



Abel Maldonado –
Picture from sacbee.com

HIGHLIGHTS FROM COMMITTEE HEARINGS

During the Senate Rules committee hearing, Maldonado, close to tears, describes his past as an immigrant working on a strawberry farm. He speaks of the *American Dream* and describes how he has lived it. He explains how important education is but defends his vote to cut education last year saying that cutting education was a very difficult decision. In the Senate, education was the focus of Maldonado's questioning, in addition to questions over the 2/3 budget vote. Maldonado tells the committee that he would not be in favor of lowering the budget vote to a simple majority claiming that 2/3 makes legislators come together. (Though many members disagree and question whether the 2/3 vote actually brings the parties together)

- Aye votes from Cedillo, Dutton, Steinberg, Oropeza – Steinberg stressed that this nomination is not a political endorsement.

Questions in the Assembly were much more political than those in the Senate including; Do you support gay marriage (answer: no, I believe in domestic partnerships), Should employees be allowed to speak their native language at work (answer: no).

Two of Maldonado's harshest critics were from Assembly member Sandre Swanson and Assembly member Tony Mendoza. Swanson asked Maldonado about last year's budget vote saying that Maldonado only voted for the budget in order to have open primaries, "That's 'something for something'". Mendoza followed up saying "I don't get anything for my budget vote." & also "Are you going to ask for any extras on this next budget?"

- Assembly rules passes Maldonado's nomination to the floor with a "None" Recommendation.

February 2010

- *Abel Maldonado's LT Governor Nomination*
- *California's Governor Race 2010*
- *Healthcare & The Budget*
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Will Maldonado be Sworn in as Lieutenant Governor?

The Senate passed Maldonado's nomination but will the Assembly stop him from becoming LT Governor?

In spite of Assembly member Danny Gilmore driving to Sacramento with pneumonia to vote for Maldonado to become the Lieutenant Governor, the nomination failed to pass. (See voting record [here](#))

There has been a lot of debate on whether or not this means anything. Dan Maguire, the deputy of legal affairs for the Governor's office, says that the law is: *The Assembly and Senate have 90 days after the Governor announces his nomination to confirm or deny that nomination.*

Since the assembly didn't have a majority against Maldonado, the Governor and his people believe that after 90 days, Maldonado should be the new LT Governor. Schwarzenegger was ready to take on a legal battle but instead decided to withdraw his nomination of Maldonado and re submit it, in order to have another 90 days to get the votes needed.

To Be Continued...

The vacant LT Governor spot will be open for a while longer – On February 16th, the Governor officially withdrew his nomination of Maldonado and resubmitted it giving the Legislature another 90 days to confirm or reject the nomination. The Governor called Assembly's rejection "Politics at its worse."

When Maldonado spoke he stressed that this vote is about whether or not he is fit for this position & it shouldn't be based on politics as it was in the Assembly, "Partisanship ruled that day. This is why Californians are mad at us."

*Maldonado after
Assembly Floor hearing.
-Photo from
Capitolweekly.com*



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California's Governor Race

Jerry Brown has his BA from UC Berkley, and obtained his Law degree from Yale. In 1970, Brown was elected to serve as California Secretary of State. As Secretary he enforced campaign disclosure laws and "exposed President Nixon's use of falsely notarized documents to improperly earn a large tax deduction and drafted and helped pass the California Fair Political Practices Act". (jerrybrown.org) In 1974 and 1978 Brown was elected and served as California's governor. As governor, Brown lowered taxes and created California's largest surplus ever. According to his website, his eight years in office are considered the most innovative in California history. Currently, Brown is working as California's Attorney General.

(See more of his bio at: www.jerrybrown.org)

**Jerry Brown is not an official candidate*

Meg Whitman attended Princeton University obtaining her BA in economics. In 1979 she received her MBA from Harvard Business School. Whitman worked at a consulting firm in San Francisco and became the vice president. At this job, Whitman "developed her keen ability to analyze challenges and solve problems by "focusing intensely on the small number of changes that can make the largest possible difference." (megwhitman.com) Whitman has since had some key positions at well known companies including Disney, Hasbro and ebay. Whitman's vision for California is to focus on problem solving, creating jobs, fixing education and to cut spending.

(See more of her bio at: www.megwhitman.com)

Steve Poizner currently serves as California's Insurance Commissioner. Since taking office, Poizner has cut spending by 15%. Poizner has had the opportunity to serve in the National Security counsel and worked as a 12th grade teacher where he become passionate about government, after feeling firsthand the pain that government cuts have on students and teachers. Poizner has his Master's degree in Business Administration from Stanford University.

(See more of his bio at: www.stevepoizner.com)

Notes:

According to *San Francisco Chronicle*, Whitman is urging Poizner to drop out of the GOP race to the Governorship "for the good of the party". (CARLA MARINUCCI Chronicle Politics [Weblog](#) -- 2/16/10)

See how they are doing, Recent Poll:

http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/elections2/election_2010/election_2010_governor_elections/california/election_2010_california_governor

Tweets about Maldonado's Nomination

Chuck DeVore: Teamwork. The Assembly GOP Caucus decided to support Maldonado. Voting "no" would be more a slap at them than the nominee

capitolweekly Perez and Bass put up votes against Maldo, but Dems are still shy of 41 needed to undeniably reject Maldo

Capitol Alert tweets: Maldo, who yesterday called lite gov gig "economic development czar, says fighting for job growth would be top priority

Assembly member Noreen Evans: Gov will create constitutional crisis by swearing in Maldo as LtGov w/o confirmation by both houses.

CapitolAlert @Schwarzenegger: on Maldo's chances on 2nd try at lite gov nomination: "I'm a big believer that sequels can be better than the original"

Assembly member Dave Jones: How do you withdrawal a nomination that has already been rejected? Too late....

Flash Report: California Republican Assembly, state's largest conservative GOP group, comes out strongly against Mald for LtGov

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Healthcare Issues

Relating to the budget

In January, Governor Schwarzenegger announced two budgets. The first budget is contingent on California receiving federal funds. In this budget, healthy families eligibility would be reduced from 250% below the poverty level to 200% and would eliminate vision benefits (children who are enrolled in the CCS program because of their enrollment in healthy families could potentially lose their CCS benefits). In addition, Medi-Cal would be reduced by \$750 million General Fund dollars, In-Home Support Services would be reduced \$77.9 million dollars and Department of Correction's Medical Service Program would be reduced by \$811 million dollars. Schwarzenegger says health and human services cuts will be avoided if federal funds are given.

Under the second budget, the following programs will be eliminated: healthy families, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKS), Proposition 63 funds for mental health services, In Home Support Services, Healthcare programs funded by Proposition 99. Also, Medi-Cal eligibility will be reduced to the minimum allowed under federal law and most optional benefits as well.

According to the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, the amount of federal dollars California will receive should be known by June.

The Budget proposal can be read [here](#)

Reactions

Alicia Trost (Total Capitol) *"Gov's budget would eliminate 204,000 kids from health care coverage & deny vision care for all kids in Healthy Family program"*

Sen president pro tem **Steinberg's** reaction to budget proposal: "You've got to be kidding"

LegAnalyst calls Governors chances of getting all fed dollars he seeks for California's budget(\$7B-\$8B) "almost non-existent". LAO analysis [details here](#)

OTHER INTERESTING TWEETS...

KQED - The budget groundhog came out of his hole this morning in Sacto. Fog be damned, he saw his shadow.- another yr of deficits.

Whitman quietly pulls "30 years" claim from 1st TV ad, makes it "many years." Details to follow at PolitiCal [Details here](#) -Shane Goldmacher

Democrats have revived the 'Amazon tax' on online purchases as part of their stopgap budget plan [here](#) - Kyamamura

John Perez elected speaker-elect of the house. Republicans refuse to vote for Perez as speaker (*"Assembly Republicans can't bring themselves to vote for a gay man so they put up their own candidate for speaker. How sad."* – ASM Dave Jones)

Chuck DeVore's speech at CPAC 2010 watch it [here](#)

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Articles of Interest

Health net and UCLA School of Public Health have teamed up to create a website designed for Adolescents who are enrolled in Medi-Cal or the Healthy Families Program. The site will be launched later this year and will include videos, blogs, and instant messaging features designed to educate teenagers. The goal of this website is to have more teenagers in these programs meet the “adolescent wellcare”.

[Full Article here](#), California Edition Feb. 11th, 2010

California will receive \$675 million dollars from the Federal government to aid Medical Part D (prescription drug program).

See full article at [California Health Line here](#)

The California State Senate passed SBX8 29 on February 18th exempting thousands of state workers from furlough days. Departments that are affected get at least 95% of their funding from non-general fund dollars. One noteworthy department is the DMV.

Read the full Sacramento Bee article [here](#).

LA Times Article: *Avenues to Correct Medical Billing Problems*

[Read Article here](#)

Federal Healthcare Reform

On February 18th, Lawmakers met to find a middle ground between the two federal healthcare bills and claim that a compromise is close to being reached.

See full article from [California Health line](#)

Health insurance rates are increasing across the country, helping Obama encourage lawmakers to pass reform.

Read article here from [San Francisco Chronicle](#)

Legislation

SB 227 (Alquist) – Would expand the role of the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board in providing coverage to high-risk individuals.

SB 810 (Leno) – Would do away with private health insurance in California and give all residents single payer healthcare. This bill passed the Senate and is currently on the Assembly desk.

AB 1602 (Bass) – Would create the California Cooperative Health Insurance Purchasing Exchange (CAL-CHIPE).

AB 1767 (Hill) – Relating to testimony given from licensed physicians or surgeons.

Useful Links

[HTTP://WWW.CAPITOLWEEKLY.COM](http://www.capitolweekly.com)

[HTTP://WWW.RTUMBLE.COM/](http://www.r tumble.com/)

[HTTP://WWW.CALIFORNIAHEALTHLINE.ORG/](http://www.californiahealthline.org/)

Legislative Calendar attached –

Important dates from February:

Last day to introduce bills was February 19, 2010

Key dates for March:

March 25th Legislature recess for Spring break until April 5th

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