

Valley VOTE Monthly Report
for June 18, 2012
Prepared by Denny Schneider

Valley VOTE Board members, community leaders, and concerned citizens convened at Galpin Ford to hear featured speaker, Ron Galperin discuss "Why I am running for LA City Controller"
Also several informative Valley VOTE committee reports are summarized below.



Ron Galperin, Candidate for LA Controller

Our special guest, Ron Galperin, spoke to us about his love for Los Angeles and why he is running for the Office of Controller. Ron told us that he is running because he's frustrated by the lack of quality services and cited the lack of creativity and business sense of our City Government. He summarized his reasons into four categories: missed opportunities, misplaced priorities, misappropriations, and misspending.

Ron is an attorney who has worked in numerous volunteer capacities throughout the City and County of Los Angeles. Ron also wrote hundreds of articles as a business reporter for the LA Business Journal and Times. He is currently the Chair of the Commission on Revenue Efficiency, and has worked within the Neighborhood Council system as a regional budget representative. He also is a member of the LA Area Chamber of Commerce Homelessness Task Force and the LA County Quality and Productivity Commission.

To make a point, Ron focused on our poorly maintained roads. He told us that they present a wrong image of LA. He knows the economy is soft and stated that the disrepair discourages tourism while also negatively impacting property values. Ron went on to say that at the current rate of repair it would take decades to refurbish our streets. The City currently repaves only about 175 miles of the 6500 miles of City roads annually. Lack of funding, Ron reiterated, is cited as the reason for the paucity of refurbishment. Then he told us that LA owns two asphalt plants and has an interest in another. When he stated that the plants are operating at only half capacity and that LA is purchasing asphalt from other companies many of us were shocked!

Ron promised to look closely into how the city collects outstanding revenue. He complained that although his Commission on Revenue Efficiency has made numerous recommendations to collect hundreds of millions in money owed to the City, few had been implemented. He displayed a list of 65 recommendations which he color coded to show the few which had been implemented. Ron told us that making payments to the City must be

easier and gave an example in which it took him 2 1/2 hours just to get a new dog license.

As head of the Productivity Commission, Ron mentioned one City construction project that was being hailed as a success whereas it was 10x over budget when completed!

Ron told us that as Controller he would use the position as a bully pulpit. Ron wants to make LA more local business friendly and will push for a strong "Buy LA" Program. He noted that last year the City procured \$60M worth of cars and that none of the dealerships in LA were used. LA, therefore, failed to receive the sales taxes.

Another illustration Ron gave was the need to reduce the over sixty different types of Police Commission permits businesses may need.

Ron called for fundamental changes in budgeting and noted that the new parking tax increases were not producing the budget revenue levels anticipated.

Ron did not rule out new taxes, but did call for a new City Inspector General position to review for revenue collections. He told us that the Office of Finance needs reorganization for effectiveness.

Another discussion topic by Ron was the split roll for Property taxes between residential and commercial properties. Ron noted that when Proposition 13 was enacted homeowners paid 39% of the burden whereas it is now 58%.

Ron told us to be involved and gave us his candidate website: www.ronforla.com

Valley VOTE Committee Reports

Vic Viereck- Los Angeles Housing Department Policies

Appointment of Mercedes Marquez as General Manager of the Housing Department, along with her reappointment (including as a Deputy Mayor) after a she worked for a while in the Obama administration, exemplifies the city's attitude toward apartment owners. She had a reputation for being biased against apartment owners and had hired staff who also favored tenants.

Penalizing apartment owners up to 200% for paying fees just one day late, disallowance of at least 40% (an immediate loss) of improvement costs, and confiscation of their property through R.E.A.P. (Rent Escrow Account Program) are examples of the city's overbearing means of mismanaging rental housing.

Bart Reed – Transit Coalition on Valley Centric Transportation Issues

The 405 freeway is now the busiest in the US. A train along the 405 would allow people to get from Ventura Boulevard to into Westwood in only 6 minutes!

In 14 days Orange line going to extend to Chatsworth. Some areas along the Orange Line are landscaped with facades. Major trash heaps need clean up between the facade and Orange line. Bart told of the need for new stops at Saticoy and White Oak.

A suggestion under consideration is a LAX Flyaway to go to Woodyly so that people could connect to the Bus line.

The community near Roscoe/Canoga along the Orange Line needs relief with an access walkway because they have become separated from the transit in a way that requires a major hike of a couple miles to go around

to the bus. Bart also suggested an extension of the Orange line 3 more miles to Bob Hope airport. A motion was passed by Valley VOTE to support the Transit Coalition recommendations for improvements to the MTA bus and train lines. A press release is forthcoming.

Denny Schneider - Aviation Topics in the Region

The LAWA Program Level Draft Environmental Impact Review for LAX slipped again with a new July release date given. The most controversial portion of all plans considered is the LAWA goal to move a runway north which will be VERY expensive, impact local major highway traffic flow for an extended period, and destroy the local business base paying taxes to LA. LAWA continues to refuse to monitor the large tunnel that is located under the runways for an unknown water source which greatly complicates the runway movements. Safety was raised as the initial reason for runway movement, but a Northside Runway Safety Study conducted by the top US academic professors in conjunction with NASA simulations showed safety to be a non-issue. A new Tom Bradley upgrade cost estimate is up and the completion date has slipped to 2013.

Regionalization continues in the wrong direction. LAX increased its percentage of flights again, while ONT airport continues to lose flights. The preliminary CAO report that was due earlier this month addressing the \$50 million offer from the City of Ontario to the LA General Fund to cancel the management MOU has not been released. Almost 120 government agencies in Southern California have endorsed the ONT change of control.

The next monthly meeting of Valley VOTE will be on Monday, July 16, 2012 at Galpin Ford featuring LA Mayoral Candidate Wendy Greuel.

Valley VOTE Mission Statement

Valley VOTE, a diverse coalition of San Fernando Valley Residents, business people, educators, community activists and organizations, is committed to exploring and fostering the implementation of programs that empower the people of the San Fernando Valley and the city of Los Angeles, to improve local governance, education and public participation on policy matters. Please forward this Email to interested individuals and organizations. If you would like to be removed from our distribution list please send an email to President, Joe Vitti at javittisr@cs.com.