

Republicans of River City

Chartered by the California Congress of Republicans

SECRETARY OF STATE TO SPEAK



Bruce McPherson

Bruce McPherson, California Secretary of State, will be the featured speaker at our next General Meeting. Secretary McPherson, although in office a relatively short time, is well known to River City members. Both River City and its parent, the California Congress of Republicans, have endorsed his candidacy for reelection. We have participated in a photo-op activity which resulted in many fine pictures of the Secretary and River City members. And, a large contingent of us actively supported him at the recent California Republican Convention at San Jose.

The General Meeting is scheduled for March 21st and will commence with a Social Hour at 6:00 P.M., to be followed by the General Meeting at 7:00 P.M. As usual, we will gather at K.V.I.E., Channel 6 in the Ose Room.

Bruce McPherson became California's 30th Secretary of State on March 30, 2005.

After being nominated by the Governor, he was unanimously confirmed by the State Senate and Assembly.

Over the past year Secretary McPherson has led the charge to restore trust and confidence to the Office of Secretary of State. He has rebuilt relationships with federal, state and local partners and he has become a national leader in election reform and developing innovative ways to ensure the integrity of every vote and to make government more customer friendly and efficient for all Californians. The stability that Secretary McPherson has provided to the office has earned high praise from observers throughout the country.

His service as Secretary of State follows 11 years in the State Legislature. After three years representing Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties in the Assembly, he served eight years in the State Senate representing a district of more than 800,000 people.

While in the Legislature, he earned a reputation as a moderate and nonpartisan officeholder - a fiscal conservative who successfully fought to protect our environment and our scenic coastlines. His honest and straightforward approach has earned him high marks from legislators on both sides of the political aisle.

As Secretary of State, McPherson leads an agency of 500 employees dedicated to many areas including elections, political reform, business programs, and protecting and showcasing the State's history through the State Archives and California Museum for History, Women and the Arts.

Secretary McPherson graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a degree in journalism and was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Cal Polytechnic State University. Earlier in his career, he spent 26 years in the newspaper business as a reporter and then editor of his family-owned Santa Cruz Sentinel.

Secretary McPherson and his wife Mary

have a daughter, Tori Kistler. Tori and her husband Dave are the proud parents of Cooper and Sydney. Their son Hunter was killed in a San Francisco street robbery in 2001. Secretary McPherson is a fourth-generation Santa Cruz native.

LETTERS:

For the first time, I am embarrassed to be a member of the River City Republicans organization, and I go back to the beginning.

I resent our club's newsletter being used to attack the Chair of Sacramento's Republican Party Central Committee, Donna Schalansky. The article displays a weakness our party has, a penchant for Republicans to fight one another, rather than concentrating our ire on political opponents. But the sorriest part of the attack is the demonstration of ignorance with respect to what Donna has done over the years.

A wandering County Republican Headquarters existed through the 1980s, and in the 90s, County Chairman Jeff Wallack decided it should be a permanent office. He, Donna as 1st Vice Chair, I as 2nd Vice Chair, and Chuck Storm as Treasurer made it happen. Jeff, I, and Chuck created The Founders Circle for a money infusion, while Donna and Secretary Laurie Reade were begging and borrowing to get everything from furniture and office equipment, to paper and pens for the new office. The County Party was in debt when we took over, which was paid off before we could

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Honorable Dave Cox

AUDIT OF ROB REINER'S FIRST FIVE COMMISSION

Last week I asked the Joint Legislative Audit Committee to approve an audit of the California First Five Commission's spending practices and contracting procedures.

The First Five Commission was created by Proposition 10, which was passed by the voters in 1998. It added a tax on cigarettes of 50 cents per pack and directed the funds to be used for anti-smoking programs, health care, child care and various other items.

Recent news reports revealed that the Commission awarded a no-bid contract to a public relations firm that over the life of the contract is expected to have a total value of \$62 million. The Commission later awarded a contract expected to be worth \$169.5 million through 2007 to an advertising firm that was "highly recommended" by the Commission's Chairman Rob Reiner in a bidding process heavily weighted in favor of that firm. Moreover, these same firms working for the First 5 Commission, both of which had previously worked on the Proposition 10 campaign, were also being paid by the Proposition 82 campaign to qualify and pass the "Preschool for All" initiative on the

June ballot.

Finally, news reports indicate that last year, the Commission spent \$23 million on "Preschool for All" advertisements that ran from November to mid-January, making it one of the largest state-funded advertising campaigns ever in California. During this same time period, Mr. Reiner's paid political consultants worked to qualify his Universal Pre-School for All Initiative. In January, the Chairman of the State Commission announced that his "Preschool for All," ballot initiative had qualified for the June ballot as Proposition 82. This has raised allegations of self dealing and use of state resources for an initiative campaign.

I felt that this questionable use of taxpayer funds on a public relations program at the same time initiative petitions were being circulated violates the spirit, if not the letter, of the law that prohibits the use of public funds on political activities. The request to audit the funds is based on similar circumstances that the committee acted on in the past to examine whether former Secretary of State Kevin Shelley was accused of misusing public funds, and the Insurance Committees of both houses used when former Insurance Commissioner Chuck Quackenbush was accused of using public funds for personal and political purposes. I felt that this situation justified a similar inquiry. My hope is that the State Auditor will determine the facts and ensure that tax dollars are used in an appropriate manner.

My audit request is now bipartisan, as Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer has added his name.

Editor Note: The program faces an audit and the Sacramento County District Attorney will also investigate.

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

March 1, 1875 – Civil Rights Act of 1875, guaranteeing access to public accommodations without regard to race, signed by Republican President U. S. Grant; passed with 92% Republican support over 100% Democrat opposition.

March 3, 1865 – Republican Congress establishes Freedmen's Bureau to provide health care, education, and technical assistance to emancipated slaves.

March 5, 1875 - Blanche Bruce (R-MS) becomes the first African-American to serve a full term in the U. S. Senate; in 1879 he was the first African-American to preside over the Senate.

March 6, 1857 – Republican Supreme Court Justice John McLean issues a strenuous dissent from a decision by 7 Democrats in the infamous Dred Scott case that African-Americans had no rights "which any white man was bound to respect."

March 7, 1965 – Police under the command of Democrat Governor George Wallace attacked African-Americans demonstrating for voting rights in Selma, AL.

March 9, 1926 – Republican Bertha K. Landes elected Mayor of Seattle; first woman to be mayor of a U. S. city.

March 12, 1956 – Ninety-seven Democrats in Congress condemn the Supreme Court's decision in Brown v. Board of Education and pledge to continue segregation.

March 20, 1854 – Opponents of Democrats' pro-slavery policies meet in Ripon, Wisconsin to establish the Republican Party.



The Honorable Roger Niello

Pay-as-you-go Plan Necessary for Infrastructure

By Roger Niello

In a recent column, I praised Governor Schwarzenegger's plan to invest in our state's crumbling infrastructure. And while I will continue to support making infrastructure a high priority, I cautioned in that article that we should be careful with the use of bonded indebtedness as the preferred financing method. While some bonding can be an accepted form of funding for long-term infrastructure projects, a pay-as-you-go approach to infrastructure financing should also be part of the equation.

I recently joined my Republican colleagues in the Assembly to co-author a package of legislation that will enable California to make the necessary improvements to our schools, roads and crumbling levees, without passing along huge piles of debt to future generations.

The first and most important measure in this package is Assembly Constitutional Amendment 27, a measure that dedicates 1 percent of the general fund for statewide projects starting with the 2007-2008 budget. In later years, when annual budget spending grows by at least \$5 billion, an additional one-half of 1 percent of the general fund, up to a maximum of \$750 million, would be spent on top of the previous year's set-aside. State general fund

spending now currently sits at less than one-half of 1 percent.

The amount of money that ACA 27 can generate is staggering. Using the above formulas and conservative revenue estimates, this plan could generate more than \$35 million for vital projects in a period of only 10 years.

The plan is also fail-safe in the sense that in years when our budget doesn't grow, no increase occurs. Proposition 98, the minimum school guarantee, is fully protected under this plan, as is Proposition 42, the voter approved initiative that dedicates the sales tax revenues on gasoline to road construction.

In addition to this financing mechanism, other legislative solutions will be necessary, including an elimination of the ability of the legislature to suspend Proposition 42, and a measure that I will be authoring granting the authority for design-build contracting. Along with other innovative techniques such as public-private partnerships, we can rebuild California.

Fifty years ago, Democrats and Republicans alike understood the importance of planning for California's future. Back then, bipartisan lawmaking and creative solutions were the order of the day. Both sides worked together to devote a portion of the general fund for statewide projects that would have a lasting legacy – world-class state universities, new highways and a modern statewide water delivery system. In fact, Democrat and Republican Governors and Democrat and Republican legislatures spent upwards of 6 percent or more of General Fund revenues building for California's future. Without that foresight, we wouldn't have the State Water Project, the state highway system, or the UC and CSU systems we have today.

As I have discussed in previous columns, while California's population has grown larger and more complex, our long-term needs have unfortunately been on the back burner in the Legislature. Over the last two years alone, spending has grown dramatically, but only a tiny percentage has been dedicated to infrastructure. As a result, many of our roads now stand in gridlock, our levees are deteriorating, and our water delivery systems are inadequate for current and future demands. We can no longer avoid planning for California's future.

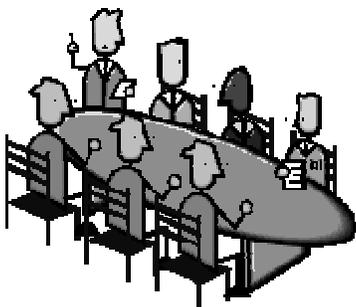
The "pay as you go" approach is the fiscally responsible way to pay for infrastructure without incurring billions of dollars in unnecessary interest payments or raising taxes and fees on working families. It is not intended to take the place of Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed bond measures, but will finance half of his bond proposal (\$35 billion of the proposed \$68 billion) through General Fund spending. It will require legislators to work together with the governor to prioritize spending in the state budget each year to ensure that critical projects are funded on time, and completed without delay.

The problems facing California's outdated infrastructure are real, and will require Democrats and Republicans to work together to get the job done. I believe this "pay as you go" plan recognizes the real priorities crucial to most citizens – the safety of our people and the upgrading of vital water, education and transportation systems that impact the quality of life for all Californians.

I look forward to working with my fellow lawmakers and the governor to build now, build more, and spend less – as we create a stronger California for all.

LETTERS (Cont.)

contract for space, and buy what was needed. We also raised over \$10,000 to begin operations. When we opened the permanent office in 1992, it was one of only 5 in the 58 counties in the state. Donna worked to coordinate all county campaigns for statewide office, and volunteer Patty Maisch and I established the "skunk works" to provide logistic support for all Republican candidates in both primary and general elections, saving the campaigns money and time. Donna became the first Executive Director of Party Headquarters and, in 1992, we won three of four locally targeted Congressional and Assembly seats, losing only one, Vic Fazio's seat, which cost the Democrats over \$5 million to hold. Our Headquarters operation was so successful it was visited by Governor Wilson, and commended by the state party. They recommended we create a "road show" to brief and instruct other Central Committees how to combine and sustain coordinated campaign efforts, a process developed by Donna. Since then, Donna has sustained the Headquarters, and it has been able to continue to hold a Republican majority of local, statewide, and national offices, notwithstanding that our registered voters are outnumbered by the Democrats. When it comes to political "smarts" Donna is the best we own.



The River City Republicans, as one of the best volunteer organizations we have, should certainly strive to put members on the Central Committee. But use of the Democrats' technique of personal denigration that we witness daily in the attacks on President Bush should have no place in our club.

Joe Sullivan

HAVE A LAUGH OR TWO

A champion jockey is about to enter an important race on a new horse. The horse's trainer meets him before the race and says, "All you have to remember with this horse is that every time you approach a jump, you have to shout, 'ALLLEEE OOOOP!' really loudly in the horse's ear. Providing you do that, you'll be fine."

The jockey thinks the trainer is mad but promises to shout the command. The race begins and they approach the first hurdle. The jockey ignores the trainer's ridiculous advice and the horse crashes straight through the center of the jump.

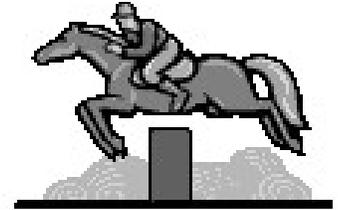
They carry on and approach the second hurdle. The jockey, somewhat embarrassed, whispers 'Aleeee ooop' in the horse's ear. The same thing happens--the horse crashes straight through the center of the jump.

At the third hurdle, the jockey thinks, "It's no good, I'll have to do it," and yells, "ALLLEEE OOOOP!" really loudly. Sure enough, the horse sails over the jump with no problems. This continues for the rest of the race, but due to the earlier problems the horse only finishes third.

The trainer is fuming and asks the jockey what went wrong. The

jockey replies, "Nothing is wrong with me - it's this horse. What is he - deaf or something?"

The trainer replies, "Deaf?? DEAF?? He's not deaf--he's BLIND!"



A woman went to the doctor's office, where she was seen by one of the new doctors. After about 4 minutes in the examination room, the doctor told her she was pregnant. She burst out screaming as she ran down the hall. An older doctor stopped her and asked what the problem was, and she told him her story. After listening, he had her sit down and relax in another room.

The older doctor marched down the hallway, back to where the first doctor stood and demanded, "What's the matter with you? Mrs. Terry is 63 years old, she has four grown children and seven grandchildren, and you told her she was pregnant?"

The new doctor continued to write on his clipboard and without looking up said "Does she still have the hiccups?"



CARL'S WASHINGTON BUZZ

McCain Strategy

Sen. John McCain's advisers "want to build out their campaign with members of the Bush circle, and base McCain's pitch on the notion that he is the only sensible, electable and competent commander who can take control of the war on terror."

At last weekend's Southern Republican Leadership Conference, McCainites "worked closely on straw poll strategy with Gov. Haley Barbour of Mississippi, a Bush loyalist widely regarded as one of the sharpest strategic and organizational minds in the party. They are wooing him to come aboard officially, which would be a major coup for McCain. Word around the Peabody lobby is that another former GOP chairman, Richard Bond, is part of an unofficial circle of counselors, too."

DeLay how did he win

To hear people in Tom DeLay's 22nd CD a few weeks ago, he was facing a serious primary threat. There were no DeLay lawn signs anywhere while his opponents' were all over the place. No DeLay campaign appearances, no bumper stickers, no nothing. Instead he was busy chillin' with his lobbyist pals in DC (literally). DeLay scored 2/3rds of the vote without lifting a single finger in the district. But that victory wasn't that easy. His operation was frighteningly effective. His field people zeroed in on the core constituencies. For example, every house with a car sporting one of those fish magnets was targeted. Those voters were bombarded with DeLay's direct mail and urged to turn out and vote. DeLay didn't win because of ol' shoe leather. He won because of top notch technology. His ability to identify and turn out his voters has been proven to be effective.

Ten Things Every Property Owner Should Know About Their Property Assessment and Taxes

By Sacramento County Assessor Ken Stieger

In my travels speaking throughout the county, I have found that many people, including some real estate professionals, have misconceptions about their property taxes. In an effort to help you better understand the property tax laws I have developed a list of ten things every property owner should know about property taxes, from the most frequently asked questions I receive during my talks.

1) Real Property (Land and Improvements) can only be reassessed (revalued for tax purposes) if there has been a change in ownership, new construction or a decline in value.

2) If you own and occupy your home, you may qualify for a homeowner's exemption on your property. This is currently a \$7,000 reduction from the assessed value of your home, which results in a \$70 savings per year. You can check your tax bill to see if your residence already has one.

3) Remodels, or repair and replacement of existing items on your property do not cause reassessment unless you have renovated the building to the extent it becomes substantially equivalent to a new building. Additions will be assessed at fair market value.

4) Refinancing will not cause a reassessment of the property. However, you may be asked to provide supporting documentation.

5) Any transfer between spouses will not cause a reassessment of the property.

6) Declines in the value of your property due to a natural calamity (Fire, Flood, Earthquake) or market

conditions can reduce your property assessment temporarily until the condition is remedied. Requests/Applications for reduction can be made with the County Assessor.

7) Supplemental Assessments occur whenever a change in ownership or new construction occurs, and are in addition to your annual bill sent out each October. These bills are not normally paid through your impound account.

8) Transfers of title between parents and children, or in certain circumstances Grandparents and Grandchildren, may be excluded from reassessment if an application is filed with the County Assessor and certain conditions are met. Each individual owner can transfer property up to 1 million dollars worth of assessed value in addition to their primary residence to their children/parents/grandchildren.

9) If one owner of your residence is age 55 or older, and you purchase a residence of equal or lesser market value within the same county, you may transfer your old property tax base to your new property, if an application is filed with the County Assessor and certain conditions are met.

10) If you have a concern that your property is assessed too high, please contact your Assessor's office first to try and resolve the issue. If it cannot be resolved, then file an appeal of your assessment with your local Assessment Appeals Board under the County Board of Supervisors. You must file the appeal within 60 days of the date the bill or notice was sent, or for the annual main roll bill, between July 1st and November 30th of each year.

As Sacramento County Assessor, it is my intention to keep taxpayers informed. For additional information about the Assessor's office or Property Tax laws please visit my website at www.saccounty.net/assessor.

GOVERNOR'S CORNER



Arnold Schwarzenegger

Clean Energy for California

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today addressed the National Hydrogen Association's 17th annual conference, discussing his administration's commitment to protect California's environment and encourage the use of clean energy sources such as hydrogen.

"California is investing millions of dollars to line our freeways with hydrogen fueling stations so that low emission cars can travel up and down our wonderful state," said Governor Schwarzenegger, who addressed the assembly of nearly 1,000 participants in Long Beach in a video-taped address from the State Capitol. "With more and more businesses proving that hydrogen power is practical, clean and here to stay, we are well on our way to a hydrogen future. California is committed to clean air and the health and economic benefits that go along with it."

Developing a robust infrastructure to support the wide use of hydrogen power and clean energy in California has been a top priority for Governor Schwarzenegger.

In April, 2004, the Governor signed an executive order creating a public and private partnership to build the Hydrogen Highway in California by 2010. The goal of the initiative is to

rapidly modernize California's transportation infrastructure and economy to support the use of hydrogen energy.

The Governor opened California's first retail hydrogen fueling station in October, 2004, located at Los Angeles International Airport. Currently, there are several retail hydrogen-fueling stations in the state, including one opening today in Oakland. Eventually, a network of 150 to 200 hydrogen-fueling stations throughout the State (approximately one station every 20 miles on the State's major highways) would make hydrogen fuel available to the vast majority of Californians.

Facing California's population growth, Governor Schwarzenegger has made bold strides with his agenda to protect California's environment and resources. He has set ground breaking goals in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, made a priority of taking high-polluting cars and buses off California highways and has taken action to protect the state's coastlines and preserve open space.

Among his environmental achievements, Governor Schwarzenegger:

- Signed an executive order setting unprecedented goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to year 2000 levels in the next five years and to 1990 levels in 15 years.

- Implemented regulations toughening new car standards to reduce emissions by 30 percent in the next 10 years.
- Invested more than \$140 million in the Carl Moyer Program to clean up dirty trucks, buses, and agricultural equipment, which will reduce smog-forming oxides of nitrogen emissions by approximately 7,000 tons annually, equivalent to taking more than 700,000 cars off the road.
- Created the Green Building Initiative setting goals to reduce electricity use and create more energy efficient public and private structures throughout the state.
- Called on utilities to acquire 20 percent of the power used within the state from renewable sources by 2010 (seven years ahead of what the law requires), and use 33 percent renewable power by 2020.
- Created the Million Solar Roofs Initiative to have 1 million solar roofs on residential and commercial buildings by 2018.
- Signed legislation prohibiting cargo and cruise ships from dumping polluted water, sewage and trash into the ocean off California's coast.
- Created the Ocean Action Plan to effectively manage and protect California's ocean and coastal resources.

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The President's Corner



Carl Burton, President of RRC

Republicans of River City members are going to have a busy election year with some of our members running for office. Past President Paul Green is running in 6th Senate District and Registration Chairman William Chain is running in the 9th Assembly District, along with some of our members running for City Councils and School Boards

A number of our members are running for Sacramento County Republican Party Committee this coming June 6.

This fall we need a special team of Republicans to turn out at republican events in the county supporting our candidates. Some times we will receive only a few hours notice from our candidates.

We will be volunteering to register new Criticses this year starting on April 11. And if were able raise the necessary funds this month come May we will have a booth at the Sacramento County Fair to register voters and pass out information about our Republican candidates. The Fair this year will be over the Memorial Day Weekend for 5 days. If you can contribution some time or money to RRC we can have a great booth at the Sacramento County Fair and make this effort a

success.

At the fair we will be recruiting precinct workers for the county party in order to help them reach their goal of 500 precinct workers. Precinct workers are the foot soldiers in helping to reelecting Gov. Schwarzenegger and the whole Republican team this coming November.

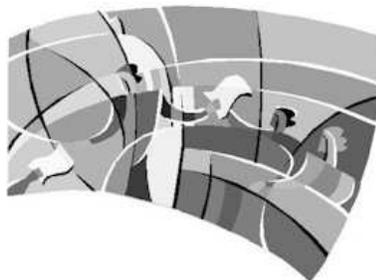
If you can help us with time or money please let us know.

Twenty one members of Republicans of River City (the Sacramento Chapter of the California Congress of Republicans) attended the state Republican Convention in San Jose this past weekend as either delegates or guests.

A number of our members had submitted resolutions dealing with the Governors Strategic Growth Plan for the state (better schools, safer levees, and better roads). Our resolutions were referred to the committee dealing with initiatives (because the plan requires bonds which in turn require an initiative be put to the voters).

At the last convention CCR's resolutions were the only ones to pass. We look forward to bringing our Strategic Growth Plan resolutions back before the members of our state party at the CRP August Convention in Los Angeles.

I want to thank Norman Jachens, our 1st Vice President for helping us to draft our resolutions and for Norm and our Past President Paul Green for serving with distinction on the Resolutions Committee.



Would you like to be a contributor to the Republicans of River City newsletter? If so, let us know about it!
Send an email to us at editor@sacrrc.com.

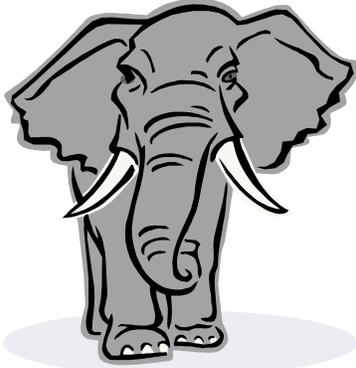


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The Republicans of River City newsletter is read by more than 750 Republicans and Republican policy supporters.
If you are interested in placing an ad in the Republicans of River City newsletter, contact Carl Burton at 916-359-5741 or send an email to editor@sacrrc.com.
Carl will discuss ad rates and the terms and conditions of advertising in our newsletter with you. We look forward to helping you reach new customers with your ad.

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California Secretary of State Bruce McPherson,
will address River City on March 21, 2006 in the
Ose Room located at: Channel 6, KVIE
2595 Capitol Oaks Drive
Sacramento

The social hour starts at 6:00 PM and the general
meeting starts at 7:00 PM.



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Carmichael, CA 95609-1635

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Your membership in Republicans of River City provides you a monthly newsletter, speakers, and an outstanding opportunity to meet your elected officials and California's finest political strategists. River City is also a great way to network and make new friends.

I am a registered Republican and would like to join Republicans of River City.

Name _____

Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Occupation _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-Mail: _____

Yearly Membership:

_____ Regular Membership: enclosed is my check for \$25
(Young Professionals 18-25 \$15 per person)

_____ Couples Membership: enclosed is our check for \$40

Signature _____

Date _____

Mail check to: **Republicans of River City**
P. O. Box 1635,
Carmichael, CA 95609-1635