve Cooley. The NO on M notes in its ballot argument that it is illegal under U.S. law, which supersedes Calif. and local laws, to grow, possess or consume pot for any purpose. If M is defeated, the city would not have to create an infrastructure to regulate and manage such a city tax. This committee, like the YES on M group, has not filed a form 406, financial disclosure report...

❑ ***Measure A in West Hollywood*** – If you love very large and flashy billboards, Measure A is for you. It would impose a new tax on revenue from off-site advertising signs in WeHo; and would amend the zoning laws to allow tall wall advertising signs on Santa Monica and Beverly Boulevards, without any review. The two parts of the law are independent of each other and if a court struck down the tax part of the law, the installation of big

billboards on Santa Monica and Beverly Boulevards would remain. Calif. law requires a 2/3rd vote because of the tax...

...The sponsor is Sunset Strip Inc., but the real backer is a Michael McNeilly of Skytag (a supergraphics company)...

...The opposition goes by the name of Concerned Neighbors Against Illegal Billboards. The WeHo council refused to put this measure on the ballot so McNeilly collected 4,142 signatures and it's on the March 8th ballot. *Calpeek* doesn't recognize any of the voters who signed the ballot arguments in favor of A, but WeHo councilmembers Abbe Land, Jeff Prang and Mayor John Heilman signed the anti-A arguments...

❑ ***Beverly Hills Free 2-Hour Parking*** – The initiative is called Measure 2P and it permits 2-hour free parking in most city-run lots. If you've ever been shopping or go to your doctor in Beverly Hills, parking is always a hassle, even in the big garages. The BH City Council fought this measure and took it to court. However, it's on the ballot because a Court of Appeals decision wasn't made in time so the city just decided to put 2P on the ballot. There is some hanky panky by the city council who placed Measure 3P on the ballot. It's confusing to voters, but that was the council's purpose. The 3P measure allows 3 hours of free parking but only to BH residents. G & L Realty is the main sponsor and *Calpeek* has seen a cable tv ad for YES on 2P. Englander Knabe & Allen are the lead consultants for YES on 2P/NO on 3P...

❑ ***VICA Endorsement on L.A. City Measures*** – Charter Amendment G – support; Charter Amendment H – oppose; Charter Amendment I – support; Charter Amendment L – support; Charter Amendment N – support; Measure O – oppose; Charter Amendment P – support; and Charter Amendment Q – support. *Calpeek* has written about H, L and O. For some reason, VICA did not take a stand on Measure M (marijuana tax). Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2011: BATTLE BETWEEN INCUMBENT HUIZAR AND RIVAL MARTINEZ TURNS VICIOUS.

Editor's note: Most *Calpeek* sources believe there are only 3-4 L.A. City Council seats to watch in the upcoming Mar. 8th municipal primary. And there's only one which is capturing all the news media's attention. The wild & woolly 14th council district now held by incumbent Jose Huizar. The 4th and 8th districts are worth watching too, but there's not yet the really nasty stuff flying between rivals. Here's our commentary & analysis...

☒ ***14th District*** – The district takes in Eagle Rock, Boyle Heights and parts of downtown L.A., plus Mt. Washington and Highland Park. This battle shouldn't be happening at all between Councilman Huizar and Rudy Martinez because they were good friends at one time. Martinez' is a successful businessman. *Calpeek* doesn't know the circumstances of the split, but it's been there for some time. Huizar's bright and is well educated. He was on the school board before being elected to the council...

...The latest round of negative stuff happened over the weekend of Feb. 4-6 when Huizar had to fire his communications director Michael Trujillo. Trujillo sent out an email to campaign workers saying he'd unleash the "dogs of Satan" on Martinez. If that's all he said, he'd still be on *Team Huizar*, but he also said he was planning to put a "political bullet" in Martinez's head. Shades of Tucson and Trujillo was gone. Huizar consultant Parke Skelton, in an LAT story, said there was no "evil intent behind the email. It was an attempt to buck up the campaign."...

...Lots of ink on this story, but there's more. *Team Huizar* gave the L.A. Times a copy (redacted) from an LAPD report which looked at how Martinez came to have an LAPD badge, which at one time belonged to an officer who was killed in the line of duty. Another big ink story. The LAT endorsed Martinez, but it wasn't a negative editorial about Huizar. *Calpeek's* opinion: there's been so much negative about both that the LAT should withdraw its endorsement of Martinez and simply say, "A curse on both of you."...

◆ **4th District** – Another incumbent under siege. Councilman Tom LaBonge faces two solid challengers: Tomas O'Grady and Stephen Box. Both have ties to the neighborhood councils. VICA and the League of Conservation Voters have endorsed LaBonge. Could LaBonge be forced into a runoff? It's possible because both O'Grady and Box have pockets of support in the 4th which includes Hollywood, Los Felix and Griffith Park. LaBonge's biggest critic is blogger Ron Kaye. In a blog, he wrote, "The voters of L.A. need to wake up and elect a representative who is ready to fix Los Angeles and solve its problems, not another bankrupt politician." All three have accepted matching funds. LaBonge's consultant is John Shallman, while O'Grady is using Dan Tamm...

◆ **8th District** – This is incumbent Councilman Bernard Parks' district. Parks is under siege from Forescee Hogan-Rowles, who is expected to get a huge amount of independent expenditure funds from organized labor – especially the L.A. Co. Federation of Labor. Last time *Calpeek* updated this story, the L.A. Police Protective League (LAPPL) had not endorsed Hogan-Rowles. Now they have, but it was no shock...

...Hogan-Rowles is calling on Parks to block an upcoming **rave** event at the Coliseum in June. She is concerned about noise and illegal drug use by concertgoers...

...Parks has won the endorsement of VICA, but its clout is mostly in the San Fernando Valley. Nevertheless, Parks is chair of the council's budget & finance committee and is generally given good marks for his knowledge of the city's budgetary red ink. Perhaps more impressive was a column written by Ron Kaye, who really beat up on Hogan-Rowles in his Feb. 5th blog. Kaye went after not only H-R, but her key supporter – the L.A. Co. Federation of Labor. "Hogan-Rowles is their patsy, a woman whose service on the DWP Commission was marked by her ignorance of policy and a 100% record of voting for rate hikes and massive salary increases for IBEW workers." Regardless of all the IE money that H-R will receive, many sources still think this is Park's race to win or lose. Hogan-Rowles has hired

SG&A Campaigns, while sources confirm that Parks has retained consultant Robert Kaplan.

◆ **12th District** – Councilman Greig Smith isn't seeking re-election and his chief of staff, Mitchell Englander, is the odds on favorite to win. Englander has been endorsed by the L.A. Times and VICA. He's sitting on a big war chest. FYI: *Calpeek* will write about the 8th District next week. Stay tuned...

MARCH 8TH SPECIAL

CAMPAIGN 2011: PER DIEM PAYMENTS AND BALLOT TITLES TOP ISSUES IN THE 4TH AD SPECIAL.

Editor's note: The two GOP frontrunners in the 4th Assembly District special election, Beth Gaines and Roseville Councilman John Allard, have finally picked up the pace and this contest may become exciting. Here's our analysis & commentary...

...Ballot title first. Sacto Co. Superior Court Judge Timothy Frawley had to handle this sticky case brought by Allard, questioning Gaines' ballot title – *small business woman*. The suit was against the Secretary of State and voting officials in Placer, El Dorado, Sacto and Alpine Counties. Frawley ruled in favor of Gaines, but not on the merits. The court simply ran out of time and any delay would have screwed up the printing of sample ballots...

...Rival candidates go to court over ballot titles all the time. In this case, Allard said that the paperwork from the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) showed there wasn't any evidence of Beth Gaines being in business. *Team Gaines* consultant David Gilliard said the legal action by Allard was a pr stunt with no merit. In an Auburn Journal story, Placer Co. election chief Jim McCauley, talking about a delay, said, "It would have cost the county thousands and thousands of dollars. I'm sure that was part of the judge's thinking."...

...Next up: Beth and her husband, State Sen. Ted Gaines, have taken a pledge not to accept per diem pay in the amount of \$60,000 (combined). "I will not accept per diem payments if elected to the Assembly," Beth Gaines said...

...Allard announced at the beginning of his campaign that he would reject per diem pay. As for Mr. & Mrs. Gaines, Allard challenged them "to take their generosity a step further and return the \$120,000 that the Gaines family got during Ted's four years in the Assembly." FYI: per diem pay is usually for lawmakers who live more than 25 miles from the Capitol. That doesn't apply to Gaines who lives in nearby Rocklin...

...Allard also announced the endorsement of the Sacramento Young Republicans and the Sacramento Police Officers Assn. Told you this primary battle was heating up. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: ODDS & ENDS IN CALIF.

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

◆ **Feinstein Gets Key Energy & Water Post** – U.S. Sen. Di-
anne Feinstein(D-CA) has been named chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Energy & Water Development. The subcommittee has jurisdiction over the Dept. of Energy, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Dept. of Interior water programs...

◆ **Electoral College Initiative Hits the Streets** – The official title is **Presidential Electors, Political Party Nomination and Election by Congressional District, Initiative statute**. This is one of the most confusing measure *Calpeek* has seen in many a year. The author is Ted Costa (916)482-6175. Costa has until July 5th to collect 504,760 signatures to qualify...

◆ **New Survey on Hiking the Debt Limit** – A recent poll taken by Pulse Opinion Research of 1,000 likely voters has bad news for President Barack Obama. Only 27% of likely voters are in favor of raising the nation's **\$14.3 trillion debt ceiling**, while 62% oppose it. The poll was taken for The Hill. About 77% of likely Republican voters and 64% of independents said they don't want the debt ceiling to be hiked. According to The Hill story, even Demos are opposed to raising the ceiling by a margin of 46% NO to 42% YES...

...This story isn't getting as much attention as it deserves. Some of the conservatives and Tea Party types in the U.S. Senate want massive spending cuts before they will approve a hike in the debt ceiling. The Tea Party types define massive as \$500 billion dollars. Both Treasury Sec. Tim Geithner and Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke have warned these conservatives not to use the vote on the debt ceiling as "a bargaining chip"...

...The poll also showed that only 40% of voters surveyed said the \$787 billion dollar stimulus & recovery package helped. Among Democrats, 69% said the stimulus boosted growth. But among independent voters, 56% said the stimulus hurt or had no impact...

◆ **Lieu Wins LAPPL Endorsement in the 28th SD** – Maybe it's a little early, but the only campaign news coming out of the 28th Senate District special election (Mar. 8th) in the Long Beach/So. Bay/Torrance area are endorsements for former Assemblyman Ted Lieu(D-Torrance). His latest endorsement is from the L.A. Police Protective League(LAPPL). That's the only news *Calpeek* has received.

◆ **MSNBC's O'Donnell Rip NFL** – Lawrence O'Donnell let the NFL owners and players have it on his Feb. 7th show. The commentary focused on **public funding of sports facilities**. One of O'Donnell's best lines was this: *Economic study after economic study shows that taxpayers investment in stadiums is a loser for everyone except the owners and the athletes. They do not in fact generate anything close to the tax revenue that they steal with the other hand.* As more insiders and movers in L.A. take a hard look at the AEG stadium proposal, the more questions begin to surface. And in San Diego, are the taxpayers willing to shell out millions for a new stadium to keep the

Chargers from jumping to L.A.???

...FYI: AEG president & CEO Timothy Leiweke repeated his vow not to spend "a penny of taxpayer money." "It's easy to take shots at this," Leiweke said in an L.A. Times interview. He asked skeptics to "take a deep breath and have a little faith that we're not going to lie to people."...

◆ **Fred Karger for President** – In case you missed it, there was a Feb. 3rd article in the Washington Post by Dan Zak about Karger's uphill battle to win the GOP presidential nomination. The headline on the story is *Crashing the party; Republican strategist turned gay rights activist ponders a White House run*. Karger is from Southern Calif. and at one time worked for the Dolphin Group, a GOP campaign and public affairs firm. During the 2008 campaign, Karger worked to defeat Prop. 8. As he campaigns in places like New Hampshire, Karger's #1 enemy is Brian Brown, the executive director for the Nat'l Organization for Marriage, which opposes same sex marriage. Read the story...

◆ **Demos Pick Charlotte, NC for DNC's 2012 Convention** – The DNC convention will take place the week of Sept. 3rd 2012. It is the first time North Carolina has been picked for a DNC gathering. The cities which didn't make it were St. Louis, Cleveland and Minneapolis. FYI: Pres. Obama was the first Demo to carry North Carolina since Jimmy Carter in 1976. The RNC convention will be held in Tampa, Florida...

◆ **Tea Party & Liberal Demos Defeat Patriot Act** – The U.S. House fell 7 votes short of passing an extension of expiring sections of the Patriot Act. A huge setback for the U.S. House GOP leaders. It shows that they can't control the Tea Party. The vote was 277 YES vs. 148 NO. 122 Demos and 26 GOPers were NO. Ranking House Judiciary Demo John Conyers Jr., said the Patriot Act "was one of the worst laws this body has ever passed."...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Mar. 7	Iowa presidential forum, West Des Moines
Mar. 8	L.A. City primary + many other local primaries.
Mar. 9-11	The 20 th Annual Pollie Awards & AAPC Convention, Fairmont Hotel, Wash. DC
Mar. 18-20	Calif. Republican Party spring convention at Hyatt Regency and Sacramento Convention Center.
May 5	Fox News and the South Carolina GOP host a Republican Party presidential debate, Peace Center, Greenville, SC