



**Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30**  
**Democratic Club of West Orange County**  
**Green Valley Community Center**  
**17250 Los Jardines West, Fountain Valley**

***Dr. David DiLeo***  
***The Language of Limited War***



As part of the Vietnam Generation, David DiLeo is a student of the evolution of U.S. foreign policy, and, recently, is particularly interested in the political vocabulary we employ to discuss and debate it.

The title of his talk on February 24th is "The Language of Limited War."

In 1991 published George Ball, Vietnam, and the Rethinking of Containment (University of North Carolina Press). During his tenure as under secretary of state from 1961 to 1966, Ball was the only presidential adviser who systematically opposed American military intervention in South-

east Asia. DiLeo profiles Ball's opposition to the US role in Vietnam and evaluates the impact of this dissent on the Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon administrations.

One reviewer called this a "...well researched work and very readable. Dr. DiLeo does a nice job of bringing together all aspects of this important American life."

David DiLeo received his Ph.D. in diplomatic history from the University of California, Irvine, in 1988. He has been Professor of History and Humanities at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo for the past twenty years where he offers a course on the Vietnam War and a Humanities Seminar that explores the roots of conflict and violence.

As the war in Afghanistan escalates, this promises to be an important talk. We hope you will join us. ###

**March Dynamic Democrat Submissions due on: Mar-3-2010**

**Ken Arnold—Running in the 46th Against Rohrabacher**



Our own club member is running in the 46th Congressional District against Dana Rohrabacher. This is going to be an uphill battle so if you're ready to dip your toe in electoral politics this is a race that needs your help. Ken is looking for help gathering signatures and—of course—could use donations. (Rohrabacher al-

ready has over \$200,000 on hand).

Help support Ken. He is battling the Congressman who, according to the OC Register "scoffed at the idea that Obama could exercise 'fiscal responsibility'" when giving his assessment of Obama's State of the Union.

You can contact Ken at [arncomp@pacbell.net](mailto:arncomp@pacbell.net).

**Treasurer's Report: Club Combined Account Balance: \$6,061.69**

## Talking Points—Rich Gillock

I just returned from ten days on an aircraft carrier at sea, the USS Abraham Lincoln (yes the “Mission Accomplished” carrier). When I left, the United States was still a struggling Democracy. When I returned we had become a legalized Plutocracy.

Thanks to a recent Supreme Court decision, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, all campaign finance reform laws restricting corporate donations to elections have been thrown out the window. Talk about activist judges, the conservative five have re-written nearly a century of American campaign finance law.

If this does not result in a Republican majority in Congress, it will result in a majority of Democrats voting like Republicans, voting the corporate agenda. We the people lose.

Every time you write a check to a candidate or the party to influence the election, Exxon or ADM will write a check ten times or a hundred times larger to continue business as usual.

Every time you knock on a door in support of a Democratic candidate you will be talking to someone who has already been indoctrinated with many hours of corporate sponsored propaganda.

Every time you go to the polls you will have the choice between a Republican and a Democrat who agree with the corporate agenda. If one of the candidates does not obey the corporate demands, he will have his voice silenced and buried under corporate campaign ads.

Big corporations now legally control our election process and every serious candidate will have to conform to their agenda. It was bad enough when small corporations controlled our electronic ballot boxes, but election fraud only worked when elections were close enough to steal. From now on the elections will not be that close unless both candidates conform to the corporate agenda.

With the demise of our political system we are also going to see the final nail in the coffin of capitalism in America. Corporations have no interest in a free market. They hate competition. They want a market with rules that favor them alone, and they spend millions of dollars lobbying to make that happen every year. Now they have a direct conduit to the elections, not just the legalized bribery system that we call lobbying. In the future, elections might as

well be reported by Dow Jones rather than the Secretaries of State of our state governments.

Within the next few years every elected office, from city council to president, will be filled by someone supporting a corporate agenda.

Sometimes these agendas will conflict as corporations jockey for dominance, but nowhere in the agenda will there be provisions for the needs of American citizens. Those who are retired will be a “burden on the economy.” Education will also be a burden. Libraries, the arts, our national parks and wilderness areas will be eliminated as financial burdens.

Forget health care reform. If anything passes this year it will be undone after the installation of the new corporate representatives. We will never enact controls on carbon pollution because that would offend big oil, big coal, and the electric utilities.

So what we can look forward to is the United States of America being reduced to a corporate town where some are wage slaves to the corporate interests and the rest are parasites like college professors, librarians, artists, and retirees.

In the late 19th century, during a similar time of corporate dominance of Congress, Senators were referred to as the Senator from Standard Oil or the Senator from Union Pacific. In the 21st century we may well see the same corporate sponsorship of individuals who support narrow agendas for their corporate sponsors.

The Roberts court did not just decide the case brought before it, the right to show an attack film against Hillary Clinton during an election cycle. It challenged the plaintiff to expand the scope of the case to make this decision possible. It was orchestrated judicial activism intended to overturn a century of established law. It was an attack upon our Constitution and our nation by justices entrenched in the distorted Federalist view of America. It was an act of treason to overthrow the Constitutional rights of the people to govern their country.

We can only hope that President Obama has the opportunity to replace at least one of the activist Federalist justices, Roberts, Alito, Scalia, or Thomas, before corporations have the chance to replace our government “of the people.”

## Message from the President—Jo Anne Jennings

Hearing two different speakers, Senator Joe Dunn and State Comptroller John Chiang, I was somewhat surprised to learn about the need for educating voters. Senator Dunn noted that too many Democratic voters only voted for the top races—sometimes just the top half of the ballot. Comptroller Chiang stated that budget problems are part of a lack of education in the electoral process by California voters.

On Bill Moyers I heard the author of *The Wrecking Crew*, Thomas Frank, state that even when Republicans lie about the role or actions of government, Democrats fail to fight back. When asked why, he responded that Democrats don't want to alienate big donors. So we have two problems - education and money.

California voters will have an opportunity in June to counter the influence of big money in the election of the California Secretary of State. Although the ballot initiative of public financing failed in 2008, it's believed that public funding for a single elective office would provide an opportunity for voters to judge the viability and worth of public financing. Public financing has been successful in both Maine and Arizona.

The California Fair Election initiative is one of only three propositions on the June ballot. Under the proposed initiative for public financing, funds would be

raised by changing the registration fees for lobbyists from \$35 a year to \$350. This would raise enough money to give candidates wanting public funds \$1,000,000 beginning in 2014. In order to qualify for placement on the ballot, candidates for Secretary of State would have to collect \$5 from 37,500 voters. Any candidate can use private financing but if their campaign exceeded the \$1,000,000 matching public funds would be granted to the opponent.

Providing funding for the California Secretary of State was important because this official is responsible for ratifying voting procedures and results. Debra Bowen, our current Secretary of State, has refused funding from voting machine manufacturers, but she is the first to do so. Previous candidates have accepted funds from Diebold, the manufacturer of voting machines that have not always functioned properly and do not provide a paper trail. This is a practice that should never be allowed.

On February 28 there will be a meeting in West Orange County to kick-off campaign for California Fair Elections asking people to help. We will inform the membership when a site has been secured for this event. We'll need people to phone bank, to write letters to the editor, and speakers to educate voters. Please take time to think how you can help in this campaign.###

## Democratic Party of Orange County—Central Committee News Stephanie Pacheco

At the January Central Committee meeting Susan Uballe was elected as the Vice Chair North. This leaves the position of secretary open.

The three vice-chairs did their reports, as did the regional chairs. As expected there was some discussion of the Massachusetts election.

There was also a recap of the 72nd Assembly District Special Election. (Our Democrat, John MacMurray lost this race and people were encouraged to work harder).

Jason Varvas was elected as a new representative to the Central Committee from the 71st Assembly District.

Julio Perez spoke about the unions (92 unions were in

the OC Labor Federation) and there were many different views. Chairman Frank Barbaro asked why if the Democrats helped the unions so much here in Orange County did the majority of union members vote for the Republican ticket. A good, good question.

I did an Environmental Committee report, talking about our two public events (a movie, and a hike), and updating the work of committee members. Club members who would like more information on the Environmental Committee should contact Stephanie directly.

The meeting ended with people breaking out into groups. Individuals signed up for committees and began working on the goals due for this year. ###

## Literacy Bill is Bad Legislation

The following letter and forwarded article was sent by Democrat Sharon Brown a member of the La Habra School Board and the Democratic Club of North Orange County.

As a school board member, I am appalled at this proposed legislation. Stephen (Krashen) is correct when he criticizes Congress's usurpation of the local school boards' control of our schools. We are on the front lines and know what works for the students in our communities. The needs are very different from community to community. And I don't know of a federal "mandate" that comes with adequate funding. Hence we are forced to implement programs and tests that are not only detrimental to our students, but are unfunded and therefore take our very limited resources away from effective programs and activities including school libraries. Please call your legislators and express your objection to these bills.

It should be a no-brainer, that by far, the primary factor correlating with low test scores is poverty, and always has been. And the fact that public education has been demonized and defunded by politicians in recent years is disgusting and demoralizing for all of us in the education community. If they would give us adequate funding, and the freedom to implement programs and eliminate ridiculous testing, our education system would vastly improve in very short order. —Sharon Brown

The following article is by Susan Ohanian, Education Policy Studies Laboratory at Arizona State University

Stephen Krashen, noted educator and Professor Emeritus, USC, has conducted an intensive investigation of new legislation pending in both chambers of Congress (Senate Bill 2740, House Bill 4037). Introduced by Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), the LEARN Act picks up where the widely denounced Reading First legislation of the Bush Administration left off, putting an emphasis on the "direct instruction" of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and text structure. Not only is this approach to children's literacy development not supported by scientific research, it runs contrary to good practice. There are also several other points of contention here:

- 1) Why do members of Congress feel so comfortable telling teachers how they must teach?
- 2) When cash-strapped local politicians scramble to get the money attached to whatever outrage Congress legislates, who's responsible for the devastating results?

3) Who's in charge of our schools? Members of Congress or local school boards?

4) Who's in charge of the classroom? The teacher, consulting with colleagues and parents, or members of Congress?

The LEARN Act directs the Secretary of Education to award grants to states for comprehensive planning to direct the literacy development of children from birth through grade 12. Yes, birth. Welcome to the world of George Orwell.

In an open letter to the members of Congress sponsoring this bill, Dr. Krashen points out: "The research shows again and again that we acquire our competence in literacy through wide, extensive reading, which has been marginalized in LEARN."

Dr. Krashen also illuminates that the LEARN Act opens the door to an unprecedented amount of testing, "a very bad idea at a time when children are already over-tested, when our schools have been turned into test-prep factories, and when our budgets are strained." If Congress really wanted to help schools develop strong readers, they'd provide funds to strengthen the libraries instead of money for buying skill drill worksheets and standardized tests.

The first priority should not be new standards and tests but should be reducing poverty. Decades of research confirm that poverty has a huge impact on student learning.

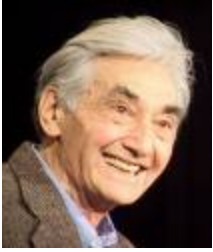
Krashen makes the point that many politicians seem unable to grasp:

American students from well-funded schools who come from high-income families outscore all or nearly all other countries on international tests of science and math. Only our children in high poverty schools score below the international average.

The US has the highest percentage of children in poverty of all industrialized countries (25%, compared to Denmark's 3%). Our educational system has been successful; the problem is poverty.

People opposed to Congressional micromanagement of local classrooms should contact the members of Congress supporting this misguided legislation. ###

## Howard Zinn Remembered - Steph Campbell



On the day before President Obama gave his State of the Union message, we lost a true Progressive: Howard Zinn. He died in Santa Monica on tour with "The People Speak" an adaptation of his landmark book: "A People's History of the United States." As a professor at Boston University and a political activist he was an important voice for peace and for challenging the status quo.

"Howard had a great mind and was one of the great voices in the American political life," Ben Affleck, a family friend of the author, said in a statement. "He taught me how valuable — how necessary — dissent was to democracy and to America itself. He taught that history was made by the everyman, not the elites. I was lucky enough to know him personally, and I will carry with me what I learned from him — and try to impart it to my own children — in his memory."

Zinn's life was an inspiration. Born in 1922, the son of Jewish immigrants he served as a bombardier in World War II. Following the war he went to New York University on the GI Bill and received his Masters and Doctoral degrees in history from Columbia University. He taught at the history department at the traditionally black women's institution Spelman College in the 1950s where he became active in the civil rights movement and participated in a number of demonstrations with the Student Nonviolent Coordination Committee, later emerging as a major voice against the Vietnam War. At Spelman he inspired young women including Marian Wright Edelman and Alice Walker. Although Zinn was a tenured professor, he was dismissed in June 1963, after siding with students in their desire to challenge Spelman's traditional emphasis of turning out "young ladies" when, as Zinn described in an article in *The Nation*, Spelman students were likely to be found on the picket line, or in jail for participating in the greater effort to break down segregation in public places in Atlanta. Zinn's years at Spelman are recounted in his autobiography "You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train: A Personal History of Our Times." Of his seven years at Spelman College, Zinn said, "are probably the most interesting, exciting, most educational years for me. I learned more from my students than my students learned from me."

"He's made an amazing contribution to American intellectual and moral culture," said MIT Linguistics Professor,

Noam Chomsky. "He's changed the conscience of America in a highly constructive way. I really can't think of anyone I can compare him to in this respect."

Here is what Howard Zinn wrote in *The Nation's* January 13th issue as a contributor to the "Obama At One" article:

*"I've been searching hard for a highlight. The only thing that comes close is some of Obama's rhetoric; I don't see any kind of a highlight in his actions and policies. As far as disappointments, I wasn't terribly disappointed because I didn't expect that much. I expected him to be a traditional Democratic president. On foreign policy, that's hardly any different from a Republican—as nationalist, expansionist, imperial and warlike. So in that sense, there's no expectation and no disappointment. On domestic policy, traditionally Democratic presidents are more reformist, closer to the labor movement, more willing to pass legislation on behalf of ordinary people—and that's been true of Obama. But Democratic reforms have also been limited, cautious. Obama's no exception. On health-care, for example, he starts out with a compromise, and when you start out with a compromise, you end with a compromise of a compromise, which is where we are now. I thought that in the area of constitutional rights he would be better than he has been. That's the greatest disappointment, because Obama went to Harvard Law School and is presumably dedicated to constitutional rights. But he becomes president, and he's not making any significant step away from Bush policies. Sure, he keeps talking about closing Guantánamo, but he still treats the prisoners there as "suspected terrorists." They have not been tried and have not been found guilty. So when Obama proposes taking people out of Guantánamo and putting them into other prisons, he's not advancing the cause of constitutional rights very far. And then he's gone into court arguing for preventive detention, and he's continued the policy of sending suspects to countries where they very well may be tortured. I think people are dazzled by Obama's rhetoric, and that people ought to begin to understand that Obama is going to be a mediocre president—which means, in our time, a dangerous president—unless there is some national movement to push him in a better direction."*

As Progressives we must do more than just remember him and note his passing with sadness. We must emulate him and stand up for what we know to be right. ###

## Upcoming Calendar of Interesting Events for Dems!

<b>Feb 19</b> <b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>LULAC 81st Anniversary Celebration</b> The Orange County LULAC Foundation, has made plans for a major banquet (among other events) in order to mark the 81st Anniversary of LULAC and to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our Nation's oldest, largest and best known Latino advocacy and civil rights organization. Banquet attendees will include LULAC National leaders, members and LULAC Youth, legislators from several states, union representatives, non-profit group leaders, corporate sponsors and members of our Latino community. If you are planning to attend or be an sponsor please contact us at 714-357-4328, or by E-mail: <a href="mailto:benydiaz@sbcglobal.net">benydiaz@sbcglobal.net</a> .
<b>Feb 20</b> <b>2:00 pm</b>	<b>Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Dr. Phil Zuckerman</b> , professor at Claremont and prolific author. Also a contributor to The Huffington Post where he wrote on "The Religious Support Behind Proposition 8." Dr. Zuckerman will be speaking on " <b>The Separation of Church and State And What We Can Learn From The Least Religious Countries</b> " Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine <a href="http://www.au-oc.org">www.au-oc.org</a> or call 714-299-4551 for information.
<b>Feb 22</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Orange County Central Committee.</b> All Democrats are welcome.  Carpenter's Hall, 1816 W. Chapman Avenue, Orange.
<b>Feb 24</b> <b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Democratic Club of West Orange County—Meeting—See Page 1 for details</b>
<b>Feb 26</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>	Debate at Saddleback College: " <b>Is God the Best Explanation for Moral values?</b> " <b>Debaters: Dr. James Corbett</b> and <b>Sean McDowell</b> . Debate moderated by <b>Dr. Craig Hazen</b> , Director of the M.A. Program in Christian Apologetics at Biola University. <b>Dr. James Corbett</b> teaches Advance Placement European history at Capistrano Valley High School. <b>Sean McDowell</b> is the head of the Bible Department at Capistrano Valley Christian Schools. Debate is open to the public. Cost is \$5 for the public and free for the Saddleback College community. For more information, email: <a href="mailto:feb26debate@gmail.com">feb26debate@gmail.com</a>
<b>Mar 10</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>	Next meeting of the <b>67th Area Wide Democratic Alliance</b> ; International Association of Machinists Hall, 5402 Bolsa Avenue, Huntington Beach. For more details see <a href="http://www.67thad.com">http://www.67thad.com</a> .
<b>Mar 15</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>	Next meeting of the <b>68th Assembly District Committee</b> . Contact them via their web site for additional information at <a href="http://www.68thad.com/contact.asp">http://www.68thad.com/contact.asp</a> . Carrows, 16931 Magnolia Ave., Huntington Beach
<b>Apr 10</b> <b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Great American Write-In</b> Lakeview Senior Center - Woodbridge Community Park - 20 Lake Road, Irvine . For Information Ruth Gluck 949-581-3938 or Felicity Figueroa 949- 733-0850

**Next E-Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm**  
**Pauline Younkin's Home**  
**10960 El Domino, Fountain Valley**  
**Call Jo Anne at 714-846-5201 or Pauline at 714-589-1211 for information**

## John Chiang at the League of Women Voters—Jo Anne Jennings

State Comptroller, John Chiang, spoke to members and guests at a League of Women Voters meeting in January to explain problems with the California budget. Although the governor issues one set of numbers regarding the budget and the legislature another, the only accurate source of information on the budget comes from the comptroller's office. On the tenth of each month the comptroller issues a cash report which may be accessed on their website.

Unlike cities and counties, states cannot declare bankruptcy. Should the state issue bad checks, the comptroller can be charged with a felony. As a result, last year's tax refunds were withheld and warrants were issued last summer until the state had the cash available to honor them.

Taxes provide the cash needed to run the state. The primary tax source is the income tax and with the increase in state unemployment to 12.3% the state's income is falling. Sales tax provides the second highest source of revenue. But, since car sales generally provide 9.5% of receipts, the recession has added yet another negative impact to the state's coffers. Taxpayers who fail to report purchases on the internet also mean a loss of sales tax revenue. Of property taxes collected by the state, 75% must be returned to local governments. Needless to say, California's budget faces another crisis.

The primary source of the budget is the governor. In a good budget year, the governor has 95% of the power and

85% in a bad one. The legislature has failed to adopt a tax increase and has held up the budget which ends up costing the state additional money as the state resorts to borrowing to meet expenses. According to John Chiang the legislature claims ending business credits as a tax increase but most of these credits help big business while actually harming small ones. Ending these credits could help solve the budget problem.

California's leading expense is education, followed by health and welfare and then prisons. Governor Schwarzenegger again suggests cuts in health and welfare benefits. However cutting these benefits means a loss of federal funds further impacting the budget. He also wants to eliminate positions at the Franchise Tax Board. This would save \$60 million but could mean as much as \$1 billion in uncollected taxes, a penny wise but pound foolish proposal.

John Chiang's proposals to solve California's budget crisis are:

1. We must have a majority rules from 67% to 55% to pass a budget. In order to do that we must have more people engaged in the democratic process.
2. We all need to make sacrifices.

He left us with a lot to think about and a call to action to educate voters and get them out to vote. ###

## Thank You Patrons!

Sally Alexander	Paul & Arlene Flanagan	Donna Kapche	David and Deborah Rector
Kenneth Arnold	Roz Freeman	James Karis	Eileen Ringerman
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Nancy Donaven			

# The Demise of Air America—Steph Campbell



As everyone probably knows by now, Air America has filed for bankruptcy. Here is Al Franken as Air America got started less than six years ago.

Does the demise of Air America matter? Probably not.

The problem was not in airing progressive radio but due to really bad management.

Most of the radio shows that you have come to rely on will still be on the air. But we should say good bye with some respect.

Air America gave us Rachel Maddow and now we hear her

(and see her) on MSNBC. Of late Air America was just re-playing her TV show. Air America did help propel Senator Al Franken into the seat he's in now. Thom Hartmann, Randi Rhodes and Mike Malloy had long since left Air America – and we're still hearing them. In fact Thom Hartmann said he had been much more successful since leaving Air America. And Ed Schultz and Stephanie Miller never worked at Air America.

The impact on KTLK will hardly be felt at all. The biggest impact will be the 3 to 6 p.m. time slot which featured Ron Reagan Jr. But Bill Press, Stephanie Miller, Thom Hartmann and Randi Rhodes continue. Ron Reagan's show hasn't yet been picked up by anyone.

Another show you might have listened to on Air America is "State of Belief." That show will continue and currently can be heard via the web site [www.stateofbelief.com](http://www.stateofbelief.com). If there are other shows you enjoyed, please make the effort to find out about them by finding them on the web or news about them. ###

## Membership Application Democratic Club of West Orange County

Your name, address, occupation and employer is required by Federal & California Law for all cash donations \$25 or greater. \$100 or greater donations must be by check only.

Date	\$	Donation			Patron	\$60
					Family	\$40
Name					Individual	\$25
Address					Senior-Student	\$20
City, ZIP				Select your newsletter preference:		
					Newsletter by USPS	
Phone					Newsletter by E-mail	
Email				Make your check payable to: DCWOC		
				Mail check to:		
Occupation (Self Employed is not an Occupation)				DCWOC		
				Attn: Treasurer		
				2781 W. MacArthur Blvd., #B-Box 347		
Employer				Santa Ana, CA 92704		

## Another January Gone By—Roe v Wade Turned 37! — Steph Campbell



Last month we marked the 37th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the landmark Supreme Court decision that significantly expanded the ability of women across the country to decide whether or not to continue with a pregnancy.

As we think about where we are with reproductive freedom it's educational to look over the past 10 years. There were some significant wins as well as setbacks and tragic losses.

### The Wins

President Obama rescinded the "Global Gag Rule," a federal policy that cut off crucial federal funding for family planning services overseas to any foreign nongovernmental organization that used its own money to advocate for safe and legal abortion care, to perform legal abortions in their own countries, or to counsel and refer women for abortions. Without this prohibition, the U.S. can restore its place as a global leader in support of women's health and lives.

And here's one you might not have known about. In the District of Columbia there was a long standing ban against using tax dollars to cover abortions for low income women living in the District. Last year Obama signed into law a provision that lifted the ban. Of course there are other federal bans. There are still significant restrictions on coverage for women on Medicaid, Native Americans, federal employees, Peace Corp volunteers and disabled women relying on Medicare.

In 2009, the federal government defunded abstinence-only-until-marriage programming. The 2010 federal budget not only defunds abstinence-only programming but directs significant resources into medically accurate, evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs. These changes represent a significant change in the nation's sexuality education policy, signaling a new commitment to improving young people's lives.

The FDA approved the early-abortion pill (RU-486). They also approved the sale of emergency contraception – commonly known as Plan B or the "morning after pill" – without a prescription to women 18 and older. That was in 2006 and in 2009 the age restriction was reduced to 17.

### The Losses

There is probably no greater loss than the murder of Dr. George Tiller in May of last year. For decades, he provided compassionate care for women who came from all over the country to seek abortions at his clinic when they had few, if any other, options. Throughout his abortion practice, he faced relentless threats and harassment at his home, his place of worship, and at his clinic, including surviving a shooting in 1993.

The Supreme Court upheld a federal abortion procedure ban. In 2007, the Supreme Court dealt a devastating blow to women's health and reproductive rights. In a 5-4 decision that puts politics before women's health, the Court upheld the first-ever federal ban on abortion methods – called by its sponsors the "Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003." In upholding the ban, the Court undermined a core principle of Roe v. Wade – that women's health must remain paramount. My favorite Justice, Justice Ginsburg attacked the majority for placing women's health in danger and for undermining women's struggle for equality. She wrote, women's "ability to realize their full potential . . . is intimately connected to 'their ability to control their reproductive lives.'"

State lawmakers propose more than 5,000 anti-choice measures over the course of the last decade. The struggle to protect reproductive freedom has long been waged in state legislatures. For years, anti-choice lawmakers have been chipping away at the right to abortion by imposing more and more restrictions on a woman's ability to obtain care. In the last decade, state lawmakers introduced more than 5,000 anti-choice measures, including attempts to ban abortion and interfere with women's decision-making and the ability of doctors to provide care. Since 2000, 391 of these measures became law, including an Oklahoma law that became the first-in-the-nation law that forces health care providers to perform an ultrasound before a woman has an abortion regardless of medical necessity or benefit, and requires the woman to listen to a description of the fetal image against her will. (The law is currently being challenged in court.)



<Source material is from the ACLU's Reproductive Freedom Project—[www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org)>

## 9 Things the Dems Should Do to Get Their House in Order Guy Saperstein—Posted to Alternet

The first thing Democrats need to do is stop feeling sorry for themselves and stop issuing idiotic statements like their recent claim that they cannot "mathematically" do anything. They still control the presidency and have large majorities in the Congress. With a bozo who won the presidency with a minority of votes and thin majorities in Congress, the Republicans in 2001-2006 still aggressively pushed their agenda. "Mathematics" didn't stop the Republicans and there is no reason for the Dems to act impotent and paralyzed now.

What could they do to turn momentum in their favor?

1. Pass the House's \$154 billion job creation bill. Find more TARP money to add to the House bill. Talk about job creation every day.
2. Pass Obama's proposed bank tax. Talk every day about excessive bonuses, how the banking industry failed America and how Republican economics collapsed the economy and transformed a \$250 billion federal surplus in 2000 into a \$1.3 trillion deficit in 2008.
3. Order the Department of Justice to investigate the financial manipulations and inept regulation that led to the financial collapse for possible criminal violations. The conflicts-of-interest were rampant; surely, there must be criminal violations somewhere in this gigantic mess of profiteering and greed.
4. Publicize the hearings and findings of the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission and develop legislative proposals to rein in Wall Street and prevent their gambling with our money. Point fingers and assign blame and if some of the blame touches Clinton, Summers and Geithner, be honest about it. The public sees too little honesty from politicians. Use the findings to dump Summers and Geithner.
5. Make the federal foreclosure agency work to reform mortgages (it has been close to dysfunctional for nearly a year). It is estimated that between 20 to 25 percent of all mortgages now exceed the value of the properties. Tens of millions of homeowners need help—and most of them

vote.

6. Pass the Consumer Protection Agency and blame every politician who opposes protecting consumers for being tools of banks. Get Elizabeth Warren on TV every day. Have her give the State of the Union speech.
7. Fire Tim Geithner and Larry Summers. Replace them with Joe Stiglitz and Elizabeth Warren. Withdraw Ben Bernanke's nomination for the Chair of the Federal Reserve and replace him with Paul Volcker.
8. Pass health care reform with a public option and the surtax on the wealthy and no excise tax through reconciliation. Bend the reconciliation rules as much as necessary and let the Republicans howl. There is no judicial review and the public doesn't give a shit about the nuances of Senate procedures; they just want to see action. Accuse the Republicans of being pawns of the insurance companies.
9. Announce that the Democratic Party will stop accepting donations from the banking and insurance industries and demand that the Republican Party do the same. They won't, of course, which would provide many opportunities to say that Republicans are the party of the banks and insurance companies. Here's the message: "If you want to empower banks and insurance companies, vote Republican." Whatever money the Democrats give up by this gesture would be more than made up by a surge of small donations, a surge in integrity and a surge in credibility.

I'm sure I am missing many other good ideas, but this list would keep the Democrats busy for at least a few months.

*Guy T. Saperstein is a past president of the Sierra Club Foundation; previously, he was one of the National Law Journal's "100 Most Influential Lawyers in America."*

## Budget Reconciliation: A Primer—Steph Campbell

With lots of talk about budget reconciliation, especially with the loss of Senator Ted Kennedy's seat, it seemed like a good idea to explain what that really means. There are two key points: First it would limit the scope of the legislation—not a good thing. **But** it would also permit a bill to pass with a simple majority of 51 votes. And that would be an excellent thing in these divisive times.

Budget reconciliation is not something handed down by the Founding Fathers. Rather, it's a provision of the 1974 Congressional Budget Act. The provision is designed to force committees to make changes in both spending (think wars) and revenues (think taxes). It was conceived by lawmakers as a way to ease the path for budget and tax deals.

The rules for budget reconciliation in the Senate restrict the procedure to provisions dealing with the budget. So if the bill isn't about the budget it's not supposed to be used. It also set strict protocols for consideration of the bills in both chambers. Here are a couple of real advantages: Debate in both the House of Representatives and the Senate is limited to 20 hours. And even better, no Senate filibusters are allowed.

Since the early 1980s, reconciliation has been used 19 times, primarily to steer controversial fiscal and budgetary policies through the Senate. Under President Clinton it was used to get his deficit reduction and tax package through. And more recently under George W. it was used to get his tax cuts through.

**What's the big advantage to us?** Since filibusters, which take 60 votes to stop, are banned under the reconciliation procedures, Democrats could pass health reform legislation with a simple 51-vote majority. That would allow the Democrats to pass a bill without Republican support and even with a few Democratic defections.

**What are the disadvantages?** Lawmakers and policy experts on both sides of the aisle warn that the strategy could backfire on the Democrats by leaving important provisions of the bill vulnerable to a parliamentary challenge and by making the Democrats appear overly partisan and high-handed (though why do we care?)

In addition, since the bills could deal only with issues of budget and spending, some social policy issues covered in the current legislation, such as abortion funding and cov-

erage of immigrants, might not be allowed. There could be technical problems as well, including questions about the timing of the measure. The congressional budget resolution on which reconciliation would be based covers five years, but most of the calculations for spending and saving in the current health overhaul are based on a 10-year horizon. Trying to marry those two timeframes could result in some difficult questions about whether elements of the health reform would be phased out after five years and then need to be reauthorized by Congress.

**How Would It Work?** Every year, the House and Senate draft a budget resolution – a blueprint of anticipated federal spending and revenues for the coming fiscal year. To get the reconciliation process going, the House and Senate budget committees may include reconciliation instructions to one or more committees in the budget resolution that directs them to produce legislation by a certain date that meets the mandatory spending or tax targets. Last spring, the budget committees agreed to include a directive for health care legislation.

If reconciliation is used, the Senate Finance and health committees each are supposed to send proposed changes in laws within their jurisdictions to the Senate Budget Committee with changes that would save \$1 billion over the next five years. The House Ways and Means, Education and Labor and Energy and Commerce Committees would face a similar challenge and have to report changes to the House Budget Committee. Those proposed changes would then be translated by each budget committee into House and Senate bills.

When those bills reach the House and Senate floors, members have a maximum of 20 hours to debate them – and almost no opportunity to offer amendments – before taking a vote.

Assuming that the House and Senate bills are approved, they generally are sent to a conference of House and Senate negotiators to be melded into a single piece of legislation. That final conference report, as it is called, is then returned to the floor for a final vote by the two chambers under strict rules that set a timetable for action and that prohibit any amendments. If the bill is passed, it would then be sent to the president for his signature or veto. ###

## Civil Rights Day For Some—Steve Ybarra,

*Chair of the California Democratic Party Chicano Latino Caucus Voting Rights Committee*

Happy Civil Rights Day for Some! I remember when I first heard of Martin Luther King. It was in conjunction with a discussion about workers' rights in the fields in California. Back in '63, the War was only on the lips of a few, racism was beginning to be discussed, and the War on Poverty was being talked about as it related to (back then) "Negroes". Understand this – at that time, no one called someone Black – that was considered an insult. African Americans did not exist as a name, so, if you were being polite you referred to someone as "Colored" or "Negro".

As for us Mexicans, we had not even considered being Latino or Hispanic. We were just Mexicans and, if you were lucky, Mexican American. My father often referred to himself as a Spanish American. Talk about confusion.

So it began, this Civil Rights movement. It had begun in California and Texas with LULAC and the GI Forum busting open segregated cemeteries and Mexican-only schools in Orange County, California (Mendez vs. Westminster). Mexican Americans sued to end laws forbidding miscegenation (successfully we might add) See Lopez. All the desegregation cases that eventually became the law of the land began with a Mexican American plaintiff in California or Texas by 1947.

At that, time there was no movement that involved sexual orientation. Now, one must understand that there were homosexual lawyers and volunteers who worked with us in these matters. But it was not an issue of their Civil Rights but all Civil Rights and the issues were racism, war, and poverty.

For the next 10 years, we marched, we were arrested, we were shot and beaten, and some were murdered por la Causa. The cause gave a national face to the Mexican American. The country was not ready for us to sit at the dinner table. It was an easy thing for the entire movement to be put in terms of (now) Black and White. The cause of Mexican American Civil Rights, such as immigration reform, became secondary to the overall purpose of Civil Rights.

Since then, we have had to forge ahead repeatedly (often without the support of the other minorities). We have done well so far, especially here in California. The elected Latinos and Chicanos in the state legislature and Lt. Governor's office here in California are good examples.

But now to the question of the day: Why is it that the Gay and Lesbian movement leaders have never taken their rainbow progressive flags and marched in large numbers with those who seek immigration reform or in today's MLK marches all over the US? Why did they abandon us?

The progressives have failed miserably in dealing with the alliances that need to be formed if they are going to move forward to real legal equality. They have failed miserably to reach out to the Mexican American religious and business community that was the backbone of the Chicano movement. These aspects of our community have helped to elect the first openly gay speaker of the state legislature in California.

However, the election of Speaker Perez is an act not seen by the Mexican American community as anything related to the full extension of Civil Rights to the Gay community. If the Gay community seeks to have alliances in their battle, they must do what we did, that is forging alliances without reservation. Consensus does not mean total acceptance of the beliefs of a community. It does mean that there has to be an open discussion of those beliefs and why the extension of Civil Rights to one group does not incur damage to the rights of another.

This week, I watched an African American women proclaim how in her life she is able to vote, own property, and marry without restraint. These same women stood against same-sex marriage as god's will. I do not remember the Constitution being God's will, but rather the will of men who sought to assure that "god" would not run America. I do have a question for those who believe that god orders same sex marriage be banned. Does god also grant divorces in the courts of America or is that a judge who follows the law of men? When god can grant a divorce in our civil courts then god can forbid the Civil Rights of Gay men and women.

When the Gay movement gets it that this argument needs to be made in our churches and our Chamber of Commerce meetings, then maybe they will get our assistance and alliance and they will be on the road to full civil rights for all as they once were.

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## What Obama Has Accomplished—Prof. Robert Watson

I am always being asked to grade Obama's presidency. In place of offering him a grade, I put together a list of his accomplishments thus far. I think you would agree that it is very impressive. His first six months have been even more active than FDRs or LBJs, the two standards for such assessments. Yet, there is little media attention given to much of what he has done. Of late, the media is focusing almost exclusively on Obama's critics, without holding them responsible for the uncivil, unconstructive tone of their disagreements or without holding the previous administration responsible for getting us in such a deep hole. The misinformation and venom that now passes for political reporting and civic debate is beyond description.

As such, there is a need to set the record straight. What most impresses me is the fact that Obama has accomplished so much not from a heavy-handed or top-down approach but from a style that has institutionalized efforts to reach across the aisle, encourage vigorous debate, and utilize town halls and panels of experts in the policy-making process. Beyond the accomplishments, the process is good for democracy and our democratic processes have been battered and bruised in recent years.



1. Ordered all federal agencies to undertake a study and make recommendations for ways to cut spending
2. Ordered a review of all federal operations to identify and cut wasteful spending and practices
3. Instituted enforcement for equal pay for women
4. Beginning the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq
5. Families of fallen soldiers have expenses covered to be on hand when the body arrives at Dover AFB
6. Ended media blackout on war casualties; reporting full information
7. Ended media blackout on covering the return of fallen soldiers to Dover AFB; the media is now permitted to do so pending adherence to respectful rules and approval of fallen soldier's family
8. The White House and federal government are respecting the Freedom of Information Act
9. Instructed all federal agencies to promote openness and transparency as much as possible
10. Limits on lobbyist's access to the White House
11. Limits on White House aides working for lobbyists after their tenure in the administration
12. Ended the previous stop-loss policy that kept soldiers in Iraq/Afghanistan longer than their enlistment date
13. Phasing out the expensive F-22 war plane and other outdated weapons systems, which weren't even used or needed in Iraq/Afghanistan
14. Removed restrictions on embryonic stem-cell research
15. Federal support for stem-cell and new biomedical research
16. New federal funding for science and research labs
17. States are permitted to enact federal fuel efficiency standards above federal standards
18. Increased infrastructure spending (roads, bridges, power plants) after years of neglect
19. Funds for high-speed, broadband Internet access to K-12 schools
20. New funds for school construction
21. The prison at Guantanamo Bay is being phased out
22. US Auto industry rescue plan
23. Housing rescue plan
24. \$789 billion economic stimulus plan
25. The public can meet with federal housing insurers to refinance their mortgage (the new plan can be completed in one day) if they are having trouble paying
26. US financial and banking rescue plan
27. The secret detention facilities in Eastern Europe and

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- elsewhere are being closed
28. Ended the previous policy; the US now has a no torture policy and is in compliance with the Geneva Convention standards
  29. Better body armor is now being provided to our troops
  30. The missile defense program is being cut by \$1.4 billion in 2010
  31. Restarted the nuclear nonproliferation talks and building back up the nuclear inspection infrastructure/protocols
  32. Reengaged in the treaties/agreements to protect the Antarctic
  33. Reengaged in the agreements/talks on global warming and greenhouse gas emissions
  34. Visited more countries and met with more world leaders than any president in his first six months in office
  35. Successful release of US captain held by Somali pirates; authorized the SEALs to do their job
  36. US Navy increasing patrols off Somali coast
  37. Attractive tax write-offs for those who buy hybrid automobiles
  38. Cash for clunkers program offers vouchers to trade in fuel inefficient, polluting old cars for new cars; stimulated auto sales
  39. Announced plans to purchase fuel efficient American-made fleet for the federal government
  40. Expanded the SCHIP program to cover health care for 4 million more children
  41. Signed national service legislation; expanded national youth service program
  42. Instituted a new policy on Cuba , allowing Cuban families to return home to visit loved ones
  43. Ended the previous policy of not regulating
  44. Expanding vaccination programs
  45. Immediate and efficient response to the floods in North Dakota and other natural disasters
  46. Closed offshore tax safe havens
  47. Negotiated deal with Swiss banks to permit US government to gain access to records of tax evaders and criminals
  48. Ended the previous policy of offering tax benefits to corporations who outsource American jobs; the new policy is to promote in-sourcing to bring jobs back
  49. Ended the previous practice of protecting credit card companies; in place of it are new consumer protections from credit card industry's predatory practices
  50. Energy producing plants must begin preparing to produce 15% of their energy from renewable sources
  51. Lower drug costs for seniors
  52. Ended the previous practice of forbidding Medicare from negotiating with drug manufacturers for cheaper drugs; the federal government is now realizing hundreds of millions in savings
  53. Increasing pay and benefits for military personnel
  54. Improved housing for military personnel
  55. Initiating a new policy to promote federal hiring of military spouses
  56. Improved conditions at Walter Reed Military Hospital and other military hospitals
  57. Increasing student loans
  58. Increasing opportunities in AmeriCorps program
  59. Sent envoys to Middle East and other parts of the world that had been neglected for

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- years; reengaging in multilateral and bilateral talks and diplomacy
60. Established a new cyber security office
  61. Beginning the process of reforming and restructuring the military 20 years after the Cold War to a more modern fighting force; this includes new procurement policies, increasing size of military, new technology and cyber units and operations, etc.
  62. Ended previous policy of awarding no-bid defense contracts
  63. Ordered a review of hurricane and natural disaster preparedness
  64. Established a National Performance Officer charged with saving the federal government money and making federal operations more efficient
  65. Students struggling to make college loan payments can have their loans refinanced
  66. Improving benefits for veterans
  67. Many more press conferences and town halls and much more media access than previous administration
  68. Instituted a new focus on mortgage fraud
  69. The FDA is now regulating tobacco
  70. Ended previous policy of cutting the FDA and circumventing FDA rules
  71. Ended previous practice of having White House aides rewrite scientific and environmental rules, regulations, and reports
  72. Authorized discussions with North Korea and private mission by Pres. Bill Clinton to secure the release of two Americans held in prisons
  73. Authorized discussions with Myanmar and mission by Sen. Jim Web to secure the release of an American held captive
  74. Making more loans available to small businesses
  75. Established independent commission to make recommendations on slowing the costs of Medicare
  76. Appointment of first Latina to the Supreme Court
  77. Authorized construction/opening of additional health centers to care for veterans
  78. Limited salaries of senior White House aides; cut to \$100,000
  79. Renewed loan guarantees for Israel
  80. Changed the failing/status quo military command in Afghanistan
  81. Deployed additional troops to Afghanistan
  82. New Afghan War policy that limits aerial bombing and prioritizes aid, development of infrastructure, diplomacy, and good government practices by Afghans
  83. Announced the long-term development of a national energy grid with renewable sources and cleaner, efficient energy production
  84. Returned money authorized for refurbishment of White House offices and private living quarters
  85. Paid for redecoration of White House living quarters out of his own pocket
  86. Held first Seder in White House
  87. Attempting to reform the nation's healthcare system which is the most expensive in the world yet leaves almost 50 million without health insurance and millions more under insured
  88. Has put the ball in play for comprehensive immigration reform
  89. Has announced his intention to push for energy reform
  90. Has announced his intention to push for education reform ###

# Will November 2010 Produce Massafornia?

<http://www.californiaprogressreport.com/site/?q=node/7362>  
By Robert Cruickshank

As Democrats and progressives take stock of the loss of Ted Kennedy's Senate seat, some eyes are beginning to turn toward California, another state that has been reliably blue in its national voting intentions for some time but has a history of picking Republicans for other key state-wide offices, including governor. Does Obama's and Coakley's loss last night suggest the same thing is going to happen to Barbara Boxer this fall?

The three Republican candidates running against her would certainly like us to think so, according to Carla Marinucci:

*The upset victory of Republican Scott Brown Tuesday in the Massachusetts Senate race had an immediate effect in California, where GOP U.S. Senate Republican candidates wasted no time going on offense -- vowing that Democratic incumbent U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer is on tap next.*

*Former South Bay Rep. Tom Campbell made the first move, issuing a jab at Boxer -- along a claim that he will now take her on and address "the suicidal direction Congress and the President are taking our economy."*

The combative statement from the usually low-key Campbell hint at the pumped-up themes -- and energy -- to come from the GOP side in the 2010 CA U.S. Senate race against Boxer, where former Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina and Assemblyman Chuck DeVore of Irvine are already raring to go. And GOP state officials were positively bubbly in their reaction to Tuesday's election results in the Bay State, where Brown handily beat Democrat Martha Coakley.

The statements themselves almost all make reference to the economy, to taxes, and spending. In other words, all three believe the way to beat Boxer is to show she's some kind of big government, big spender and that such policies are bad for the economy.

This is absolute nonsense. Californians don't want to gut federal spending, they want more of it. But Barack Obama's decision to prop up the banks and to push through a too-small stimulus has produced economic and political disaster that Coakley couldn't overcome, and that Boxer will have a difficult time dealing with.

At the same time, Boxer is no Martha Coakley. Boxer knows how to win close elections, and has been preparing for this race for some time. Still, recent polls show Boxer's lead is narrow over all three Republican challengers. Clearly, good preparation isn't enough. She has to turn around the narrative.

The evidence from Massachusetts suggests some places to start. A poll done by the Progressive Change Campaign Committee shows that Obama voters who voted for Brown or stayed home - who determined the outcome in favor of Brown - all feel the health care bill doesn't go far enough, overwhelmingly support the public option, and want Democrats to be bolder. This fits with the overall analysis of the election that it was another vote for change, and that sadly (for us) voters were beginning to believe Democrats were incapable of or unwilling to deliver that change.

The key shift seems to have been in December, when Obama cut a deal with Joe Lieberman and Ben Nelson to abandon the public option and tax employee health benefits instead of the wealthy. That deal soured the public on the health care bill, making it look like more of the same instead of the kind of bold change that begins to move health care away from dependence on insurance companies that everyone hates. Lieberman and Nelson are also very unpopular with the Democratic base, and many Democrats and independents simply could not understand why Obama was siding with them instead of standing up for the people who put Obama in office. As a result, Dems and independents are less supportive of Obama and his health care performance, according to the latest Field Poll.

Calbuzz argues that Boxer will likely begin bashing the bankers and espousing a strong populism. She definitely ought to start doing that right now, coming out for a 50% or more tax on bank bonuses and full reinstatement of Glass-Steagall, opposition to Bernanke reconfirmation, and other things.

But Boxer needs to start with health care. She needs to call for using reconciliation to restore a strong public option, eliminate the excise tax in favor of the House's tax on the wealthy, and say she expects this to get done by the end of the month if possible. Boxer would be seen as the leader that California progressives have been looking for,

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# Will November 2010 Produce Massafornia?

<http://www.californiaproggressreport.com/site/?q=node/7362>  
By Robert Cruickshank

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and the polls suggest this would play well with independents too.

It would also help Boxer with another albatross around her neck, and that is growing public anger at the failure of the US Senate as an institution. Boxer needs to also come out strongly for the abolition of the cloture rule, or at least changing it to require only 51 votes to end debate. It would be a sign that Boxer is a force for change, for making government work for the people. What Lieberman and Nelson were allowed to do last month caused significant damage to the Senate Democrats, and the rules must be changed to prevent it from happening again.

Some might argue that Boxer needs to be cautious here, and the rest of the caucus might want to protect the silly "traditions of the Senate." Boxer should reject this entirely and realize that her reelection is more important than preserving a failed set of practices. She doesn't want to repeat Harry Reid's mistake.

Finally, progressives have a real ally in Barbara Boxer. In recent posts I've seen some criticism of her from progressives in the comments, which is fine. But unlike Dianne Feinstein, Boxer has generally been a good Senator and someone who has been there when we needed her. Not

only does she deserve re-election over any of her 3 Republican opponents, she deserves active support from the progressive base.

If people were willing to go to bat and make last-minute calls for Martha Coakley, then California progressives ought to be doing this to a much greater degree over the course of 2010 for someone who is an ally, and who continues to respect them.

Barbara Boxer has a fight on her hands, but she also is prepared to win that fight. Campbell, Fiorina and DeVore will have a much tougher hill to climb than they think.

UPDATE: In fact, Boxer has been out in front on this already. She voted against the repeal of Glass-Steagall in 1999, and is a cosponsor of the Maria Cantwell bill to restore Glass-Steagall. Expect to hear more about this in the weeks and months to come.

*Robert Cruickshank is a historian, activist, and teacher living in Monterey. He is contributing editor at Calitics.com and works for the Courage Campaign, in addition to teaching political science at Monterey Peninsula College. Currently he is completing his Ph.D. dissertation in US history, on progressive politics in San Francisco in the 1960s and 1970s. This article was originally published in Calitics. ###*

## Help Wanted—Computer Savvy Member—Work From Home



The Democratic Club of West Orange County is looking for someone to set-up and maintain a Facebook page for the Club. We hope this online social networking tool will help recruit new, young members who are interested in helping the Democratic party.

It's also time to let our dedicated members, Rich Gillock and Stephanie Campbell, retire from their valuable service to the club.

Rich presently maintains our website ([www.dcwoc.org](http://www.dcwoc.org))

keeping it up to date.



Stephanie edits and publishes the Dynamic Democrat. Stephanie is happy to mentor someone willing to publish our newsletter.

Please contact Jo Anne Jennings at [j.l.jennings1944@gmail.com](mailto:j.l.jennings1944@gmail.com) if you can help us.

## **Bill Lobdell & Hugh Hewitt**

### ***The Intersection of Religion, Politics and the Media: Does It Harm or Benefit Society?***

**Americans United for Separation of Church and State  
Orange County Chapter**

***Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm***

**Irvine Ranch Water District<sup>1</sup> 15600 Sand Canyon Ave. (at Waterworks) in Irvine**



Two major Southern California personalities – both noted authors with opposing positions on religion – will join us for a discussion on what happens when religion, politics and the media intersect.

The discussion will be moderated by Americans United member Rich Gillock and will be followed by Q&A with the audience.

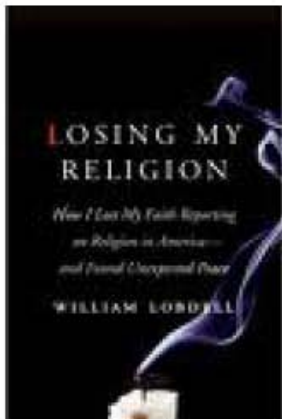


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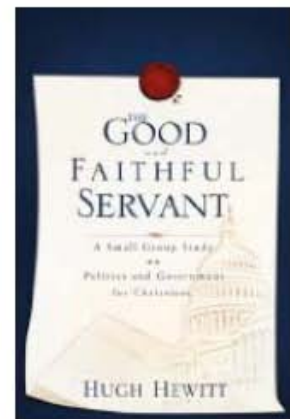
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Fax: 714-515-4248 Call: 714-299-4551 or 714-957-0748

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William Lobdell is an award-winning journalist, author, blogger, speaker, college lecturer and media consultant. He is a faculty member at the University of California, Irvine, where he teaches "Religion and the Media" and "The Internet, Blogs and Politics." His memoir about finding and then losing his faith is chronicled in the book: "Losing My Religion: How I Lost My Faith Reporting on Religion in America — and Found Unexpected Peace."

Hugh Hewitt is a law professor and broadcast journalist with a nationally syndicated radio show. Professor Hewitt is a graduate of Harvard College and the University of Michigan Law School, and has been teaching Constitutional Law at Chapman University Law School since 1995. He is the author of eight books, including two New York Times best-sellers.



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<sup>1</sup> Irvine Ranch Water District neither supports nor endorses the cause nor activities of organizations which use the District's meeting rooms that are made available as a public service.