



**Wednesday, October 28th at 6:30**  
**Democratic Club of West Orange County**  
**Green Valley Community Center**  
**17250 Los Jardines West, Fountain Valley**

**Dr. Volker Janssen**  
**The California Criminal Justice System and Its Impact**  
**on California's Fiscal Crisis**



Dr. Volker Janssen will be our speaker in October and he will be addressing the issues of prison overcrowding and its antecedents, as well as how that ties in to our state's current fiscal distress.

He is an acknowledged expert on the criminal justice system, especially as it operates in California. Dr. Janssen is currently an Assistant Professor in the History Department of California State University in Fullerton. In addition to teaching he recently organized a conference on "Where Minds and Matters Meet: Technology in California and the West."

He has written an op-ed piece in the Los Angeles Times called "The Lost Promise of Chino's Prison" ([www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-janssen15-2009aug15.0.2614583.story](http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-janssen15-2009aug15.0.2614583.story)). This piece discusses how the refusal of California to meet its fiscal and social responsibilities has destroyed the once enlightened criminal justice system for which California was famous. There are few people who are as qualified to discuss this as Dr. Janssen when one considers that his doctoral dissertation is titled "Convict Labor, Civic Welfare: Rehabilitation in California's Prisons, 1941-1971."

In addition to his focus on criminal justice, Dr. Janssen is also interested in economics and journalism. He received his B.A. in history at Hamburg University, Germany and had a minor in economics. He has had a number of scholarships and awards including a Fulbright Scholarship and a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Huntington-USC Institute for California and the West.

Please join us for an important and interesting discussion!

**Election of Officers at the October Meeting!**

The nominating committee has submitted the following slate for the Club's consideration:

**President—Jo Anne Jennings**

**1st VP (Programs) - Ben Miles**

**2nd VP (Membership) - Haig Parechanian**

**Treasurer—Mike Crowley**

**Deputy Treasurer—Shirley Gentilini**

**Recording Secretary—Pauline Younkin**

Pictures and biographies can be found on page 3 of the newsletter.

## Talking Points—Rich Gillock

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness! These were the “unalienable Rights” set forth in our Declaration of Independence. So how much happiness can you pursue when you are sick? How much liberty do you have when you are confined to bed by an illness? What happens when your very life is held hostage by insurance companies seeking to eek out yet a little more profit?

The debate in Congress over health care reform is one of the defining moments in American history. It is equal to the establishment of Social Security nearly 70 years ago.

What if Congress had decided to privatize Social Security rather than creating a public plan? We would have a complex formula of retirement benefits based upon which private option you had chosen (if a choice had been allowed) and whether the insurance corporation who held that annuity had found a loop hole to make even more money while denying you your vested interest. Perhaps when you changed jobs, your benefits would have reset. It certainly happens with health insurance today.

Capitalism is about making money, not providing services you have already paid for. Providing services is only a concern if not doing so loses market share. With just a little collusion and some well paid lobbyists, you can set a ceiling on benefits and a floor on premiums that afford all health care insurers incredible profits and no down side risk. [1]

On top of that, if a major epidemic or wide spread catastrophe threatened an insurance company's profits, then the well bribed members of Congress would bail them out just as they bailed out AIG last year. In the mean time, the insurance corporations owe the American people nothing, but the American taxpayer owes the insurance corporations a profit.

Where is the outrage? Well, it's everywhere! But the only “outrage” that gets covered by the media is the right wing “tea baggers.” Why? Well the corporate media is invested in the current system, heavily! NBC and MSNBC are owned by General Electric. They not only are a big defense contractor, but also a medical provider. They actually do some very good medical work, but why would they want to change the very profitable environment they have for an unknown public system? Take a risk that would benefit Americans? Not on their dime.

I won't dignify the Republicans or the Blue Dog Democrats with their excuses for not protecting Americans from

sickness, pain, and death. They seem to love our current system that is twice as expensive as other industrialized nations yet puts us 37th in the world in health care outcomes. You know, those statistical things like infant mortality, life expectancy, cancer rates, and just surviving! [2]

The truth is that they are just well paid whores (no disrespect to sex workers intended). The members of the Senate Health Committee have taken nearly \$50 million from health care lobbyists. Over \$80 million has been spent on lobbying just this summer. There are six health care lobbyists for every member of Congress.

So here is what we are going to get in a health care bill. Those who are currently uninsured will be forced to get insurance. There is nothing to control the cost of their premiums, but there are some poverty options where the taxpayer funds the difference between what an individual can be expected to pay and whatever the insurance company wants to charge.

There are also some changes in the way insurance companies operate like not allowing them to deny coverage for pre-existing conditions ... but not until 2013. But there are no caps on fees, so they can charge whatever they like to provide this expanded coverage.

And the Senate has so far assured their insurance company masters that there will be no competition from government medical insurance. So the politicians pass “health care reform” by passing huge profits to the insurance companies and claiming to have helped the American people.

We the people will continue to pay more for a broken system and consider the job done. Meanwhile, doctors who want to do the right thing are buried under insurance red tape. The medical offices will still have more people attending to insurance claims than practicing medicine. And America will still have the most expensive health care system with some of the poorest outcomes among industrialized nations.

One way that you can help your neighbor is to contribute to the National Association of Free Clinics. [3] Doing the right thing will still be important after Congress sells us down the river.

[1] <http://www.health-insurance-victims-project.org/>

[2] <http://www.iiie.com/realtime/?p=516>

[3] <http://www.freeclinics.us/>

## Meet The Candidates! Know Their Faces — Read Their Bios



**Jo Anne Jennings, President**—I discovered the Democratic Club of West Orange County at the Democratic booth at the Orange County fair and joined the club in 2004. After working in the DCWOC campaign office, I assumed the presidency in

2009. It's been a learning year for me and I look forward to serving in 2010.



**Shirley Gentilini, Deputy Treasurer**

I am currently your Treasurer which has been a very positive experience. I have learned a lot from the current Board Members and have enjoyed working with them. I would like to use this

knowledge and experience to assist the incoming Treasurer; therefore I would like to assume the position as Deputy Treasure for 2010.



**Ben Miles, 1st VP**—Ben is a college teacher, author, and theater critic. Additionally, Dr. Miles is a credentialed school counselor. He is also the current president of the Board of Trustees for the Huntington Beach Library. Ben is a lifelong Democrat, dedicated to promoting peace, justice, and creativity through arts and education.



**Mike Crowley, Treasurer**—No Bio received.

**Haig Parechian, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP DCWOC** - My wife Jean and I joined DCWOC after attending a monthly meeting.



In January 2005, I accepted the Treasurer position and held that position until mid 2006. I then acted as Assistant Treasurer through December 2008. In January 2009, I accepted the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. My principal activities are maintaining the DCWOC membership roll and mail-

ing out the monthly dues billings. In addition, Jean and I mail the USPS and E-mail copies of the DCWOC newsletter.



**Pauline Younkin, Recording Secretary**

—I joined the club to campaign for Kathleen Brown years ago. I have held just about every position on the board at one time or another. This last year I have been keeping

records of meetings as the recording secretary. I feel strongly about the importance of our club and worry (unnecessarily?) about its health. I am very impressed with the talent we have now and will work hard this next year to help achieve our goals.

## Banned Books Week—Steph Campbell

“Banned Books Week” is the annual celebration of the freedom to read, sponsored primarily by the American Library Association. The Religious Right is the source of most incidents of censorship and attempted censorship, and their reasons usually have something to do with the hot button issues of the culture wars.

Here’s what the American Library Association has to say:

*“Banned Books Week (BBW) is an annual event celebrating the freedom to read and the importance of the First Amendment. Held during the last week of September, Banned Books Week highlights the benefits of free and open access to information while drawing attention to the harms of censorship by spotlighting actual or attempted bannings of books across the United States.*

*Intellectual freedom--the freedom to access information and express ideas, even if the information and ideas might be considered unorthodox or unpopular--provides the foundation for Banned Books Week. BBW stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints for all who wish to read and access them.*

*The books featured during Banned Books Week have been targets of attempted bannings. Fortunately, while some books were banned or restricted, in a majority of cases the books were not banned, all thanks to the efforts of librarians, teachers, booksellers, and members of the community to retain the books in the library collections. Imagine how many more books might be challenged--and possibly banned or restricted--if librarians, teachers, and booksellers across the country did not use Banned Books Week each year to teach the importance of our First Amendment rights and the power of literature, and to draw attention to the danger that exists when restraints are imposed on the availability of information in a free society.”*

The 2008 top ten most frequently challenged books:

**And Tango Makes Three**, by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell Reasons: anti-ethnic, anti-family, homo-

sexuality, religious viewpoint, and unsuited to age group

**His Dark Materials** trilogy, by Philip Pullman Reasons: political viewpoint, religious viewpoint, and violence

**TTYL; TTFN; L8R, G8R** (series), by Lauren Myracle Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, and unsuited to age group

**Scary Stories** (series), by Alvin Schwartz Reasons: occult/satanism, religious viewpoint, and violence

**Bless Me, Ultima**, by Rudolfo Anaya Reasons: occult/satanism, offensive language, religious viewpoint, sexually explicit, and violence

**The Perks of Being a Wallflower**, by Stephen Chbosky Reasons: drugs, homosexuality, nudity, offensive language, sexually explicit, suicide, and unsuited to age group

**Gossip Girl** (series), by Cecily von Ziegesar Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, and unsuited to age group

**Uncle Bobby's Wedding**, by Sarah S. Brannen Reasons: homosexuality and unsuited to age group

**The Kite Runner**, by Khaled Hosseini Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, and unsuited to age group

**Flashcards of My Life**, by Charise Mericle Harper Reasons: sexually explicit and unsuited to age group

Banned books from previous years include “Gone With The Wind”, “To Kill A Mockingbird”, “Of Mice and Men”, “Catch-22” and “The Jungle” just to name a few. What kind of a country are we where people are still trying to ban books? And why do we need Supreme Court decisions like this one: “Local school boards may not remove books from school library shelves simply because they dislike the ideas contained in those books ...” — U.S. Supreme Court in [Board of Education, Island Trees School District v. Pico](#) (1982) ###

**Save The Date! December 6th 6:30-10:00  
Special Year End Event!**

**Seacliff Country Club, 6501 Palm Avenue, Huntington Beach  
To volunteer for this project please call Pauline at 714-962-1211.**

## Message From The President—Jo Anne Jennings

This month I'm not offering a commentary but a call to service. President Obama has urged all Americans to volunteer for community service. One opportunity available to our members is in our public schools. I'm looking for members in our club who would be willing to spend 45 minutes a week sharing lunch with a child who is struggling in school. Many students simply need someone who can give them undivided attention and make them feel special to be more successful academically.

Emma Druitt, the principal at Northcutt Elementary School, would be delighted to have people volunteer. Northcutt is part of the Garden Grove School district and is located in Fountain valley near Mile Square Park. It has a multicultural student body and more than half the students are on free or reduced lunch. Many of the students are bused in from Santa Ana Northcutt has a dedicated, caring staff but recognizes some students would benefit from the extra attention a volunteer may provide.

All school districts require volunteers to fill out an application. This application must include a TB test and background check to protect students from possible exposure to tuberculosis or child pedophilia. Your insurance should cover a TB test and giving your fingerprints at a police station allows for a background check.

This is a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in a child's life. If you are unable to attend one week or two, letting the child know in advance is all that's needed. You can pick the day of the week that works best for you and just enjoy the time you and a student spend together.

If you're interested, please contact Jo Anne Jennings at (714) 846-5201 or e-mail me at [jennin1944@yahoo.com](mailto:jennin1944@yahoo.com) and leave a message. I'll get back to you with the information you need to get started. This, however, is only one way to serve and if you're unable to participate, I hope that you find another way to volunteer in our community. ###

### Share Your Story About Volunteering With Other Club Members!

We would love to print any story in the newsletter (with or without pictures) no matter how short or long on what you have done as a volunteer. Email your story to [westocdems@yahoo.com](mailto:westocdems@yahoo.com).

For example, last month Linda Reynolds and Steph Campbell bought food and took it to the Orange County Food Bank—who were very appreciative for the help. It didn't take long and we felt that we had done something to help some of our fellow County residents.

Thanks for helping!

## Hate Speech—Steph Campbell

It's all around us. If we ignore it we condone it. If you hear it—wherever you are—challenge it! Obama's life is threatened every day. I have received an email threat to Hillary Clinton's life sent to me by a Jewish fundamentalist fanatic asking that I forward it to everyone I know. Forward it I did—to the Secret Service.

If you don't listen to Hate Radio, here are some of the things they are saying:

"We need segregated buses... In Obama's America, the white kids now get beat up with the black kids cheering...  
- Rush Limbaugh

"Obama is most certainly creating a climate of hate against Jews" - Michael Savage

"Obama has a deep-seated hatred for white people and white culture" - Glenn Beck

What can you do to stop Hate Speech? In addition to challenging it whenever you hear it, consider supporting these organizations:

AlterNet is creating a special focus on right wing extremism and is making sure we all know what's going on and not giving in to threats and political pressure. Consider a donation to <https://www.alternet.org/donate/rightwinghatetalkA>.

Consider becoming a member of People For The American Way—[www.pfaw.org](http://www.pfaw.org)—or sign up to volunteer to work within the community or to get action alerts.

The Democratic Party, much as we may love it, doesn't seem to be doing much to fight these people so we need to work with those organizations dedicated to challenging this problem! ###

## Upcoming Calendar of Interesting Events for Dems!

<b>Oct 21 5:30 pm</b>	Special <b>Code Pink</b> vigil to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the Code Pink Orange County chapter peace vigils at the Orange Traffic Circle. Bring an anti-war sign and wear pink or black. Contact: <a href="mailto:Kathy@codepinkoc.org">Kathy@codepinkoc.org</a> .
<b>Oct 24 9:00 am</b>	<b>International Day of Climate Action</b> on United Nations Day Run, Walk, Bike, or Carpool (in your alternative fuel vehicle) to the Outdoor Education Center (located adjacent to Irvine Regional Park) 2 Irvine Park Road, Orange, CA For more information, to download the printable registration form, or to register on-line, please visit the registration website at <a href="http://WWW.OCICE.ORG">WWW.OCICE.ORG</a>
<b>Oct 24 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Joe Shaw for Huntington Beach City Council fundraiser.</b> Hosted by HB Councilwoman Jill Hardy, Former HB Mayors Connie Boardman and Debbie Cook, Coast Community College District Trustee Lorraine Prinsky At the home of Debbie Cook. For information: Joe Shaw 714-858-0599 <a href="#"><u>Joe Shaw for Huntington Beach City Council 2010</u></a>
<b>Oct 26 7:00 pm</b>	<b>Orange County Central Committee.</b> All Democrats are welcome.  Carpenter's Hall, 1816 W. Chapman Avenue, Orange.
<b>Oct 28 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Democratic Club of West Orange County—Meeting—See Page 1 for details</b>
<b>Nov 4 7:00 pm</b>	<b>Democracy For America</b> at Karl Strauss Brewery, 901 South Coast Drive, Costa Mesa
<b>Nov 7 9:00 am</b>	<b>16th Annual Religious Diversity Forum, Faith &amp; Community Service</b> UCI Student Center with keynote David Levinson, founder of Big Sunday and recipient of The Governor and First Lady's Medal of Service for Non-Profit Leader of the Year. The forum will also feature a panel of Experts, Social Service Agency Directors and Leaders. Objectives: to provide a safe place to explore diverse faith traditions' approach to serving others, the opportunity of enhancing one's capacity to listen to people of different beliefs and identifying our common values, the actual tools and skills to make effective change in your community. Register online at <a href="http://religiousdiversityforum.org">religiousdiversityforum.org</a>
<b>Nov 7 6:30 pm</b>	<b>CAIR-Greater Los Angeles Area 13th Annual Banquet</b> Celebrate CAIR-LA's 13 Years of Service to the Community This year's theme is "A New Era of Hope: Our Role, Our Future." Anaheim Hilton Hotel, 777 Convention Way, Anaheim, CA 92802 See website at: <a href="http://ca.cair.com/losangeles/event/13th%20Annual%20Banquet">ca.cair.com/losangeles/event/13th Annual Banquet</a>
<b>Nov 11 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>Nov 16 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

**e-Board Meeting November 3rd at 7:00 pm  
at the Home of Pauline Younkin—10960 El Domino, Fountain Valley  
Open to all Club Members**

## Dynamic Democrat's Picture of the Month!



This picture may not be what you think—it's a picture of people outside The Forum in Los Angeles. These are patients without medical insurance waiting for treatment. There were 1,500 free places and people got in line at 1:00 am; all the places

were filled by 4am.

You can read more about this in our on-line version of the newsletter in an article taken from the UK newspaper "The Guardian" which asks the question: "Will California Become A Failed State?" The original article is available online at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/oct/04/california-failing-state-debt>

With pictures like these, it's hard to respond to that question with anything but "yes." ###

## November Dynamic Democrat Submissions due on **Oct-28-2009**

### Expanded Dynamic Democrat: Only Available via Email or the Web

**Remember:** The **expanded Dynamic Democrat** has extra articles, pictures and opinion pieces. **BUT**—this edition is only available electronically. If you want to know what your Democratic neighbors are reading, you need to see this version.

It is available by email or you can download it from the web site at [www.dcwoc.org](http://www.dcwoc.org) by scrolling down to "Click to Download the Newsletter" - one click and you have it.

Of course you can always print your electronic copy. To do that, select Print from the File Menu. You can also zoom the file to display at whatever size is comfortable reading for you. Select Zoom from the View menu and choose the size you want to zoom to.

When you choose the electronic version you help the Club save money on printing and postage. Plus you get your newsletter sooner than waiting for "snail mail." ###

## Treasurer's Report: Club Account Balance: **\$6,522.78**

## Thank You Patrons!

Sally Alexander	Sukhjit Chahal	Jo Anne Jennings	David and Deborah Rector
Kenneth Arnold	Nancy Donaven	Donna Kapche	Linda Reynolds
Donna Ashley	Paul & Arlene Flanagan	James Karis	Eileen Ringerman
Gus Ayer	Roz Freeman	Eleanor & Ed Klein	Bill & Kathleen Rockney
Keith Bohr	Scott Fudal	Alex & Patty Kuczynski	Sal & Jan Sapien
Caren & Steve Bolinger	Richard Gillock	Marko & Karen Markovich	Judith Shenkman
Armida Brashears	Pat & Phil Goodman	Pat Mathewson	Al Snook
Stephanie Campbell	Odette & Ted Gotsch	Haig & Jean Parechian	W. & B. Van Lanningham
Richard Carlborg	Chris Hilger	Charlotte & Don Pirch	Pauline Younkin
Bonnie & Robert Castrey	Mary Ellen Houseal	Elmer & Isabel Phibbs	

**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.

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

## What's Going On With The Extension of Unemployment Benefits —Steph Campbell

In the House a bill was passed to give another 13 weeks of unemployment benefits to people from states where the jobless rate is at least 8.5 percent. California most definitely qualified. But guess what? It has bogged down in the Senate because of resistance from lawmakers whose states have lower unemployment and would be left out.

The Democrats' original plan was a proposal giving four extra weeks of benefits to the jobless in all 50 states and 17 weeks to workers in those 27 states where the unemployment rate is 8.5 percent or above. But, no surprise, Senators who are from the 23 states who wouldn't qualify for the greater benefit wouldn't support it.

A report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimated that more than 80 percent of the projected 1.3 million people who will exhaust their benefits by the end of the year come from states where the jobless rate is at least 8.5 percent. In California, with a jobless rate of 11.9 percent, 154,000 could run out of benefits by the end of the year.

About one-third of the 15 million out-of-work Americans

have been without a job for six months, a figure that outpaces recent recessions. There are currently about six people looking for every job available.

Rep. Jim McDermott, D-Wash., sponsor of the House bill, said it would cost about \$1.4 billion but does not add to the deficit because it raises money from a one-year extension of a federal unemployment tax, costing about \$14 an employee per year.

The House bill covers the 27 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico with jobless rates of at least 8.5 percent. The 23 states that would not be included are Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia and Wyoming.

The House bill is H.R. 3548

###

## Ballot Initiatives in Circulation—Steph Campbell

There are a number of dangerous initiatives either in review or already circulating for the 2010 ballot and you can read the full text at [http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_j.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_j.htm). Be very careful of what you sign.

Here are some of those that you might encounter:

The foes of abortion are at it again with “**The California Human Rights Amendment**” (See Page 10 for an assessment of what this initiative means.)

A constitutional amendment which states that the term “person” applies to all living human organisms from the beginning of their biological development regardless of the means by which they were procreated, method of reproduction, age, race, sex, gender, physical well-being, function, or condition of physical or mental dependency and/or disability.

The foes of public education are also raising their heads with some initiatives.

**The California Education Tax Relief Act** originating in Huntington Beach wishes to add the following to the California Constitution:

“Notwithstanding any provision of the Constitution to the contrary, no property, sales or income taxes shall be levied or assessed to pay for any free school...nor to pay for any public school system or into the state school fund ...nor to pay for textbooks ... nor to pay for the University of California.”

**The California Parental Protection Act** also out of

Huntington Beach says:

“...parents shall have the sole authority and responsibility to establish the educational curriculum of their child... and this authority and responsibility shall not be usurped by any local, State, or higher level governmental entity.”

There is an initiative to change the Education Code to add Article 1.5 “**Freedom to Present Christmas Music in Public School Classrooms or Assemblies**” which reads “Listening to, or performing, Christmas music during the holiday season is a longstanding American tradition and a significant element of our cultural heritage as Americans. The parents of public school children should have the right to decide whether or not their children may hear Christmas music in the classrooms and assemblies...”

And from [www.yesjesuslord.org](http://www.yesjesuslord.org) based in Irvine, comes the “**Free Exercise of Religion**” amendment which would submit the following initiative to the voters to amend Section 4, Article 1 of the California Constitution:

“Grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, this amendment is to secure and perpetuate the blessings of Almighty God for the People of California

Provides that a person using any part of the Bible’s content as authority may freely communicate any view about, for or against various actions and principles at public or private gatherings, or in other places and circumstances or in any communicative medium.

Therefore, it is not a crime, hate crime or unlawful for a person to use any part of the Bible’s content as authority. “

## Orange County Fairgrounds Update - Steph Campbell

The Request For Proposal (RFP) for the sale of the Fairgrounds has been released. The RFP retains rights for the State to participate in the profits of what happens to the property—regardless of the usage of the land. The only restriction on usage is that mineral rights will belong to the State. The planning authority for the property will be Costa Mesa. Even though the Master Plan of 2003 adopted by the District Agricultural Association called for the continued use of the property for a fair and related activities, the city never adopted the plan. What all this

means is that once it’s sold the City Council will be the governing body. The property could be carved up into all manner of uses (retail, hotel, residential etc.)

Final bids are to be submitted by January 8, 2010 and the buyer would assume control of the property by October 1, 2010. This could significantly change Costa Mesa and we will be following this with interest and reporting on it in the Dynamic Democrat!

###

## **The California Human Rights Amendment—What Could It Mean?**

**<http://www.pacificprogressive.com/2009/10/chaos-causing-california-human-rights-amendment-in-ags-office.html>**

The California Human Rights Amendment is in the Attorney General's office for review prior to being circulated. The amendment states that all life begins at conception. Before signing on to this initiative, you should consider what it might mean when you apply this personhood notion to every statute. And if you think some of this is far-fetched ask yourself why you think that—if you agree with the initiative writers that life begins at conception.

Under this proposition, a miscarriage becomes a reportable death requiring a death certificate to be issued. It won't matter if the miscarriage is after one day or 270 days, a death is still a death and requires a death certificate issued by a doctor or the medical examiner. If the death is unattended, meaning you are not in a hospital or under the care of a physician willing to attest to the cause of death, the death needs to be investigated to determine if criminal negligence was involved. If you do not report the death for investigation, you could be charged with criminal conspiracy to conceal a potential crime. Either way, the police and medical examiner become involved in investigating your miscarriage.

The other issue that arises is when is a miscarriage manslaughter and when is it murder under this proposition? If you smoke while pregnant, even if you don't know you are pregnant, does that make the miscarriage manslaughter or murder because smoking is a known risk to pregnant women? If you go snowboarding while pregnant, fall (a common occurrence) and miscarry several days later, is it manslaughter or murder because you risked falling during snowboarding while pregnant?

If you're diagnosed with a medical condition, such as lupus or a cardiac condition, your doctor advises you against pregnancy, and you choose to become pregnant and miscarry, is this murder because you took actions which knowingly could lead to the death of another person?

Under this proposition, medical professionals face a steep legal challenge: anything they do that could be determined to have caused a miscarriage could lead to manslaughter or murder charges for the medical team. Medical professionals treating pregnant women face dealing with police inves-

tigations any time a patient miscarries because the police need to investigate to determine the cause of death. Some tests, like amniocentesis, would become highly problematic under this proposition because of the risk of potential miscarriage and the legal consequences. The woman and her doctor would have to decide if it was worth risking manslaughter or murder charges arising from a miscarriage to obtain a medical diagnosis.

Forms of birth control, like hormonal pills and IUD's, can prevent a fertilized egg from implanting. Under this law, birth control pills, IUD's and any other device which could prevent an egg from implanting would be illegal. Condoms would be the only non-surgical form of birth control available. Tubal ligation, vasectomy and hysterectomy would be still be available as birth control. Birth control effectively becomes illegal under this proposition.

During in vitro fertilization, multiple eggs are fertilized. Fertilized embryos which are not being implanted during the current cycle are typically frozen for use in future cycles. Under this proposition, freezing embryos becomes illegal because it is illegal to freeze a living person. Fertility doctors would be faced with a difficult choice - only fertilize and implant one egg at a time, which drives the cost of fertility treatments out of reach of most couples desiring assistance having children, or implant all the fertilized embryos. High multiple pregnancies like Nadya Suleman and Kate Goselin may become more common, along with the birth defects and parenting problems that commonly arise.

The tax codes, Federal and State, allow for deductions for dependent children. If personhood begins at conception, the tax deduction for a child begins at conception. Tax deductions for dependents are for the whole year, regardless of when a child is born. So, if you conceive a baby in late December, you get a tax deduction for that entire year. And, if you are unfortunate enough to miscarry in early January the following year, you would get a tax deduction for that child for the entire year.

###

## Where does Feinstein Stand on the "Health Insurance Industry Antitrust Enforcement Act?"

Senate Bill 1681 is the "Health Insurance Industry Antitrust Enforcement Act." It was introduced by Senator Leahy in September 2009 and has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Feinstein was one of the original cosponsors.

Here's what she has to say about it:

"The escalating cost of health premiums continues to make obtaining health insurance difficult, if not impossible, for many Americans. I believe that all Californians should have access to high-quality, affordable health care services and reducing healthcare premium costs is absolutely essential in this regard. As you may know, the insurance industry is one of the few industries that has an ex-

emption from Federal antitrust laws. Between 2000 and 2007, combined profits for 10 of the country's largest publicly traded insurance companies rose 428 percent. I believe it is important to ensure that the health insurance marketplace remains a vibrant and equitable forum where businesses compete fairly and comply with applicable guidelines. This legislation would eliminate the antitrust exemption for health insurance and medical malpractice insurance companies when they engage in anti-competitive behaviors, including price fixing, bid rigging, and market allocations."

If you have an opinion on this, please contact Senator Feinstein and share your views with her. If you agree with this, let her know that you support this legislation. ###

## The Early Act—Steph Campbell

Did you know that one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime?

And did you know that when breast cancer occurs in women under the age of 45, it is often detected at later stages, is more likely to be aggressive, and may be less responsive to traditional therapies?

Young women with breast cancer struggle with many issues that women who are diagnosed with breast cancer later in life may not face. And because diagnosing breast cancer in young women can be more difficult, these women often don't learn about their disease until it is in advanced stages and more life threatening.

The EARLY Act will address these unique concerns in three key ways:

**Public education.** The bill will initiate an evidence-based public education campaign about breast cancer in women under age 45 - with an emphasis on women at higher risk due to their race, ethnicity or genetic heritage.

**Resources for health professionals.** The bill will educate health care professionals about the risk factors and unique

challenges that face young women diagnosed with breast cancer.

**Support services.** The bill will provide grants to organizations that provide credible health information directed to young women diagnosed with breast cancer.

When breast cancer is detected early, the five-year survival rate is 98 percent. But because many younger women are diagnosed at later stages with more aggressive breast cancer, their survival rate is lower. With increased awareness early detection and treatment, we can improve the odds.

The EARLY Act has been introduced in the House and has received overwhelming support. In fact, over 360 House members have signed on to become co-sponsors. To garner the same level of support in the Senate and ensure the bill makes it to President Obama's desk, our senators need to hear from us. Please contact both Senator Feinstein and Senator Boxer to let them know that this is an important issue for us!

###

<http://www.truthout.org/092409A?n>  
**Ending Minority Rule in California:  
One Sentence Can Do It – George Lakoff**

California is in deep trouble because it has a dysfunctional system of government. Much of the problem can be change by one sentence.

I have sent to the attorney general a ballot proposition for the 2010 ballot called The California Democracy Act, the content of which is the following: All legislative action on revenue and budget must be determined by a majority vote.

It would change two words in the Constitution, turning "two-thirds" to "majority" in two places. It is simple, understandable and it is about democracy.

As I see it, democracy is the main issue in the governance of our state. The two-thirds rules have an anti-democratic effect. Our legislature is currently under minority rule. One-third plus one - only 34 percent -of either the Assembly or Senate can block the will of the majority until their demands are met. This is undemocratic.

Minority rule is why we have gridlock in the legislature. Minority rule has brought our state to near bankruptcy, causing crises throughout the state.

A majority of California voters have elected a majority of the state legislators, and that majority is responsible and, so far as I can tell, overwhelmingly dedicated to sane fiscal management and to serving the needs of our citizens. But they are handcuffed by minority rule.

Democracy can work in California. What the majority of voters want, a majority in the legislature will enact. And it only takes a majority of voters to enact that one-sentence amendment.

Changing the vote requirement to a majority for budget and revenue will ensure that California's budget can meet the state's needs and be passed on time. One sentence can end economic uncertainty and provide for an improved credit rating, for payment of our bills with money instead of IOUs, and will bring stability to our schools, nursing homes and universities. One sentence can make California a well-run state again.

How does minority rule happen? By trickery. Don't be fooled. The way a minority of one-third plus one comes to run the show is by imposing a 2/3 rule. It may sound more

democratic, but it is less democratic. It allows a minority to rule by gridlock, by thwarting the will of the majority in the legislature, and hence, a majority of the voters in the state.

No other state is run by such a minority. In no other state can a ruthless minority cause the chaos, disruption, pain and near-bankruptcy that our state has suffered. A majority of the voters can end the tyranny of the minority.

Democracy means majority rule. One sentence will do the job.

Of course, there will be a blowback. Conservatives will say, as they always do, that this is just a ruse to raise taxes.

But this is about democracy, not about how or whether revenues are raised. What the majority of citizens want, a majority of elected representatives will enact. The question is simple: Do you want democracy?

Here's what government is about in a democracy. Government has two sacred moral missions: to protect and empower its citizens.

Protection starts with police and public safety and extends to protection for consumers, for our food, for workers, for the elderly, for those sick and helpless, for the environment and for investors.

Empowerment is what allows us to earn a living and live decent lives: public roads and buildings; a working power grid; water; a basic educational system; a system of public health and nursing homes; a system of higher education with advanced research in medicine, computing, and agriculture; banks and insurance companies you can trust and a court system that works.

No one earns a living in California without protection and empowerment by the government. No one makes it without all of these things. Without them, the California Dream becomes a nightmare. Without revenue and a sensible budget, there can be no protection and no empowerment, and the world's seventh largest and richest economy starts to look like a third-world country.

Minority rule is closing California. State parks: closed. Schools: closed. Fire departments: closed. Nursing homes:

*(Continued on page 13)*

(Continued from page 12)

closed. Medical clinics: closed. Libraries: closed.

We do not have to stand for it.

The majority of voters choose the majority of legislators. That's simple democracy. When the majority of legislators rule, the majority of voters rule.

Can this work? It can, with strong support. What is needed is a serious campaign making the case for democracy, and allowing the voters to see that minority rule is the root of

the problem.

Since the minority is a strongly conservative Republican minority, progressive Democrats running for the legislature in 2010 can run on a prodemocracy platform, placing the blame for gridlock where it belongs, on their opponents.

The main question is whether we can run such a campaign successfully. That is simply a matter of organization, commitment, support, and funding. None of those is trivial. But we know how to do them.

###

## Why I'm Not Voting For Jerry Brown—Steph Campbell

The California Progress Report is railing against Republican Meg Whitman of eBay and her run for the governor. But I'm not writing here to complain about Meg Whitman. Who cares about bad Republican candidates? Besides, I don't think she'll win. She has no political experience – just a whole lot of money.

In the California Progress Report, there is an article which includes the attributes of successful political leadership:

*"First, leaders must have the charisma to marshal public opinion around an agenda. Second, they must be willing to confront the opposition without condemning their motives. Third, they must tirelessly court allies. Fourth, they must have insight into the motivations and constraints of opposition factions and their leaders. Fifth, they must be willing to fashion reasonable compromises in order to bring about incremental reform of a complex system. Finally, a leader must be an active participant in the democracy."*

We might argue with the definition of political leadership, but for the purposes of this newsletter article, let's accept it. (You can read the full California Progress Report article at:

[http://www.californiaprogressreport.com/2009/09/making\\_sacramen.html](http://www.californiaprogressreport.com/2009/09/making_sacramen.html)).

Does Meg Whitman have those attributes? No. Does front runner, semi-announced, Democrat Jerry Brown have these attributes. No. Is it important who runs the state? Yes. We're in a crisis in California – we all know that. But is Brown the one to fix it? I don't think so. I

won't be voting for Jerry Brown in the primary – and in the general election I won't vote for him either. I'm hoping to find a deserving Green if he's the Democratic nominee; if not I won't be casting a vote for governor.

Why am I not voting for Brown? The times that I have had personal interaction I have found him to be rude and boorish; not the kind of person I want representing me. But it's more than your average arrogant politician. Look at his past performance as governor. Prop 13 passed under his watch. And his description of what a governor should do early in his governorship was: "You don't have to do things. Maybe by avoiding doing things you accomplish quite a lot." I don't think we can afford a governor as observer in 2010.

In his re-election campaign, he called himself a "born-again tax cutter" and identified himself as Prop. 13's champion. (He now is rewriting his own history and maintains that he had to support 13 after its victory because of his oath to defend the state constitution.) In reality, Brown and the legislature bailed out cities and counties that lost revenues under the law -- and thus established the dysfunctional system of budgeting that plagues California to this day.

And even if you buy his Prop 13 rewrite, consider he was often an absentee governor. Brown, during one stretch in 1979, was out of California for 79 out of 100 days working on his 1980 presidential campaign. His chief of staff (Gray Davis, yes, that Gray Davis) said "Our long suit has always been ideas; our shortcomings have been in staffing and carrying out those ideas." This is not the governor that California needs. ###