



# CALPEEK

## CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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### **BIG WEEK OF HEADLINES: MORE VA DISCLOSURES, CLINTON'S BOOK; CA EDUCATION CODE GETS WACKED AND CANTOR BEATEN**

Editor's note: Politically, the defeat of House GOP Majority Leader Eric Cantor in VA by an anti-immigration Tea Party candidate is the biggest news of the week. But there was also the roll-out of Hillary Clinton's new book, new disclosures about the VA and in Los Angeles a Superior Court Judge sided with nine students who won a major lawsuit aimed at doing away with teacher tenure. *Calpeek.com* will focus on Cantor's loss and the L.A. Court decision. Here's our analysis & commentary...

...**Cantor first.** The Tea Party candidate is Dave Brat, a professor at Randolph-Macon College. Brat's Demo opponent is Jack Trammell, also a professor at that same college. VA's 7<sup>th</sup> CD has a heavy GOP registration edge, so don't look for an upset, but Demo House leader Nancy Pelosi said Cantor's loss "**has created a whole new ballgame in the 2014 midterm elections.**"...

...Pelosi continued, "Eric Cantor has long been the face of House Republicans: extreme policies, debilitating dysfunction and manufactured crises. Tonight is a major victory for the Tea Party as they yet again pull the Republican Party further to the radical right." Pelosi is correct. She forgot to say Cantor is arrogant and a nincompoop...

...In a Politico.com story, Lauren French writes Demos have tended to fare better in competitive races when Tea Party candidates oust the establishment's pick, notable gaining wins in Indiana and Missouri in 2012 which helped Demos maintain control of the U.S. Senate...

...FYI: U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham of Georgia defeated seven Tea Party candidates to win the nomination without a runoff. He ran a focused campaign. U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran of Mississippi was not so lucky. He faces Tea Party candidate, State Sen. Chris McDaniel, in a June 24 runoff. In the primary, McDaniel edged out Cochran by a 49.6% to 48.9% for the incumbent. In Calif. the GOP establishment finally woke up and got strongly behind Neel Kashkari in his battle with Tea Party favorite Tim Donnelly. Had Donnelly won the primary, the fallout would have been nationwide and a GOP disaster...

...With Cantor out as Majority Leader, the decision on who takes Cantor's place falls to GOP House Speaker John Boehner. Cantor was viewed as Boehner's replacement if and when Boehner were to step down. With Cantor out, sources believe

Boehner will select either Paul Ryan, chair of the Budget Committee and Mitt Romney's vp running mate in 2012; OR U.S. Rep. Kevin McCarthy of Bakersfield, the third ranking Republican in the U.S. House. McCarthy is the GOP's whip. His only drawback: he is not a great counter when it come to rounding up votes for Speaker Boehner...

...FYI: Brat's main theme was bashing immigration reform. Cantor's loss probably hurts the cause, but not everyone agrees. There was a survey by Public Policy Polling. 72% of Cantor's registered voters in his 7<sup>th</sup> CD support immigration reform. Stay tuned....

### **L.A. STUDENTS WIN MAJOR LAWSUIT TO KILL EDUCATION CODES PROTECTING BAD TEACHERS**

Editor's Note: The decision in *Vergara v. Calif.* has sent shock waves throughout the entire **education establishment** in Calif. that could rumble nationwide if the appeal by the CTA and the Calif. Federation of Teachers is rejected. Here's our analysis and commentary...

...Bet your first born that CTA and CFT didn't see this decision coming. Judge Rolf M Treu, in a 16-page ruling, said that plaintiffs (students) have met their burden of proof on all issues presented. And at the end of the ruling, Judge Treu said, "All challenged statutes are unconstitutional." There will be stay, pending appeals...

...LAUSD Superintendent John Deasy said, "This is a truly historic day for our education system. Today's decision is a call to action to begin implementing, without delay, solutions that help address the problems highlighted by the Vergara trial..."

...This decision is about school districts being able to dismiss bad teachers. Currently, districts can dismiss poor performing teachers, but it takes a very long time and is an expensive process. The evidence presented at trial showed permanent employment is granted in far too little time, resulting in grossly ineffective teachers gaining lifetime job protection. The lawsuit also went after the last-in, first out statute which forces school districts to fire top teachers and keep ineffective ones...

...The case took two years and the CTA and CFT fought it all the way. After the decision, a spokesperson for the education unions blasted the decision. That was to be expected...

...The real question is whether *Vergara v. Calif.* will have any impact on the November runoff election for Superintendent of

Public Instruction between incumbent SPI Tom Torlakson and his opponent Marshall Tuck? Torlakson finished in first in the primary, but now with this decision, the race finally has an issue that teachers, parents and students understand. Getting rid of bad teachers...

...Torlakson is closely allied with the teachers (read that as CTA) and this could come back to bite him. He'll have to join teachers in blasting this decision by Judge Treu. If he doesn't the CTA could cut off his funding. The CTA pumped in a huge amount of money to get Torlakson reelected...

...Question: have you ever had an experience with a bad teacher? I have, when I was in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade in high school. Stay tuned...

**CAMPAIGN 2014: ONE WEEK AFTER WORST VOTER TURNOUT IN A CALIF. PRIMARY, NUMBERS START TO CREEP UP SLIGHTLY**

Editor's note: The day after the June 3 primary, turnout stood at 18.3%. On June 10 the turnout had inched up to 21.8%. By the time the count is finalized, sources think it will hit 26-28%. Still not very good. Here's an update & commentary on the June 3 primary election...

...As note above, statewide the numbers are inching up. The counties with the bigger voter turnouts were San Diego at 25.8% and S.F. With 26.0%. Both counties had some down ballot campaigns to stimulate voter attention...

...CONTROLLER. One statewide race is still up in the air: controller. Next to governor, the Controller is the second most key post in state government. GOPer David Evans was giving Demos John Perez and Betty Yee serious political heartburn last week. Over the weekend Evans dropped to 740,576. Perez now holds a lead of just over 1,100 on Yee. The race keeps shifting as more counties report...

...Most sources predicted the battle between Yee and Perez would be tight. Yee can defeat Swearingin, but Perez can't. Yee is taking the Bay area, but will it be enough to offset L.A. County? Yee is doing better than Perez in northern Calif....

.....GOVERNOR. Brown continues to hold at 54.4%, with Kashkari at 19.4% and Donnelly at 14.3%. Kashkari is having a tough time breaking 20%. The Calif. GOP spin machine is doing an excellent job of telling GOP voters the former U.S. Treasury official will run a good contest and make it close with Brown in the fall...

...Don't know what these folks have been drinking, but Gov. Jerry is going to beat Kashkari by double digits. FYI: Neel wants 10 debates with Jerry. That ain't gonna happen. Maybe three at the most, more likely two...

...28<sup>th</sup> SD. In the battle for this Inland Empire State Senate seat, former GOP Assemblywoman Bonnie Garcia has pulled in front of second place candidate Glenn Miller. Jeff Stone leads with 21.9% followed by Garcia at 19.8% and Miller at 19.4%. These numbers may change...

...SANTA CLARA COUNTY. Sheriff Laurie Smith has won

her fifth term. In the county supervisor races, Mike Wasserman won the 1<sup>st</sup> district and Ken Yeager won the 4<sup>th</sup> district. DA Jeff Rosen was reelected as DA...

...SAN DIEGO COUNTY. No shocks as 4<sup>th</sup> District Sup. Ron Roberts won his last term and so did Bill Horn in the 5<sup>th</sup> District. San Diego Co. Sheriff Bill Gore won reelection...

...Sacramento Sheriff Scott Jones and Fresno Sheriff Margaret Mims were both reelected. Stay tuned...

**CAMPAIGN 2014: NEW VOTER DATA**

Editor's note: Here are the registered voters in Calif. as of 5/19/2014. This is the 15-day report of registration...

<u>Political Parties</u>	<u>Registered</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
American Indep.	475,914	2.69 %
Americans Elect	3,674 0	.02%
DemocraticParty	7,692,670	43.41%
Green	109,764	0.62%
Libertarian	116,733	0.66%
Peace & Freedom	78,345	0.44%
Republican Party	5,036,61	28.42%
No Party Preference	3,749,215	21.16%
Miscel.	459,0171	2.59%

...FYI: The total number of Calif. Registered voters is 17,722,006. Statewide, in raw numbers, Demos have a registration edge of 2,656,060 over Republicans. Stay tuned....

**CAMPAIGN 2014: MANY INCUMBENTS IN THE STATE ASSEMBLY ARE GETTING FREE RIDES**

Editor's note: A free ride is when an incumbent does NOT have a general election rival. Here is our brief report...

...Nine Demos and seven GOPers have no general election rivals. To be honest, Assembly Demos under Speaker John Perez or his Majority Leader Toni Atkins really screwed up; so did GOP Floor Leader Connie Conway. And the Calif. Demo Party and the Calif. Republican Party should have been checking to make sure there were no incumbents without a challenger – even if the registration numbers were poor..

...Why should all incumbents have challengers? Because it forces these incmbuents to spend money on their own campaigns as opposed to sending campaign cash to candidates who may need financial help...

...Here's who gets FREE RIDES:

Demos first. Lorena Gonzales (80<sup>th</sup> AD); Shirley Weber (79<sup>th</sup> AD); Reggie Jones-Sawyer (59<sup>th</sup> AD); Cristina Garcia (58<sup>th</sup> AD); Jimmy Gomez (51<sup>st</sup> AD); Chris Holden (41<sup>st</sup> AD);

Henry Perea (31<sup>st</sup> AD); Adam Gray (21<sup>st</sup> AD); and Susan Bonilla (14<sup>th</sup> AD)...

GOP. Rocky Chavez (76<sup>th</sup> AD); Marie Waldron (75<sup>th</sup> AD); Brian Jones (71<sup>st</sup> AD); Melssa Melendez (67<sup>th</sup> AD); Eric Linder (60<sup>th</sup> AD); Jim Patterson (23<sup>rd</sup> AD) and Frank Bigelow (5<sup>th</sup> AD)...

...In the State Senate only three incumbents are without general election challengers: GOPer Jean Fuller (16<sup>th</sup> SD); Demo Ed Hernandez (22<sup>nd</sup> SD); and GOPer Pat Bates (36<sup>th</sup> SD). Stay tuned...

#### ***CAMPAIGN 2014: LIST OF CANDIDATES WHO WON PRIMARIES FOR CALIF. STATEWIDE OFFICE***

**GOVERNOR** – Jerry Brown(D) vs. Neel Kashkari(R).

**LT. GOVERNOR** – Gavin Newsom(D) vs. Ron Nehring(R)...

**ATTORNEY GENERAL** - Kamala Harris(D) vs. Ronald Gold (R)...

**STATE CONTROLLER** – Ashley Swearingin(R); John Perez (D); Betty Yee(D) and David Evans(R)...

**TREASURER** – John Chiang(D) vs. Greg Conlon(R)...

**INSURANCE COMMISSIONER** – Dave Jones(D) vs. Ted Gaines(R)...

**SECRETARY OF STATE** – Alex Padilla(D) vs. Pete Peterson (R)...

**BOARD OF EQUAL #1** – Chris Parker(D) vs. George Runner (R).

**BOARD OF EQUAL #2** – Jack Theis(R) vs. Fiona Ma(D)...

**BOARD OF EQUAL #3** - Jerome Horton(D).

**BOARD OF EQUAL #4** – Diane Harkey(R) vs. Nader Shahatit (D)....

**SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION** – Tom Torlakson(Incum) vs. Marshall Tuck...

#### ***CAMPAIGN 2014: CALIF. INITIATIVE UPDATE***

Editor's note: The Secretary of State issued a news update on initiatives which have FAILED to qualify. Here they are, as of June 9, 2014...

**Abortion Restrictions. Parental Notification and Waiting Period for Females Under 18. Constitutional amendment...**

**Used Vehicles. Buyers Protection. Statute. (4 with the same title)...**

**State School Funding. Timing of Distribution to Schools. Statute.** Stay tuned....

***CAMPAIGN 2014: ANOTHER POST PRIMARY SPIN***  
Editor's note: The deep pocketed contributors will play a big part in the November general election with **independent expenditure campaigns**. Both conservative and liberal IE campaigns are expected to play with millions in the fall. Here's our analysis & commentary...

#### **Statewide Candidates With Potential Problems:**

...Demo Controller candidate John Perez faces big problems from business interests, if he makes it into the general. Demo AG incumbent Kamala Harris could have potential problems with GOPer Ronald Gold, although Kamala's big war chest should offset any big attacks.. And there is little doubt that incumbent Supt. Of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson will be carpet bombed by the likes of millionaire PACs for the benefit of challenger Marshall Tuck....

...Despite spin from *Team Kashkari* Gov. Jerry Brown is going to win a 4<sup>th</sup> term as governor In fact, sources don't see any statewide incumbent Demo office holders or candidates in any trouble. The group of GOP challengers isn't that sharp and are underfunded...

#### **State Assembly Contests to Watch:**

...AD 15 is being vacated by Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan. It will be all-out war because this battle between Demo Tim Sbranti and moderate GOP candidate Catherine Baker will be heavily funded on both sides. Our sources look for an upset because Sbranti is running in an upscale AD. He is a PAC diector for CTA...

...In addition Demos have to worry about seven (7) seats: Rudy Salas (AD 32); Steve Fox (AD 36); Sharon Quirk-Silva (AD 65) and to a lesser extent Jose Media (AD 61); Al Muratsuchi (AD 66); Roger Hernandez (AD 48); Ian Calderon (AB 57). Salas, Medina and Muratsuch have marginal districts and could have turnout issues in an off year. Sources say Fox has no business being in the Assembly, ditto Quirk-Silva. Hernandez is a walking ethics problem who will be termed out in 2016. Calderon has baggage of the family name...

...Demo pick ups are in Ventura Co.'s 44<sup>th</sup> AD. Jacqui Irwin (D) is facing off against The Rev. Rob McCoy(R) who makes Tim Donnelly look moderate. The GOP establishment, read that as Charles Munger Jr. tried to defeat McCoy, but his Latino candidate didn't win. GOP Assemblyman Jeff Gorell is running for the U.S. House and he could become collateral damage because of McCoy...

...Demo Party warfare in AD 7 where Sacto Councilman Kevin McCarty is going to be carpet bombed by Sacto Mayor Kevin Johnson. Johnson is backing Councilman Steve Cohn in this race...

...The Dems will probably lose the 34<sup>th</sup> SD of Lou Correa and there could be an upset in the 10<sup>th</sup> SD...

**State Senate Seats to Watch:**

... In SD 10, Bob Wieckowski is not considered that sharp, according to our Demo sources. Several reasons: he is a trial lawyer and the CTA is under pressure to carpet bomb him (MICRA). The 10<sup>th</sup> SD is heavily Demo, but is also heavily Asian. Expect GOP candidate Peter Kuo to give Wieckowski a run. FYI: also expect San Jose Councilman Kansen Chu(D) to take Wieckowski's seat in the Assembly...

...An intra Demo party in SD 6 war between Assemblymembers Richard Pan and Roger Dickinson, both of Sacramento. Toss up

**U.S. House Seats to Watch:**

CD 4...It will be a GOP war between incumbent Tom McClintock and combat vet Art Moore. Sources expect McC to be hit hard by the State GOP establishment. Former NY Mayor Michael Bloomberg may support Moore...

CD 25...It is another intra-party GOP fight between Steve Knight and Tony Strickland. Both a vying for U.S. Rep. Buck McKeon's House seat in Southern Calif...

CD 7...This CD belongs to Demo U.S. Rep. Ami Bera. He got the most votes in the primary - 31,726 or 47%. Former congressman Doug Ose(R) got 26.8% to defeat two other Republicans: Igor Birman and Elizabeth Emken. Both Birman and Emken have pledged their support to Ose. Like other challengers, Ose wants to debate Bera. Stay tuned....

**CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: RECENT SHORT TAKES WORTH NOTING**

Editor's note: Here are some items you might have missed or just didn't read..

⌘ **Hard Choices for Ms. Clinton on Book Tour** – The tour kicked off at Barnes & Noble in NY – a very controlled setting. I'm getting “Hard Choice” for my birthday and then reading it cover to cover. Until then, no Hillary Clinton news other than to write she's running for president in 2016...

⌘ **More Problems for VA, Even in L.A. & So. Calif.** - The Southern Calif. VAs (Long Beach, Loma Linda, San Diego, North Hills and West L.A.) have problems too, but not as bad as Hawaii, where U.S. Rep. Tulsai Gabbard ripped the VA for making vets wait long times to get appointments. The VA offices/clinics in Honolulu faced the longest average wait for a new appointment, about 145 days, according to an L.A. Times story by Richard Simon and Alan Zarembo. FYI: the FBI is entering the VA scandal, according to CNN. The big audit which focused on 731 sites was done after the IG found systemic problems nationwide in scheduling vets quickly. This IG probe is what got the FBI to begin looking at criminal behavior....

⌘ **A Plan to Get More L.A. Voters Voting** – It's really simple. Instead of holding L.A. Muni elections in odd numbered years, switch to even numbered years when there are statewide races and once every four years a presidential primary. The L.A. City Clerk can also put on a campaign to increase permanent absentee voting. This isn't rocket science...

⌘ **White House Press Secretary Jay Carney Leaving** – No specific plans announced, but former White House press secretaries usually end up with a good job. Clinton WH press secretary DeDe Myers will be going to work for Warner Brothers in September...

⌘ The new HHS Secretary is Sylvia Mathews Burwell. She was confirmed on a 78 to 17 U.S. Senate vote. Burwell was Obama's budget director before taking this thankless job...

**FYI: Either this next week or the week of June 23, we will be taking off for vacation time. Probably the week of the 23rd....**

June 16	Dedication of new Calif. Demo Party building in Sacramento. 1830 9 <sup>th</sup> Street. Ceremony at 11 a.m...
June 21	First day of summer
July 2	50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of signing of Civil Rights Law
August 21-23	DNC meeting, Atlanta, GA