

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Welcome Back!

This issue of our SCCA Legislative Committee newsletter takes a slightly different flavor. We'll focus on campaigns and elections this time. And we anticipate that we'll focus on elections every four or five episodes. Enjoy!



Todd Bloomstine

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Ballot Measures Multiply for November Ballot

Don't be shocked when you go to vote this November and find a ballot bursting at the seams with Propositions. Recent reports show that this ballot could be one of the busiest in recent history with nine initiatives already qualified and another 66 waiting in the wings.

Before you start worrying about casting your vote for so many initiatives, remember that it is a long process before a initiative is ready for the ballot, and many of those 66 initiatives will ultimately not qualify. The ballot could exceed the average of 8.5 measures per ballot and it could be near the high-mark of 29 measures as seen on the 1988 Primary Election ballot.

Remember -- initiatives can be placed on the ballot one of two ways. The legislature can place them on there through the normal legislative procedure. Or citizens can place them by receiving qualified signatures. An initiative to change state law requires 365,880 and one to change the California Constitution needs 585,407.

In 2011, the California Legislature moved all citizen-generated initiatives to the November ballot - in theory to ensure that there is higher voter turnout to vote on these measures; thus ensuring

citizen involvement on deciding them. With that change, Californians end up with a ballot that is heavily laden with propositions.

Political experts warn that this could lead to a concept called "voter fatigue;" the idea that the longer the ballot is, the more tired a voter becomes, and the less likely they are to consider a measure on its merits. In other words, voters reach a point where they stop voting, or only vote 'no' on measures because of the volume of issues they are evaluating.

To read more about the idea of voter fatigue and data regarding how voters respond to long ballots, [click here](#) to see the article in *Capitol Weekly*.



Who is Making the Decisions at the Ballot Box?

As our culture, and therefore our communities and business structures, are becoming dominated by the influence of Millennials (those born after 1981), we are seeing that their influence seems to stop at the ballot box. While voter registration trends are showing increasing numbers of Millennials, Independents, and Latinos registering to vote, our elections are still dominated by white partisan voters.

Data expert Paul Mitchell shares these facts:

–Millennials and Generation X (born 1965-1980) have quickly become half of the registered voter population in California while the share of every other generation is waning.

–But, still, Baby Boomers (born 1946-1964) and Silent Generation (born 1925-1945) account for 3/4 of votes cast in Primary Elections. *Despite being the majority of registrants, Millennials and Gen X only accounted for 22.5% of those who showed up to vote in the 2014 Primary.*

— As a share of each generation's registration, 88% of the Greatest Generation (born 1900-1924) have a partisan affiliation. Among Millennials, that's dropped to 59%, and the Millennials' registration as independents is larger than registration for either political party.

You can read more about voter registration and who shows up at the polls by **clicking here** to read Paul Mitchell's article.



SCCA Jointly Sponsored Reception for Assemblymember Catharine Baker

SCCA is honored to jointly sponsor the upcoming event for Assemblymember Catharine Baker (R-San Ramon) in Danville, CA on March 16. We are joining with other major construction industry businesses and organizations to host this reception in honor of Assemblymember Baker.

Assemblymember Baker is a unique representative — she is the only republican representative from the greater San Francisco Bay Area. Baker is the Vice-Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee and also serves on the Transportation and

Business and Professions Committees (among others). In addition to serving on these committees, she has authored many public safety measures to ensure our communities are safe.

She is also keenly interested in improving California's infrastructure.

As a joint-sponsor, SCCA is contributing \$4200 toward Assemblymember Baker's re-election.

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SCCA Supports Assemblymember Rudy Salas; Political Action Committee Contributes \$2000

Recently, SCCA's Political Action Committee (PAC) supported Assemblymember Rudy Salas (D-Bakersfield) at a Sacramento event. Assemblymember Salas is a representative from the Central Valley and is no stranger to government representation as he has served as a legislative staff member, local city council member, and now a state Legislator.

Assemblymember Salas is Chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee and serves as member of the Government Organization and Accountability and Administrative Review Committees, among several others. Some of Salas' biggest accomplishments since being elected was co-authoring the \$7.545 Billion Water Bond for safe drinking water and storage projects and securing \$15 million in the budget for job training.

Assemblymember Salas is also the Co-Chairman of the Assembly Moderate Caucus. The other Co-Chairman is Assemblymember Jim Cooper (D-Elk Grove).



Putting a Price Tag on Local Ballot Measures

One big difference between state ballot measures and local ballot measures are some of the requirements on the information that is disclosed to voters — particularly about the cost of implementing the proposed ballot measure. At the state level, the Legislative Analyst's Office must provide a "fiscal impact" of a ballot measure, essentially projecting the cost of implementing the measure. This requirement is nonexistent at the local level.

An Orange County Supervisor is trying to change this. Supervisor Andrew Do proposed a measure that would require all county initiatives to include a cost analysis provided by the county's Audit Controller. Voters will decide upon the measure on the June Ballot in Orange County.

This small change to what information is disclosed to voters is a huge step forward in government transparency. This measure requires that the cost for any county-driven initiative seen on the ballot, an independent cost analysis is available to voters as well — ultimately giving voters information on the financial impact of their yes or no vote on a measure. The only question that remains, is how many other counties will follow the lead of Orange County and make their ballot measures more transparent to voters?



Political Quote of the Day

Money is the mother's milk of politics.
Former California Assembly Speaker Jesse "Big Daddy"
Unruh, 1966