

Political Grab Bag

By Steve Bagby, Sr., Political Action Committee Chair

HAPPY 137th ANNIVERSARY SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES! As a congregation of committed believers in Christ, which has been in existence for 137 years, we have so much for which to be thankful. We are thankful for all of the forward thinking congregants who founded the church and the notable Pastors who have kept the church moving forward for so many decades. We are thankful for our current preeminent Pastor, Dr. William S. Epps, who continues moving us forward with his stellar preaching, significant teaching and outstanding leadership skills. We are also thankful for the current members who give of their “time, talents and substance” to continue to support the work of the church so that it will remain a beacon of light to its members, the local community and beyond. Yes, we have so much for which to be thankful!!! **Happy 137th Anniversary Second Baptist!! Let us proudly celebrate our 137th Anniversary on this third Sunday in May. . . May 15, 2022.**

We will now direct your attention to other matters on which we need to focus. There will be a Statewide Direct Primary Election coming up on June 7, 2022, and since election materials will be sent out in May, we want to indentify the offices that are on the ballot so you can start formulating how you intend to exercise your right to vote.

STATEWIDE PRIMARY ELECTION – June 7, 2022—

Official **Sample** Ballots have been mailed for you to review who/what is going to be on the ballot ahead of the time that you actually vote. All registered voters will thereafter receive a Vote by Mail Ballot. Both the Official Sample Ballot and the Vote by Mail Ballot will be mailed in early May. There are many offices on the ballot. They are:

United States Senator (Federal) -- There are two U. S. Senate contests on the ballot: One for the remainder of the current term ending on January 3, 2023, and one for the regular six-year term ending on January 3, 2029. As for the term

ending on January 3, 2023, there are eight candidates running, including Democrat Alex Padilla, who was previously appointed by Governor Newsom to fill the position vacated by Kamala Harris upon her election as Vice-President of the United States. As for the full-term ending on January 3, 2029, there are 23 candidates running, which also includes Democrat Alex Padilla. You can vote in each of these contests.

United States Representative (Federal) -- There are 17 Congressional Districts for which a U.S. Representative needs to be elected. . . Congressional Districts 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 42, 43, 44 and 45. Each ballot received will identify the Congressional District in which you are located and the candidate running in that District. It is interesting to note that, per an article in the Los Angeles Sentinel dated May 12, 2022, there are 18 African American candidates that are running for 14 seats in the U. S. House of Representatives to represent the State of California in Congress. Eleven are registered as Democrats and seven are running as Republicans. Nine are women and nine are men. The article indicates that although African Americans are 5.8% of California residents, African American candidates are on ballots for 26.9% of the US House seats. This is good news. We want our voices to be heard! Be mindful of the candidates that are on your ballot for your specific area. It is further interesting to note, that there are three African American Democratic candidates running for the 37th Congressional District, currently occupied by Karen Bass (who is running for Mayor), one of which we know well. The candidates are Jan Perry, Sydney Kamlager and Daniel W. Lee.

Governor – There are 27 candidates running for Governor. The incumbent Governor, Democrat Gavin Newsom, withstood a recall attempt last year. It is interesting to note that Larry Elder, the candidate who was supported by the Republican Party in the recall effort, is not on the June 7th ballot.

Mayor of Los Angeles - There are 12 candidates running for Mayor. The most well-known candidates are Karen Bass (Congresswoman, 37th District), Mike Feuer (L.A. City Attorney), Rick Caruso (Businessman) and Kevin de Leon (L.A. Councilmember). Joe Buscaino (L.A. Councilmember), previously considered to be one of the top five candidates, dropped out of the race on Thursday, May 12th

and is supporting Rick Caruso. Per a *Los Angeles Sentinel* article dated May 5, 2002, Congressman Jim Clyburn, Democrat from South Carolina, who is the third highest ranking member of the U.S. House of Representatives, was in Los Angeles on May 3rd to support the candidacy of Karen Bass, whom he “observed in action” while in Congress together. Congressman Clyburn related the national significance of electing leaders like Karen Bass and how it positively impacts campaigns of African Americans across the nation. “I want you all to let people know what Karen Bass as Mayor will mean to them, their families and their communities. I think if you succeed in pulling this off, you will demonstrate to communities all over this country that they can’t outspend us” Clyburn declared, likely referring to the candidacy of Rick Caruso.

Interestingly, on May 10, 2022, an attorney for the Karen Bass campaign issued a cease and desist letter to five television stations requesting they stop airing what is asserted to be a “wildly misleading, defamatory attack ad released by the Los Angeles Police Protective League,” which is supporting Rick Caruso. The letter points to demonstrable falsehoods in the Police Protective League’s ad, including the claim that Congresswoman Bass, after receiving free tuition a decade ago from the University of Southern California (USC) for an online Master’s degree program at USC’s School of Social Work while serving in Congress, “repeatedly voted to give USC millions in taxpayer funds,” and further demands the organization stop funding the false advertisement in violation of defamation law. *L.A. Focus Newspaper, May 11, 2022.* The Bass campaign disputes the veracity of the statements in the ad and states that “Karen Bass never voted to direct taxpayer funds specifically to USC, and none of the bills cited in the ad refer to the University of Southern California or USC – unless you count the abbreviation of “United States Code.” *L.A. Focus Newspaper, May 11, 2022.* Per the online article on May 10, 2022, at *newsnetdaily.com*, the Bass campaign also notes “that the House Ethics Committee authorized Bass’ request to accept the tuition award.”

City Attorney of Los Angeles– The current City Attorney, Mike Feuer, is running for Mayor and there are seven candidates running to fill that office. That field is wide open.

Other Offices on the Ballot include: City Controller, State Controller, LAUSD Board of Education, State Senator, State Assembly, County Supervisor, Sheriff, County Assessor, Nine Superior Court Judicial Offices, Lieutenant Governor,

Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, State Board of Equalization, and Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Many candidates are running for each of the Offices mentioned, some are on everyone's ballot and some candidates are particular to the specific geographical area in which you live, so careful attention must be paid by each of us to the ballots we receive. Toward the end of the Official Sample Ballot, you will find a section entitled, "Party Endorsements for Voter-Nominated Offices." You can review that section to see which candidates the Democratic Party and/or the Republic Party endorses for various offices, if you believe that would assist you in making your determination regarding candidates.

Regarding the nine **Superior Court Judicial Offices** on the ballot, the Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA), which is the main professional association for L.A.'s legal community, has rated the Judges. During every election, LACBA undertakes a lengthy evaluation process for each judicial candidate, which requires the candidates to fill out questionnaires, do in-person interviews with an evaluation committee and submit a list of 75 lawyers or judges who can act as personal references. The committee follows up with each one and then gives candidates one of four ratings: Exceptionally Well Qualified, Well Qualified, Qualified, or Not Qualified. Perhaps the ratings given to the respective Judges will assist you in making your decisions regarding the Judges. Per the *lacba.org website*, here are the ratings for the various Offices:

Superior Court Office No. 3-- Frank Amador - Not Qualified ; Sherilyn Peace Garnett - Exceptionally Well Qualified; Tim Reuben - Well Qualified. Note: *The U.S. Senate recently confirmed Judge Garnett to a federal judgeship. She remains on the ballot, but if she wins the election, the Governor will appoint her replacement.*)

Superior Court Office No. 60 --Abby Baron - Well Qualified; Sharon Ransom - Well Qualified; Anna Slotky Reitano - Qualified; Mark Rosenfeld - Not Qualified; Troy Slaten - Qualified

Superior Court Office No. 67-- Fernanda Maria Barreto - Well Qualified; Ryan Dibble - Well Qualified; Elizabeth Lashley-Haynes - Qualified

Superior Court Office No. 70 --Renee Yolande Chang - Well Qualified; Randy Fudge - Not Qualified; Holly L. Hancock – Qualified; Eric Alfonso Torices - Not Qualified; Matthew Vodnoy- Qualified

Superior Court Office No. 90 -- Leslie Gutierrez – Qualified; Naser (Nas) Khoury - Not Qualified; Melissa Lyons - Well Qualified; Kevin Thomas McGurk - Well Qualified

Superior Court Office No. 116 -- David B. Gelfound - Exceptionally Well Qualified; Lloyd E. Handler - Qualified

Superior Court Office No. 118 -- Melissa Hammond - Well Qualified; Georgia Huerta - Well Qualified; Keith Koyano - Well Qualified; Klint McKay - Well Qualified; Carolyn "Jiyoung" Park - Not Qualified; Shan Thever - Not Qualified

Superior Court Office No. 151 -- Thomas D. Allison – Qualified; Karen A. Brako – Qualified; Patrick Hare - Well Qualified; Richard Quiñones - Qualified

Superior Court Office No. 156 -- Carol Elswick – Qualified; Albert Robles - Not Qualified

Also on the June 7th ballot is **Measure BB** – Measure BB is a Charter Amendment relating to the competitive bid process in the City, which asks if the City Charter should be amended to allow the City on a competitive bid contract, to award a bid preference to bidders located in the City of Los Angeles. Per information set forth on the online website *votersedge.org*, an impartial analysis by Sharon M. Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst, indicates that the current City Charter Section on this issue, City Charter Section 371, “provides that competitively bid City contracts shall be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. Section 371(a) allows the City to provide a bid preference to a bidder located in California or Los Angeles County. A bid preference would provide an advantage at contracting with the City. Currently, the Charter does not allow the City to award an additional bid preference to a firm that is located in the City of Los Angeles. The Measure on the ballot [BB] would amend the Charter to allow the City to award a bid preference to a firm located in the City of Los Angeles. The City Council and Mayor would be authorized to enact ordinances regarding the extent and nature of the bid preference and policies for its implementation. The measure would

become effective if approved by a majority of voters.” Thus, a “yes” vote means you want to allow the City to give a bid preference to businesses located in the City of Los Angeles, and a “no” vote means that the City Charter will stay as it is with bid preferences allowed to those located in California or L.A. County.

One thing is clear, we must make sure that we exercise our right to vote in this election on the many Offices that are the ballot, as well as the Charter Amendment, so our voices will be heard and so that we can help impact the policy changes that we want to see take place.

Note: We have sought input from a few people in the legal community regarding their input on the City Attorney race and the Judicial Offices. If we receive any relevant feedback within a timely manner, we will certainly inform you of such.

Your Vote by Mail Ballot will include a list of Ballot Drop Boxes. You can return your ballot by either mailing it via the U.S. Postal Service (making sure it is postmarked on or before Election Day -- no postage is necessary), by using a Drop Box as early as 29 days before Election Day, or by dropping it off at any participating Vote Center as early as 10 days before Election Day and including Election Day, June 7th. Of course, you can cast your ballot in-person at any participating Vote Center. To obtain information about the location of your nearest Vote Center(s), access the website *LAVOTE.GOV* prior to the election. *LAVOTE.GOV* will also give you a full list of the hours of all participating Ballot Drop Boxes and Vote Centers. You may also contact the County of Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/ County Clerk’s Office for voter information at 800-815-2666, Option 2. If you need any assistance with your ballot, contact the Church Office at 213/748-0318, leave your name and number with the Administrative Assistant and a member of the Political Action Committee or other designated person will contact you.

Thank you for reading!

(May 2022)

