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Republican Perspective  
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### **The Uninformed California Voter**

It's probably safe to assume that many California voters do not know or recognize the Republican nominee for Governor. How could they? There was only one televised statewide debate between Neel Kashkari and Governor Jerry Brown and that was held September 4th. Our Contra Costa Times did not provide its readers with any details about watching the debate such as time, place, sponsorship, etc. When asked, the Times said that the information was omitted "due to a copy desk error". Thank goodness the copy desk never misses a beat when it comes to the A's, Giants, 49'ers and CAL!

If you are hoping to learn more about the pro-choice, pro-immigration and pro-gay marriage candidate and why he deserves consideration to become Governor it will not happen through debates. Kashkari appears radically mainstream as he opposes both the Brown bullet train and Delta twin tunnels. The Kashkari campaign sought five debates but Governor Brown's view is one and done, in other words "no mas". While this stance might come out of a Politicians 101 Handbook, is it best for the citizenry of California? Maybe a 76 year old statist does not wish to give the voters too many opportunities to witness a dynamic younger opponent? We are about to elect the leader of the eighth largest economy in the world without the opportunity to see how the candidates answer questions and/or explain their views on important policy issues. Good grief, the 16th state Assembly district candidates will have four debates. Amongst the states, California currently ranks 47th in jobs, 48th in education and 1st in poverty. Surely we deserve to see and hear more from Messrs. Brown and Kashkari on how they will lead toward improvement.

Mr. Kashkari has put forth policy positions on education and jobs that Californians should consider. Let's look at his education platform. First, he wishes to re-route state K-12 funding directly to local schools. Under the 2013-14 state budget, \$40 billion is spent on the K-12 system but only 60% of it makes its way into the classrooms. He wants to take the advancements of charter schools and bring them to public education. Teaching methods, classroom structure, school calendar and other curriculum elements would be left to local education professionals in consultation with parents. This would require modification of much of the California Education Code but with a state ranking of 48th is that all bad?

On higher education, the Republican candidate wishes to incentivize student achievement by linking campus performance to state funding. He wants to free the course bottleneck dilemma by requiring all UC and CSU schools to place 20% of their courses on-line within four years. This also will allow students to take "for credit" courses from world class UC and CSU professors regardless of campus location. In addition, those four-year students majoring in science,

technology, engineering and math would be offered free tuition in exchange for a small interest in their future earnings.

These ideas deserve to be publicly debated. Going forward, both major political parties in California should formally agree to a set number of debates for candidates/incumbents for the governorship. Californians deserve no less.