

Political Grab Bag

By Steve Bagby, Sr., Political Action Committee Chair

We know that the General Election coming up on November 8, 2022, is very important. You are probably saying that we make the same statement about all elections. Well, that's true . . . as ALL elections are important and we must make sure that we do everything in our power to cast our votes so that our voices will be heard! While September 20th was National Voter Registration Day, the last day to register to vote for the November 8, 2022 General Election in California is October 24, 2022. Make sure you reach out to all the young people you know who will be 18 by November 8th. In fact, for future reference, 16 and 17 year olds can pre-register to vote and if they do so, they will automatically be eligible to vote when they turn 18. Spread the word to those you know who are in high school so that they take the appropriate steps to be eligible to vote when they turn 18. To register to vote, a voter registration application must be completed on paper or online at *RegisterToVote.ca.gov*.

All California active registered voters will receive a vote-by-mail ballot for the November 8th General Election. **The County Elections office will begin mailing ballots no later than October 10, 2022.**

Per the California Secretary of State website (*sos.ca.gov/elections/*), the General Election ballot will include:

- Seven Ballot Propositions
- Statewide candidates for U.S. Senate, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Controller, Treasurer, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, Member of State Board of Equalization, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
- U.S. Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Assembly Member
- Retention Election for California Supreme Court Justices
- Local races for Mayor, City Attorney, Controller, City Council (Districts 5, 11, 13 and 15), other offices/positions and local measures.

The vote by mail ballots should be returned so that they will be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by November 15, 2022, or they can be delivered

to a secure ballot drop box or to a Vote Center or to the County Elections office in Norwalk by 8:00 p.m. on November 8, 2022. Voting can also be done in-person at Vote Centers or the County Elections Office in Norwalk. Early in-person voting begins on October 10th at the County Elections Office in Norwalk (29 days prior to November 8th) and on October 29th at Vote Centers (10 days prior to November 8th). The Norwalk Headquarters is located at 12400 Imperial Highway, Room 3201, Norwalk, CA 90650.

Note: Eligible Los Angeles County residents who miss the election registration deadline can still vote at any Vote Center in L.A. County. Per the L.A. County Registrar -Recorder's Office website (lavote.gov), Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) allows a prospective voter to conditionally register and cast a ballot. The eligible voter can go to any Vote Center in the County during the voting period where they will complete a CVR application, be issued a CVR ballot to take to the Ballot Marking Device, return their printed paper ballot to an Election Worker and once verified, their ballot will be counted and their registration will become active. The voter may then vote in any future election. Thus, **there is no reason for anyone to miss voting in the upcoming election.**

Speak with/to as many people as you can between now and Election Day and engage them on the topic of voting. We have to encourage the young, those who are middle-aged and our seniors to vote. In fact, if you know of any seniors or others who need assistance with voting by mail or voting in person if that is their preference, take it upon yourself to help them out. We all have to assist in the effort to "get the vote out" so that the candidates of our choice get elected and our position on the respective ballot measures will be counted. If there are those who need assistance and you are unable to assist, they may call the Church Office at 213/748-0318 and leave their name and number. The information will be forwarded to the Political Action Committee who will assist them. Let us all do our part!! Remember these midterm elections are very important, not only on a local level, but on a national level as well, so that the Democrats can maintain control of the U.S. House of Representatives and retain the 50 seats held by them in the U.S. Senate.

MAYOR –

Between **Karen Bass** and **Rick Caruso**, I think most of us feel that we know which candidate we want to represent us for **Mayor** of the City of Los Angeles.

Democrat **Karen Bass** has been our representative in several capacities for numerous years and has worked for us, not only on a national level, but in local politics as well for many years. She is not a newcomer to us and we know her track-record. In seeing Rick Caruso's ads, he mentions that he is a proud Democrat. Well, in looking back over his career, per the Wikipedia website (*en.wikipedia.org*), Caruso just became a Democrat this year, 2022. Prior to 2022, he has been a Republican in 2011, and from 2016 to 2019; and an Independent from 2011-2016, and from 2019 to 2022. Let's just say, it appears his political leanings seem to vary based on what he is trying to accomplish and what he may think is more advantageous to him at that moment. We know that **Karen Bass** has been steadfast in adhering to her Democratic values and, thus, some may feel more assured about the various positions she would take . . . on a consistent basis . . . as opposed to positions that would be taken by the other candidate based on what he may think is expedient at the time.

CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT JUSTICES -- GOVERNOR

Per information set forth on the Secretary of State's website (*vig.cdn.sos.ca.gov/2022/general/*), pursuant to the California Constitution, Justices of the Supreme Court (and Courts of Appeal) are subject to confirmation by the voters. The public votes "yes" or "no" on whether to retain each justice. These judicial offices are nonpartisan. When a state Supreme Court or Court of Appeal Justice is near the end of a term in office, voters are asked to decide if the Justice will be retained (continue to serve) for an additional term. This is called a retention election. In retention elections, Justices do not run against opposing candidates. If a Justice receives more "yes" votes, the Justice may remain in his or her position. If a Justice receives more "no" votes, the Justice will complete the current term and then a new Justice will be appointed by the Governor. State Supreme Court Justices hold statewide office so all California voters participate in Supreme Court retention elections. Courts of Appeal justices serve in one of six districts in California. Only registered voters within an appellate district are asked to determine if the Justices of that district will be retained.

Typically, the California Supreme Court is more liberal in its thinking than Supreme Courts in other states. In speaking with a variety of attorneys in the City, there does not appear to be any negative controversy associated with any of the current Justices and, thus, there seems to be no obvious reason why they should not

be retained. Pictures of the California Supreme Court Justices who are up for consideration are set forth below.

California Supreme Court (Jenkins' seat)



Martin J. Jenkins (*Incumbent*)
Nonpartisan

California Supreme Court (Groban's seat)



Joshua Groban (*Incumbent*)
Nonpartisan

California Supreme Court (Goodwin Liu's seat)



Goodwin Liu (*Incumbent*)
Nonpartisan

California Supreme Court (Guerrero's seat)



Patricia Guerrero (*Incumbent*)

The pictures show the diversity of the Court and also help to reiterate why it is important to elect a Governor who is forward thinking so that when opportunities exist to appoint Judges or Justices, the Governor will consider people with a diverse background who have an open-minded thought process. As stated in the July 2022 Political Grab Bag, we must “vote for Governors who will select judges who have the intellectual and judicial temperament to be inclusive and forward thinking in their thought process as opposed to closed minded and backward thinking.” As further stated in the July 2022 Political Grab Bag, “[of] **Governor Newsom’s** 78 appointments during his first two years in office (2019-2021), half were women and more than half identified themselves as Asian, Black or African-American, Hispanic, or Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, including the appointment of Justice Martin Jenkins in 2020 to the California Supreme Court, the court's first openly gay justice and third African American man ever to serve on the state’s highest court. (*newsroom.courts.ca.gov.*) The Governor’s recent June appointments show the same level of diversity, as out of the 13 appointments he made, three were Hispanic women, two were Hispanic males, two were Asian women, four were white males, one was an African American woman and one was an African American male. We can only imagine who may have been appointed if a Republican Governor had been in place during this time frame.

Democratic **Governor Gavin Newsom** is being challenged by Republican **Brian Dahle**, who has been a member of the California State Senate since June 12, 2019. Prior to that, from 2012 to 2019, he was a member of the California State Assembly. (*Ballotpedia.com*) **Gavin Newsom**, on the other hand, has been in governmental positions since 1996, starting on the Parking and Traffic Commission, to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, to Mayor of San Francisco, to Lieutenant Governor, to now Governor. We think his breath of experience speaks for itself! His experience, coupled with the manner in which he has governed during his current term as Governor, make him an excellent candidate for re-election.

Remember, **YOUR VOTE MATTERS**, so let us all do our part in making sure our voices are heard and those of others around us, so that we can help to keep our Country going forward as opposed to backwards, as we can see where some who are currently in office and their supporters want to take us and we definitely need to make every effort we can to “stem that tide.”

Thank you for reading!

(October 2022)

