



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release 9/26/12

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Lodi District Chamber Makes Candidate Endorsements for November Elections

The Lodi District Chamber and its Board of Directors are proud to make the organization's candidate endorsements for the November 2012 elections. For over 100 years the Chambers of Commerce across the nation are consistently among the top three organizations the American people trust to make an honest evaluation of political contests. Researchers state this is the case because the Chambers are an organization whose interests and mission is to work for community well-being consisting of efforts to help make a strong local economy, promoting their community and therefore is working to create prosperity for local businesses and their employees.

The Lodi District Chamber sees this election as extremely important in protecting, and working to preserve these values. Choices made on the ballots will affect every American for decades to come. Our nation is teetering on dangerous economic cliffs, our nation and state fiscal debt is of primary concern. Spending must be cut where possible, new jobs are needed throughout our region, California and the country. We urge all citizens to understand the differences between the candidates running for office, if they are an incumbent, find out their voting record. Ask what their platforms say about the fore mentioned issues and key economic factors of government debt, spending and job creation.

United States 9th Congressional District

There is a dramatic difference between the two candidates and it was an easy decision when looking to the voting record of our current representative Jerry McNerney. Mr. McNerney voted for Card Check legislation, in fact he is one of the authors of this bill. Card Check does away with the secret ballot for non-union workers considering unionization. This opens the door to coercion; the bill also puts new added costs on employers. This is anti-jobs and heavy-handed union practice at its worst. Jerry, voted against the Keystone Pipeline project, against offshore drilling, against the balanced budget amendment, voted against a debt limit, voted no on two major Free Trade issues and against the repeal of Obama Care. We see these votes as votes against jobs, against energy security, pro-union issue advancement at the cost of employers, all these votes add up to more job loss and lastly risky economic voting in regard to our mounting debt. While Jerry is often referred to as a "nice man" (we agree) but his voting is very, very bad in this Chamber's opinion.

Ricky Gill has in a short time proven to be more than a worthy opponent for McNerney. Ricky is a rising fiscal conservative who truly represents the values, interests and well-being of citizens in the 9th District. Ricky has garnered the respect of many across the nation which should create a great deal of hope for the people of San Joaquin County. We can have a representative that will be heard, listened to and respected in Washington. His youth is overshadowed by his intellect and wisdom on issues of matter and challenge in our world today. Where Jerry voted against strengthening our nation's energy independence Ricky would have voted for those bills, where Jerry voted to increase debt, and legislative pork, Ricky would have and will vote to reduce debt and decrease pork. A vote for Ricky is a vote for fiscal responsibility, and we need *that* more than ever before.

**The Lodi District Chamber heartily endorses Rick Gill
to represent us in the U.S. Congress 9th District.**

California State Senate 5th District

There is another clear choice for votes in the 5th Senate District also due to distinct differences between candidates. Cathleen Galgiani's office did not respond to our invitation(s) for almost a month, then a short email response saying, "Her schedule did not accommodate an interview." So much for the business' interests and people of Lodi we conclude. So without the benefit of meeting her, we looked at her 17th District Assembly voting record, which is perhaps the best indicator of where her priorities lie.

The first thing we noticed is Ms. Galgiani's records indicate she misses a fair number of votes, 13 in 2010, 9 in 2011. The 17th district is all of Merced County and follows I-5 north to Tracy a small part of Stockton. Heavy agriculture makes up this district which is probably why she missed votes on Union backed bills that could harm agriculture such as Overtime Wages for Ag workers. Or the May 2012 votes on tax issues that would harm business in general. She has voted for anti-business global-warming legislation, for drug felons to receive food stamps, establishing Harvey Milk day and other issues her party champions. She was slow with a position on the Peripheral Canal, just coming out for it this year. Her opponent has been fighting for Northern California water rights his entire political career.

Bill Berryhill has been a standout legislator here in the valley, championing the fight to preserve our all-important Northern California water. Bill has demonstrated he is rare in Sacramento because he works well across the aisle, which has been important on water and other issues. That is why he did not sign the no-tax pledge as it would take him away from the bargaining table. Make no mistake Bill is a fiscal conservative who says we've been too weak on crime. We agree crime it is a big issue and getting worse. His other main issue is Regulatory Reform;

Bill says the legislative process is what needs to be fixed. He is dedicated to work on the bill-developing process so that any new legislation would have to measure harmful impacts and surface many costly unintended consequences. The attitude of regulators has been a sore spot for businesses as well.

Bill says he will address this pervasive negative attitude in state agencies if elected. He also said unlike his opponent, Bill will not vote for any tax increase until there is a spending cap! We ask Bill if the recent legislation on state pension reform went far enough. His answer was no we only scratched the surface, the state employees have a “disconnect” with the economy because of state leaders and the legislature who spends too much. It is no wonder why Bill was voted Enterprise Zone Legislator of the Year. Bill said he expects the legislature and governor to come after the enterprise zone funding, taking away California’s last only real business development incentive.

It is not just very important Bill get into the California Senate, it is imperative!

**The Lodi District Chamber Endorses Bill Berryhill
for California 5th Senate District**

Lodi City Council

Our panel interviewed all three city council candidates. All three were asked what they saw as the biggest issue facing the business community. All three said Lodi needs a more friendly business attitude & environment. They cited a permitting process that is slow making the business owner mad as costs add up in too much money and time. The process is viewed as not helpful in starting a business but more of an obstacle to overcome. One candidate said, “The right people are needed in the right places.” All candidates mentioned the need for an economic development director help attract businesses and get them up and running.

This is the first year Doug Kuhne, owner of King’s Carpet Cleaning Company has run for City Council. He is no stranger to the Chamber having been a business member for many years. Plus the Chamber has addressed Doug as a commissioner of the Lodi Planning Commission of which Doug was voted the Chair in just his second year. Doug is a longtime resident of Lodi and he knows a great deal about the community, his dedication to the city is admirable. The Chamber panel said it was a pleasure to interview Mr. King, hearing his positive attitude as an overcomer of tough situations. Doug has risen in his profession gaining widespread recognition while building a successful business. He has been the President of his Lodi Kiwanis Club, a member of the Art in Public Places Committee and has served on a water board in another city. Our panel found Doug to be a strong candidate and we advise him to run again in two years when perhaps as many as 3 council seats may be available. Should he take this advice this panel believes he would become a very good city council representative after getting up to

speed. In two of our questions Doug came up short having only a little knowledge of the items. We encourage Doug to run again in two years.

Bob Johnson has won the Chamber's endorsement twice in past and he has this year as well. Bob is a friend to the business community in his voting. He is diligent on researching the issues getting input from all sides and is objective in his decision-making. He says, "Lodi has a combination of a spending problem and a revenue problem." He always asked himself if a city function can be privatized for savings. With taxes down due to the economy the city needs new revenue that must come from new sources. Bob was the only city council member voting no on the pension reform recently determined by the council. He said future employees the city hires should not hurt future budgets but perhaps the city did not go far enough with current employee benefit changes. While not a whole lot can be done because the state has the city's hands tied, Bob expects Lodi will have to address the issue again in years to come.

Bob thinks new development is good the city needs to grow and he pointed to his vote supporting the reduction in development impact fees to help speed that along. He'd like to see some of the electric utility fund, now standing somewhere around \$20 million, be used to stimulate job creation. Bob is also in support of reestablishing an Economic Development position in city hall. We are thankful for Bob's consistent voting of his principles, our State more of his attitude towards fiscal responsibilities, debt reduction and job creation.

The Lodi District Chamber Endorses Bob Johnson for City Council

Our last council interview was with **JoAnne Mounce**. JoAnne came in on good faith having not received our endorsement in previous election years. Her positive attitude and answers sat well with the panel. While her answers on a battery of questions asked did not mirror Mr. Johnsons, the panel saw them not in conflict with the Chamber on these issues. This her second time as Mayor in her city council service, her depth of understanding on issues facing the city for the most part equals Bob's and other long-term city council members.

JoAnne believes the city has neither a spending problem nor revenue problem. We asked her why, she answered, "Because the city has a balanced budget." The Chamber thinks the revenue needs enhancing but appreciates a balanced budget, and we also think employees would like a few less furlough days.

We liked her answer when asked about the \$20 million electric fund. The 2005 rate increase and establishment of the ECA plan called for a fund balance of \$12- \$14 million at this time, but it has been as high as \$28 million. She said, "It drives her crazy," knowing how much has been paid into the fund by citizen and business rate-payers. When asked what it should be used for she said, "Build a solar panel farm out by the new energy center, and create jobs."

Her opinions about growth in the future center on tourism. She sees tourism as our opportunity to capture taxes not from citizens but from a growing number of visitors who do not impact city services. We agree, but what needs to happen to accelerate tourism from the “city-side?” The explosion of tasting rooms downtown has been through private investment, not public. Ms. Mounce says she would support the reestablishment of an economic development position at the city. With the abundance of mixed-use and retail zoning called for in the new General Plan filling this space with new businesses can keep them busy for years.

She is firm on her principal on not privatizing public safety departments and she sees water as one of those services, dependable, clean safe drinking water as vital to safety. She says she will never vote for a rate increases because she believes everything must be done to reduce costs first and sometimes she does not see that happening. It is no wonder the California League of California Cities has re-elected her to the Board of Directors.

The Lodi District Chamber Endorses JoAnne Mounce for City Council

California 9th Assembly District

This Chamber contacted current Assembly person Richard Pan’s office by phone an email several times over one month before our interviews commenced. We never heard one-word from the gentleman’s office. We found out he did the same thing to the Elk Grove Chamber and Galt Chamber. Here evidently is a man that does not care what the business community might ask of him or thinks of him or how we vote. The rudeness of not ever responding even if it is a simple “No thank you,” speaks volumes of a confident arrogance toward business. He evidently does not share our goals of reducing state government spending, stopping the onslaught of over-regulation and focus on creating jobs.

So we took a look at Mr. Pan’s voting record, and our sentiments were confirmed. Voting records are THE BEST way to measure any incumbent. Every piece of tax legislation aimed at business created by unions Mr. Pan supported, and there were many. He is currently pushing mandatory child vaccinations to children 12 years of age for 49 deceases including many Sexually Transmitted Deceases. He championed legislation for Time and ½ Pay for domestic servants and mandatory teaching of gay history in schools this past year. He also is sticking it to California cities in SB 92 by revoking funding for cities if they use non-union labor on any public works project. He is also for a peripheral canal, need we say more? Mr. Pan is not a friend to business, farming in our region, cities or the California Tax payer.

Tony Amador, a long-time Elk Grove resident has resided in Lodi for the last 3 years. Tony is a retired U.S. Federal Marshall and small business owner with his wife. In this race like several others the candidates are dramatically different in how they vote, and the values they hold. Tony is the exact opposite of his opponent. He has a simple platform he will take to

Sacramento, Says Tony, “No new taxes and I’ll work to get over-regulation off the backs of business so business can create jobs.” He will do what he can to stop the bleeding; the ballooning debt that cripples our state. I will work with those on either side of the aisle to solve the problems that are killing our economy.” Because Tony is local we know him well, he is honest, and will not play politics, he will vote his values which reflect those of Lodi. Tony will be a voice and vote for conservative values, and pro jobs legislation.

**The Lodi District Chamber Endorses Tony Amador
for 9th District California State Assembly**

Our Chamber leaders decided to weigh-in on the Delta College Trustee races because of the total dissatisfaction in our community toward the Trustee’s leadership of the college. The Chamber cannot find any reason to support nor appreciate the decision-making of the current board. This Delta board has been “Act II” of a bad Play about broken promises toward the establishment of a Lodi Campus. Students from Lodi are the second largest geographically defined group represented on the campus at 10-12% of the student body. These students and those from the foothills now have to fight to get classes at the over-crowded Stockton campus.

Broken promises were made the first time in 2002 when Delta leaders recruited Lodi business people and community leaders to work for the passage of Measure L in the election of 2004. The promise of a passed bond was a campus for Lodi. Lodi leaders worked for the bond’s passage, the Chamber wrote editorials, made speeches all over town and out of town. Measure L passed in 2004 by the slimmest of margins. Since then, time after time the Delta Board made decisions to spend money in Stockton and Mountain House (where there is far less than 10% of the student population). There is no question a new bond would fail today and will in the foreseeable future unless changes are made where a Lodi campus is concerned. This board may have already doomed any future passage of a Delta bond, we think that depends on the outcome in November. Therefore, our recommendations and endorsements are predictable. Simply out with the old and in with the new.

David Tanner of Valley Springs, we recommend over incumbent Mr. Castellanos. Mr. Tanner is up to speed on campus stats; he is a fountain of information about student life on campus, facts and figures on Deltas finances, budgets, past and present and much about the history of mismanagement by the trustees on any number of issues. He is a business man, experienced on other boards such as St. Joseph’s Hospital. He not only knows where Delta miss-stepped he has studied other Community Colleges in California to see what they are doing right. We found David very knowledgeable, and understands beside Delta being a place of education Delta is also an \$80 million dollar business and should be managed accordingly.

Jass Sangha of Tracy, we recommend over Theresa Brown. Here again what an experienced successful business person can bring to the delta Board is knowledge of budgeting, focused decision-making, development of a business plan as well as the discipline to stick to the plan. These are the acquired skills of Ms. Sangha. We were impressed with her rapid fire answers to our questions and also with her character-drenched “rages to riches” story. She would add a great deal of spark to the board and a double dose of accountability. Having kids of her own at Delta she has first-hand witnessed some disconnects that she will change and therein will improve the student experience bringing faculty closer to the students and to the administration. We believe in her, Jass is a go-getter.

Claudia Moreno of Stockton, we recommend over Liz Blanchard also of Stockton, Claudia is a high-energy lady as well. Together with Jass they will pick-up the pace at Delta like we have not seen in years. Claudia is a veteran of education, a teacher’s union worker who comes from a business oriented family. While the union leader background gives us pause we think she will work for needed improvement and can make the right decisions, those best for the college and students without undue favoritism toward teachers. She says she will work for a Lodi Campus that what has happened to Lodi, the broken and re-broken promises of Measure L is not right and she will work with Lodi to find solutions for a Lodi campus.

Liz Blanchard a great community person, retired from teaching after 38 years is running against Moreno. Liz already has a big job as the Chairperson of the Board for the Port of Stockton, that is a huge responsibility and we are glad to see she is contributing to the regional economy through the Port. Plus, she has just been appointed to a second-term at the Port for another 5 years. We believe that being on the board of the Port commands a lot of diligence and responsibility. We also want the Delta Trustees to do the same with just as much effort. It would be hard to serve two demanding masters; neither should suffer by taking a back seat to the other at any time.

Mr. Zapata, another new comer did not return our requests for an interview, which is a pity as there was a good chance we would be recommending him over Ms. Stebbins the incumbent.

All these comments would not be complete if we did not mention we are fortunate to have Taj Khan serving as our Lodi area trustee on the Delta board. He has served Lodi well and done all he could with the hopeless board. We also have confidence in the new college President, Kathy Hart; we wish her well and a new board with which to work. We sincerely hope for not only Lodi’s sake but for the students of Delta we see a clean sweep of winners in November consisting of all new trustees.

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