

# CALIFORNIA★POLITICAL REVIEW

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# CORRESPONDENCE

## The 53rd special meltdown

Thanks for publishing Bruce Bialosky's article on Republicans losing the mid-September 53rd Assembly District special election. ("The 53rd A.D. debacle," Bruce L. Bialosky, *CPR Online*, Sept. 20, 2005).

I worked with Bruce while coalitions director for Bush California '04. Bruce is the best; if we had more like him we would never lose.

Teresa Brubaker  
Las Vegas, NV.

*Mr. Bialosky's article can be read online at [www.cppf.us](http://www.cppf.us). Type "bialosky" in the box beneath "CPR Search," and click on the link provided; or, in your browser's URL box, type: <http://www.cppf.us/OnlineOriginals/Columns/2005/09Sept05/092005BB.html>*

— editor

Thank you for Mr. Bialosky's "The 53rd A.D. debacle." I live in the 53rd. This election is crying out for some in-depth reporting and Mr. Bialosky's article is a good start.

The 2004 Republican nominee for this seat, Greg Hill, filed for the race but dropped out after the Republican Assembly Caucus lined up behind Mary Jo

Ford. Ford spent lots of money (more than \$200,000; I personally received seven mailers from her in the short six week election season) but fell victim to *Daily Breeze* revelations that she had been a registered Democrat, and then a registered American Independent Party member, before becoming a Republican. She had said and put in her mailers that she was a life-long Republican. When confronted about her previous registrations, she initially denied them. After the *Breeze* printed a second story with pictures of her voter registration forms confirming both her Democrat and AIP registrations, she admitted the allegations were true.

Before she ran, no one in 53rd district Republican activist circles had heard of her. Some folks believe she was a Democrat "plant." My Sacramento contact said she was recommended to them by Dennis Hastert's office (yes, the one in Washington). I voted for her because I understood that the caucus was broke and would not be sending any money to our district. If our seat was to go Republican, she was the choice. She opposed tax increases and homosexual marriage, owned two guns and supported the Second Amendment, and supported curbs on

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## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION, 10/10/05

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A. Total no. copies printed	2467	3500
B1. Out-of-County paid circulation periodicals mail	1186	1734
B2. In County paid circulation, mail	197	261
B3. Paid circulation, non-USPS distribution	343	1000
B4. Other paid, mail circulation	80	20
C. Total paid circulation	1806	3015
D1. Out-of-County free distribution periodicals mail	323	261
D2. In County free distribution periodicals mail	45	0
D3. Other free distribution by mail	0	0
E. Free distribution, not mail	23	50
F. Total free distribution	391	311
G. Total distribution	2197	3326
H. Copies not distributed	270	174
I. Total	2467	3500
J. Percent paid and/or requested circulation	82.2%	90.65%

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. John Kurzweil, Editor

# SACRAMENTO SPECTATOR

Since the late Dinah Washington (if you're a mellow jazz fan, go to Amazon.com and buy one of her records) is, in fact, the late Dinah Washington, she couldn't have been thinking of Sacramento this month any of the hundreds of times she sang "What a difference a day makes." But the title of her biggest hit is appropriate.

Okay, perhaps not literally days, but mere weeks ago the Democrats thought they were sitting pretty for the November election. Their "all smear all the time" campaign had driven the governor's approval ratings into the 30s, and public support for his propositions had sunk along with his personal poll numbers.

But ... it turns out the Democrats and their union masters may have spent most of their gazillion dollars when voters weren't paying much attention. Commercials shown 40 times a day (literally true in some markets) saying only: "Arnold Schwarzenegger is a lying snake" will likely cause folks who hear them to give Schwarzenegger poor marks when the next pollster calls. But that response is like recalling the local car dealer's commercial jingle: it shows awareness but not necessarily preference. Knowing that "John Doe Chrysler-Plymouth" has a catchy jingle is only one part — probably not the most important — of mak-

ing you buy his car next time you're in the market.

As of mid-October, it appears this may well be what has happened to the Democrats. Recent surveys are indicating a surge in "yes" votes for the governor's propositions, as well as recovery in his personal ratings. It seems voters have moved from the "memory-recall" phase of listening to political commercials to thinking about them. Call it either shrewd calculation or blind luck, the gov-



ernor's allies have spent nearly all their money very recently, when voters are paying attention.

Bottom line: this is now a horse race — the final stretch of a horse race — with the nag that had led from the start showing growing fatigue (the California Teachers Association, having hocked its main headquarters building for \$50 million early this year, having spent all the money to decapitate Schwarzenegger, and now seeing the Governor striding about the countryside, his

head firmly where it ought to be [from his, not their, perspective], is now talking about its own impending bankruptcy — where, without forced collection of union dues for politics, will the funds be found to repay the \$50 million? — and reportedly desperately seeking a new \$30 to \$40 million line of credit.)

On the other side, the governor's people are talking confidently about possible victory for several initiatives, given the right turn-out model (GOP volunteers take note). Passage of Paycheck Protection alone could bring on a Democrat implosion; throw in redistricting reform, and the transformative effects for California politics would last for years, possibly decades. At the least, it would severely cripple the Democrat/union death grip on Sacramento. It might even mute, for a while (it can never be stopped entirely), the "California is hopelessly liberal" bosh pedaled in the media for these many years.

So praise the Lord and pass the ammunition. Given low turnout, the "ground game" of getting like-minded voters to the polls may well determine which side wins. Two weeks ago most professionals would have told you Schwarzenegger's poll numbers were just too weak for any GOP turnout operation to make any difference. No more. The gov' and his propositions appear to have the momentum. Paging Dinah Washington ... we need an encore!

— A.P.C.