



Standing Room Only -- CCR Endorsing Convention a Resounding Success

(Aptos, California) The **California Congress of Republicans** (“CCR”) hosted its **Endorsing Convention** in Aptos, California on Saturday, April 7, 2018. **Peter Verbica**, President, beams “the Endorsing Convention was a resounding success. Turn-out was *tremendous* with a full parking lot and standing room only in liberal Santa Cruz County. It’s clear that Californians want a choice: hope for better schools, responsible policies towards the environment, better water storage, safer streets, and better fire protection. We had enthusiastic support from **Jim Brulte**, California Republican Party Chair, **Wade Leishman** and the Santa Cruz Republicans, **Brandon Lange**, **John Weatherford** and the UCSC College Republicans, **Jim Russell**, **Megan Range** and the Northern California Lincoln Club, **Timur Engin** and the South Peninsula Area Republican Coalition (SPARC), CCR chapters and their representatives from throughout the State. The event featured a diverse and strong showing of state and local Republican candidates who distinguished themselves as both compassionate and competent.”

Compassionate and Competent Statewide Candidates Endorsed



CCR Endorsed Candidates include **Travis Allen** for Governor, **Lydia Ortega, Ph.D.** for Lt. Governor, **Mark Meuser** for Secretary of State, **Jack Guerrero** for Treasurer, **Eric Early** for Attorney General, **Mark Burns** (State Board of Equalization) and **Paul Taylor** for US Senate. Travis Allen has served three terms in the California State Assembly. “Just as important as his professional accomplishments, Mr. Allen has helped the homeless as a volunteer and supporter of the Orange County Rescue Mission.

He has a heart,” explains Verbica. Other endorsed candidates, such as Ortega and Guerrero grew up in the tougher parts of Los Angeles and have triumphed through determination and tenacity. “Mr. Guerrero is the son of Mexican-American farmworkers and factory workers. He gets it. He went on to graduate from Stanford and Harvard universities and has served at high levels in the private sector, as well as a councilmember and mayor where he made a difference for a largely Hispanic community in his hometown. Ms. Ortega served as Chair of the Economics Department of San José State University. She’s running because she believes that all students, whether conservative or liberal, should be allowed to participate in a vigorous dialogue about what’s best for the future,” says Verbica.



CCR Volunteers, Officers, and Delegates from throughout the State

CCR officers convened from throughout the State, including **Carl Burton** (President, Republicans of River City, the founding chapter of CCR), **Timur Engin** (President, South Peninsula Area Republican Coalition – SPARC), **Barbara Hazlett** (President, Republican Club of Ocean Hills), **Joe Cetinski**, (Delegate, Hemet San Jacinto Chapter of the California Congress of Republicans), **Carla Evans** (President, Republican Club at the Villages), **Don Donnelly** (Region 12 VP, Legal Affairs, Coachella Valley Congress of Republicans), **Mark Hershey** (CCR Vice President; Delegate, Santa Clarita Valley Congress of Republicans), and many others. **Pam Corradi** (former CCR President and Secretary of Membership), **Dee Buhler** (Delegate and SPARC Board Member), and **Jo Ann Barr** (SPARC) helped organize and process attendees. **Leslie Mayr** (VP Membership, SPARC) and **Rodney Neils Mayr** (Treasurer, SPARC) printed the nametags emblazoned with a colorful Republican elephant logo.



Keynote Speaker – Safwan Shah, Ph.D.

Safwan Shah, Ph.D., a politically neutral serial entrepreneur and educator, discussed how many Americans were suffering from a “fin tax” due to predatory lending practices. He described how employers can provide employees access to their accrued earnings in times of financial need, and how capitalism can help rather than harm. In his informal lecture, Dr. Shah gave statistics which explain the populist insurgence which reaped unexpected political upsets. His engaging talk garnered a robust applause from the attendees.

Additional thanks to all of the candidates in attendance, including, but not limited to, **John Cox** (for Governor) **Judge Steven Bailey** (for AG), **David Hernandez** (for Lt. Governor), **David Fennell** (for Lt. Governor), **Greg Conlon** (SPARC, for Treasurer), **Peter Kuo** (formerly for Insurance Commissioner), **Christine Russell** (for CD 18), **Frank DeMartini** (for CD 43), **Brandon Saario** (for SD 18), **Christina Laskowski** (for AD 22), **Alex Glew** (AD 24), **Vicki Nohrden** (AD 29), **Neil Kitchens** (AD 30), **Ricardo Benitez** (AD 39), **Roxanne Beckford Hoge** (AD 46), and **Steve Brown** (for Mayor of San Jose; CCR Regional VP; SPARC).

Special thanks to: **Roger Riffenburgh** (SPARC; Bay Area GOP Newsletter) and **Luis Buhler** (Founder, Bay Area GOP Newsletter; SPARC) for featuring the Event; **Charles Freedman** of the Charles Freedman Radio Show (ZBS Radio Network) for his interviews with CCR; and **RJ Kelly** (Treasurer, CCR; SCVCR).

(For additional information on the **California Congress of Republicans**, please go to www.ccr-gop.com).



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