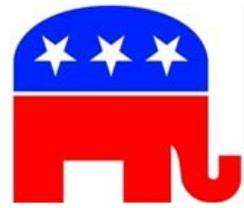


Republicans of River City



Chartered by the California Congress of Republicans

Membership Expires:

THIS IS A FREE MEETING; YOU MAY PAY YOUR DUES AT THE DOOR!

**BARBARA ALBY COMES TO REPUBLICANS OF RIVER CITY
COME SOCIALIZE WITH YOUR FRIENDS IN OCTOBER AT RIVER CITY
October 20, 2009 in the Ose Room located at: Channel 6, KVIE
2030 West El Camino Drive
Sacramento, 95833**

The social hour starts at 6:30 PM and the general meeting starts at 7:15 PM.

BARBARA ALBY TO SPEAK

By Fred Hildebrand

Barbara Alby, who has been a member and friend of River City for years, will return to our podium on October 20th. She is our featured speaker when we convene for our October General Meeting. Barbara has had extensive experience representing Republicans and the general public in legislative, administrative and strictly party positions.

On the legislative side, Barbara served in the California State Assembly with distinction. Currently, she serves as Chief of Staff for Bill Leonard at the Board of Equalization. (Just coincidentally, she is now a candidate to replace Bill Leonard at the Board of Equalization when his present term expires.)

Finally, Barbara served as one two California representatives on the Republican National Committee. There she was elected to several positions and made California's voice heard. She can provide anecdotes that are very interesting.

We will convene as usual at KVIE, Channel 6, in the Ose Room at 6:30 P.M. for a Social Hour. The General Meeting will begin at 7:15 P.M. As usual, we can expect an outstanding presentation from Barbara and she will be happy to take questions.



GOVERNMENT HEALTH PLAN, PART QUATRE

by Robert Evans

According to a report from the health insurance industry, the Senate healthcare legislation will lead to increases in annual insurance premiums of as much as \$4,000 by 2019.

Why? Because the Senate bill appears to leave out the requirement that every person buy health insurance. Unless there is such a requirement, most people will buy insurance only after they get sick.

If you could buy auto insurance after you had an accident that covered you for that accident, would you buy it before you had an accident? Of course not. Same with health insurance—people are not stupid.



“IT’S A TAX COMMISSION!”

By Roger Niello

The Commission on the 21st Century Economy has delivered its

recommendations for some tune ups to the current tax system. The report was 9 months in the making, and as you’ll see, this little bundle of joy has something for everyone (to love and to hate). One thing is for sure: the status quo has some serious problems. Our state revenue is all over the place, year in and year out. Is there the political will to pass any or all of the recommendations? That remains to be seen, but the Governor has said that he will call for a special session of the Legislature to consider the Commission’s recommendations. Of course, this comes on the heels of one of the worst budget crises in California history, leaving me to wonder if there might be something in this report to stymie the revenue volatility of the budget merry-go-round.

Most notably, the commission calls for a drastic simplification in the current income tax brackets. The current system consists of 6 brackets; the commission proposes reducing this to 2: a 2.75% tax rate for incomes up to \$56,000 for joint filers (\$22,500 for single filers) and a 6.75% rate on taxable incomes above that amount. This is liable to be one of the more controversial elements of the report, as it lowers the tax rate on the very wealthy. The State of California enjoys a love-hate relationship with its richest citizens. One on

hand, the current tax system depends heavily on them doing well; we need them to stay put, in California, paying their taxes. It is not in our best interest to foster an environment that drives these individuals elsewhere. For many, it can be tempting to lose sight of this strategy and go right for the deepest pockets.

Reckless overspending in good times has landed the legislature in crisis too many times to count--to this end, the report recommends beefing up the rainy day fund: from the current 5 percent to 12.5 percent of the General fund. This is an idea that I have championed throughout my term in the legislature.

The report also recommends eliminating the corporate tax rate, phasing out the sales tax over 5 years and replacing all of that with a Business Net Receipts Tax (BNRT). Businesses would pay a 4% BNRT on the difference between their gross receipts and the costs they pay to other businesses for the purchase of materials and services. Small businesses with less than \$500,000 gross annual receipts would be exempt.

The BNRT is very similar to expanding the base of the existing sales tax to services as well as goods and lowering the rate. That is a volatility calming move. Since we would also be eliminating the corporate income tax, this is a very interesting proposal. I still have many concerns with this proposal, the biggest of which is transparency. Since this receipts tax is paid by businesses and will likely be passed through in their costs of what is sold, consumers will essentially pay the tax without knowing it.

If nothing else, we must remember as we consider these proposals to think strategically and keep an eye toward the health of the economy. As a legislature, I think we tend to suffer from myopia. This is chess, not checkers; the ripple effect will always extend far beyond the immediate impact of our actions. Transparent, simple, and steady. This ought to be our mantra as we consider these proposals in the coming months.



HAVE A LAUGH—PUN GROANERS

She was only a whisky maker, but he loved her still.

No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.

Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.

A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, 'No change yet.'

The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.

When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.

IN MY OPINION:

by Chris Angle

REPUBLICANS GOING FORWARD: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

With the Republicans fighting to prevent the wholesale government takeover of healthcare while looking towards the next election in 13 months, the political landscape is changing in ways that present them with some risks and some opportunities. While the last two months have been tough for the Obama Administration and the Democrats, Republicans who think that they can just sit back and let Democrat miscues carry them to victory next November are fooling themselves. While Obama's approval numbers have dropped significantly since the beginning of summer, the Republicans have only really seen a modest improvement in their own numbers. Going forward, the Republicans face some serious, but not insurmountable risks to their dream of recapturing one or both houses of Congress.

Firstly, the Republicans have not made any serious attempt to present an alternative health care reform plan. While they have been very successful pointing out deficiencies in the various plans and offering important suggestions for certain piecemeal reforms, the lack of a comprehensive reform package that they are willing to promote strongly and loudly makes the Republicans appear (whether fairly or not) that they are not really contributing any ideas. Allowing themselves to be branded as the Party of No (as the Democrats will attempt to do)

is not a strong argument for turning over the reins of government to them next November. A second risk is that the economy appears to be improving. While this won't matter if unemployment stays high, the likelihood of unemployment going down increases as the economy improves. Ben Bernanke has generally not done a bad job considering the circumstances in which he was operating, and I don't expect him to make a serious mistake that will negatively impact the economy over the short-term. An improving employment picture lessens the potential damage to the Democrats in next year's election.

However, the recent shifting of the political winds has also presented the Republicans with some opportunities. Firstly, Obama's radical lurch to the left has made the electorate more receptive to Republicans that at any time in the last five years. Secondly, Obama's constant talking to the American people through various media appearances and press conference has likely overexposed him, meaning that people are beginning to tune him out. In addition, the fact that he has been shown to be untruthful regarding health care reform and his attempt to ram reform through without much debate in July and early August has damaged his credibility. Finally, an improving economy presents the Republicans with an opportunity to argue that the rest of the stimulus money (the majority of which has not yet paid out) should be canceled to save money. That this suggestion would be acted upon by Congress is unlikely, but it presents the Republicans with an opportunity to present themselves as more fiscally responsible than

the Democrats.

If the Republicans are to win back Congress, they are going to have to present a coherent case to the American people that they should be given control. While the political winds are blowing in the Republicans direction, simply sitting back and letting this carry them to victory won't work. The Republicans are going to have to want victory next November more than the Democrats, and spend every moment from now until then working for it.

JURY DUTY SCAM

This scam is spreading fast - be prepared should you get this "jury duty" call.

Most of us take a summons for jury duty seriously, but enough people skip out on their civic duty that a new and ominous kind of fraud has surfaced.

A caller claims to be a jury coordinator. If you protest that you never received a summons for jury duty, the scammer asks you for your Social Security number and date of birth so he or she can verify the information and cancel the arrest warrant. Give out any of this information and bingo, your identity was just stolen.

This scam is particularly insidious because the caller uses intimidation over the phone to try to bully people into giving information by pretending they are with the court system. The FBI and the federal court system have issued nationwide alerts on their web sites, warning consumers about this scam.





SENATOR DAVE COX CAPITOL REPORT

Aviation officials at California's public airports may soon have legal backing to protect the traveling public from bird strikes.

At the request of Sacramento Airport officials, I authored a measure to affirm aviation officials' responsibility to keep birds away from airplanes.

Airport officials have the ability to safeguard Californians who travel by air each day.

This measure gives them the legal authority to protect the flying public.

Senate Bill 481 gives public use airports assurances that they have a legal right to remove birds they believe may endanger planes.

It further states that the taking of birds at public airports to protect public safety does not violate state law.

A total of 1,471 bird strikes were recorded at Sacramento International Airport in the last 18 years, according to a report by

the Federal Aviation Administration.

The safety of airplane passengers must be a priority.



STUNNING NEWS REGARDING PRESIDENT OBAMA

AT&T and Yahoo are running a poll regarding President Obama's performance on the economy.

The results are stunning when you realize that as of October 12, 3,537,801 votes were cast.

The question asked is: The president's progress with the battered economy has been both praised and criticized. How well are his efforts measuring up with you?

Here are the results:

Extremely well. We are undoubtedly moving in the right direction—9 percent.

Fairly well. There's still a long way to go—9 percent.

Not well at all. His plans are hurting more than helping—79 percent.

Not sure/No opinion—2 percent.

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

October 1, 1973 - Richard Cavazos is promoted by President Richard Nixon to be the first Hispanic Brigadier General in the U.S. Army; in 1982 President Ronald Reagan made him the first Hispanic four-star General.

October 7, 1868 - Republicans denounce Democratic Party's national campaign theme: "This is a white man's country: Let white men rule."

October 10, 1871 - Following warnings by Philadelphia Democrats against blacks voting, African-American civil rights activist Octavius Catto is murdered by a Democratic Party operative; his military funeral was attended by thousands.

October 14, 1890 - Birth of President Dwight David Eisenhower.

DID YOU KNOW

Did you know you can now pay your River City dues on line?

It's easy. Just set your computer browser to REPUBLICANS OF RIVER CITY, click on JOIN, and fill out the form. Then click on the SUBMIT button and fill in the credit card information.

Republicans of River City Board of Directors:

- | | |
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Published by the Republicans of River City:

Volume 2009, Issue 10
P. O. Box 1776
Carmichael, CA 95609-1776

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THE GOVERNOR'S CORNER

KEEPING CALIFORNIA'S STATE PARKS OPEN

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger rejected the recent proposal from the Department of Parks and Recreation to close more than half of California's parks to meet its budget reduction requirements. Instead, his Department of Finance took a closer look at the parks budget and was able to reduce spending in ways that would allow for all state parks to remain open without increasing the Department of Parks and Recreation budget appropriation.

The Governor's plan to mitigate state park closures was outlined in a memo to the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Finance.

Following the passage of the budget reduction in July, the Governor tasked the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Finance with working together on a plan to achieve \$14.2 million in budget savings in the current fiscal year while preventing park closures.

"Working closely with my Departments of Finance and Parks and Recreation, we have successfully found a way to avoid closing parks this year," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "This is fantastic news for all Californians."



PHYLLIS TALBOT

By Robert Evans

River City long-time member and good friend Phyllis Talbot passed away on September 22 at Mercy San Juan Hospital from the effects of a stroke.

Phyllis will be missed.

Phyllis was born in Sacramento on August 16, 1923. She graduated from UC Berkeley and entered law school where she met her future husband, Andy.

Phyllis and Andy lived in San Francisco and Mexico.

Phyllis was an avid bridge player, and was also a long-time member of the Sacramento Republican Women Federated volunteer club.

THE START BUTTON

For all of us who feel only the deepest love and affection for the way computers have enhanced our lives, read on. At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated, 'If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25.00 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon.'

In response to Bill's comments, General Motors issued a press release stating: If GM had developed technology like Microsoft we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics: 1. For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash twice a day. 2. Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car. 3. Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason.

You would have to pull to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this. 4. Occasionally, executing a maneuver such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine. 5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive - but would run on only five percent of the roads. 6. The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single 'This Car Has Performed An Illegal Operation' warning light. 7. The airbag system would ask 'Are you sure?' before deploying. 8. Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the radio antenna. 9. Every time a new car was introduced car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car. 10. You'd have to press the 'Start' button to turn the engine off.

Oddly enough, I rented a car last month that has no ignition key, but uses a "fob" and has a "start" button on the dash. To start the car, you must have the fob inside the car and you depress the brake pedal while you press the start button. To turn off the motor, you shift the car into park and press the start button. Seems Bill Gates was right and General Motors was wrong.





Citizens Redistricting Commission

In November, 2008 voters went to the polls and passed Proposition

Carl Burton, President

11 otherwise known as California Citizens Redistricting Commission. The Commission duties are to draw new district lines every 10 years for Assembly, Senate and Board of Equalization Districts. The Commission's work will not begin until 2011. However, between now and 2011 the commissions will choose its members and organize to accomplish its goals.

How the Commission accomplishes its goals in 2011 will be watched by the nation and if the process proves successful other states may follow.

It you would like to serve on the Redistricting Commission, the application period opens on December 15, 2009 and ends on February 15. No one knows how many California citizens will apply - it could be as many as 100,000 citizens or just a few hundred. For this reason, it's important that as many Republicans as possible apply in order to offset the Democrats who will apply.

Proposition 11 requires that an applicant (a) must have voted in two of the last three elections, (b) has not changed party affiliation in the past five years, and (c) does not have a conflict of interest.

The office of the State Auditor will select voters who have (1)

relevant analytical skills, (2) the ability to be impartial, (3) an appreciation for California's diverse demographics and geography, (4) not a recognized party leader, member of a central committee or leadership in statewide campaigns, (5) will not run for public office in next 5 years, and (6) have consensus building experience.

Every member of RRC who fit the criteria should apply for this Commission. The California State Auditor will select out of those who apply for the Redistricting Commission 14 members, made up of 5 Republicans, 5 Democrats and 4 voters who are registered either decline to state or from other parties. Go to: <http://www.bsa.ca.gov/redistricting> for more information.

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 1776,
Carmichael, CA 95609-1776