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Republican Perspective
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Options to the California Status Quo

If you haven't voted absentee, next Tuesday, November 4th is the day to perform your civic duty. In addition to several Propositions there are important races for Governorship and State Assembly District 16. I have often wondered if we would choose a different breed of politicians if elections were held on April 15th versus the first Tuesday in November. Perhaps they and we would be more attentive on how our tax money is spent.

California is definitely one of the bluer states with a Legislature reflecting one-party rule. We have an opportunity to influence this status with electing Catherine Baker to the Assembly. She is a smart talented working mother that will bring a breath of fresh air to Sacramento. With twins in public school, she sees first hand the issues of our 48th ranked education system. She is pro-jobs versus pro-regulations. A foe of Jerry Brown's high-speed rail project and Delta twin tunnels, she would rather see the funding of these boondoggles go towards improving our roads, ports, BART, water storage and conservation.

We cannot expect schoolchildren to have opportunities for higher incomes if our state's educational system continues to remain at the bottom. Mrs. Baker wants to address the teacher's tenure system to prevent seniority based lay-offs. She supports both parent choice in our public schools as well as charter schools. Reforms that will reward good teachers and also provide professional development throughout their careers are part of her education improvement goals.

If you are dismayed at BART strikes, then Baker is your gal. She wants to close the legal loophole that allows these strikes and their crippling affects to riders and the economy. She has received the endorsements of both the Contra Costa Times and the San Francisco Chronicle who considers her "a Republican seeking common ground". Baker is most worthy of your vote.

When it comes to electing a Governor of the eight largest economy in the world, all the pundits have decided that the race is over. It remains a poor reflection of our political system that voters are not given an opportunity to witness the candidates in a series of debates. Republican Neel Kashkari is considered a moderate by most but lacks the financial wherewithal for television soundbites.

In my October 15th article, his education platform was outlined and here are some of his ideas for greater employment growth. To improve manufacturing jobs he proposes a ten year tax holiday for any company that relocates to California and brings one hundred new jobs. This tax

holiday would also apply to any existing California company that opens a new manufacturing facility. Intriguing to say the least as under Brown we have companies exiting the state.

Kashkari wants the public to have a re-vote on Brown's high-speed rail project and use that bond money for both water storage and to clean existing reservoirs of the sediment build-up that has reduced capacity.

To improve California's extreme regulatory environment, he proposes that every existing and future regulation automatically sunset on its ten year anniversary unless the Little Hoover Commission reviews that regulation and rates to keep it through a two-thirds majority. He would reform the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) towards ending the abusive lawsuits used by special interest groups. Look no further than the shake-down of Chevron in Richmond. Kashkari wants to move California into the modern era by adopting "flex-time" so workers and employers can better balance their work and personal lives.

Democrats constantly accuse Republicans of just saying "No". These two Republicans have offered fresh ideas to provide better opportunities for both jobs and education. They are not locked into partisan ideology. They do not favor the status quo of increased public sector union power with the accompanying unsustainable pension liabilities. They will fight against the corruption and cronyism that pervades doing business in our Capitol. Now is the time to end the tarnish of one-party rule.