

# Republicans of River City

Chartered by the California

Congress of Republicans

## TOM ROSS TO SPEAK



Tom Ross

By Fred Hildebrand

Tom Ross, a partner at Meridian Pacific, Inc. will address River City at our next General Meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup>. As usual, we will convene at Channel 6, KVIE, 2595 Capitol Oaks Drive, Sacramento. A Social Hour will commence at 6:00 P.M. and the General Meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M.

Tom has been a familiar face to many of us over a considerable time span. Very energetic and always fully engaged, he has operated in many Republican areas. Currently, he is a leading supporter of the Governor. He will speak to that effort and he will take questions!!

*Tom Ross – Partner, Meridian Pacific*

With nearly fifteen years of combined legislative, political and public relations experience, Tom has transformed his status as a skilled Republican operative into a successful business owner. He specializes in coalition building, campaign and issue management, creative development and

strategic planning.

Prior to becoming a partner at Meridian Pacific, Tom ran his own successful Political Consulting firm that helped steer a \$100 million voting modernization bond to victory as well as defeating an anti-business ballot measure in San Francisco. Simultaneously, he successfully managed several local and regional campaigns.

While at Meridian Pacific, he's been responsible for major statewide coalition building efforts for companies such as AT&T and PG&E and for Proposition 64 – the Stop Shakedown Lawsuits Initiative as well as the No New Taxes Coalition for the Small Business Action Committee and the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association – No on 63, 67 and 72.

Never straying far from his 'on-the-ground' training, Tom coordinates the California Republican Party's Bench Building Program for local government leaders and manages 6 to 7 local races for candidates throughout California every election cycle.

Using his creative talents, Tom has written, designed and mailed hundreds of brochures over the past 10 years, most recently he completed a 2.3 million piece Vote-By-Mail program for the California Republican Party featuring Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Tom has conducted campaign management training seminars for the California Elected Women's Association for Education and Research, Asian Pacific American Leadership Project, the Marian Bergeson Excellence in Public Service Program as well as for the California Republican Party and the Republican National Committee.

He was raised in Incline Village Nevada and is a graduate of Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. He and his wife Shannon live in Sacramento. They have one daughter and are expecting their second daughter in March of 2005.

## AN OPEN LETTER TO REPUBLICANS IN THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE by Robert Evans

During the battle of the bulge, when German forces had completely surrounded Bastogne, and General Anthony McAuliffe received a German demand to surrender, did he wring his hands and say "can't we all just get along?" He did not - he gave the one-syllable reply: "NUTS!"

When Ronald Reagan visited Berlin and stood before the Berlin wall, did he wring his hands and plead with Mr. Gorbachev, "Please, let's make nice with each other?" He did not – he said "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall" and the wall (and the iron curtain) tumbled down like the walls of Jericho!

Now it is time for the Republican legislators to stand up and be counted. Will the Republicans in the California legislature stand around wringing their hands and pleading with the Democrat coalition of left wing public employees unions to "get along" or will they stand beside Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and demand these big money unions back off their foul lies about the Governor's program?

In my opinion all Republican legislators MUST start speaking out, everywhere and all the time, in support of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's drive to rebuild California, supporting the initiative on redistricting and putting their money and their careers on the line, just like General McAuliffe and President Reagan did.



Honorable Roger Niello

### **Cal RX Plan Offers Cheaper Prescription Drugs**

By Assemblyman Roger Niello

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit with a group of seniors in my district who had some very real concerns about prescription drug costs. As we all know, the cost of prescription drugs has been steadily increasing and for those on fixed incomes or without health insurance, the costs can be unbearable. To date, legislative solutions have involved prices controls, onerous new regulations on pharmacies, or the idea of just importing drugs from Canada. However, I recently agreed to co-author new legislation (SB19) that offers a new and wiser solution to the drug affordability problem.

The recent increases in prescription drug costs have brought several proposals to the legislature in recent years. Often times, the solution presented was to simply place additional mandates or price controls upon the pharmaceutical companies that provided these new drug therapies. While well intentioned, eventually these mandates and price controls would have discouraged and compromised the innovation that is

the hallmark of our American drug industry. In fact, a study published by the AEI-Brookings Joint Center for Regulatory Studies, found that, if price controls had been in effect in the United States between 1981 and 2002, there would be between 330 and 365 fewer new medicines on the market today. Because the market for drugs in the United States is relatively free, pharmaceutical firms are able to generate the funds needed to invest in research for new medicines. It can currently cost upwards of \$800 million to bring a new drug to market -- funds that simply would not exist if the United States or California began price controls.

Another battle cry that has been heard more recently in the legislature is that we ought to allow for the importation of drugs from Canada, where the government-run health care system mandates price controls, into California. This supposed solution has been tossed around a lot in recent years, and it is one of the solutions that I heard when I recently spoke with the group of seniors.

So why don't we just throw open the borders to these drugs and allow people to bring them in at these cheaper prices? A closer examination of this proposal quickly rules it out. It is simply not feasible or sustainable because the drug companies would soon end the practice of selling drugs to Canada when the markets here evaporated. Already, U.S. drug companies are halting sales to Canadian pharmacies that are selling medicines over the Internet to Americans.

But you must also consider the impact that this could have on California if the state and federal government gave the green light to Canadian drug imports. First, safety would be compromised because many of the drugs wouldn't be

coming directly from Canada at all but Canada would instead become an intermediary for drugs from a variety of dubious sources. And second, the California economy would suffer because there would inevitably be a cutback by the pharmaceutical industry in biotechnology research and development, where California has become the epicenter of the world in this industry over the last few years.

So, what is the solution to the high cost of prescription drugs, you ask. One solution might just be the new Cal Rx plan that Governor Schwarzenegger recently proposed. Authored in the legislature by Senator Deborah Ortiz and Senator Chuck Poochigian, the Cal Rx plan would offer "one-stop shopping" to link consumers to existing manufacturer programs and Cal Rx discounted drugs. The Governor secured a commitment from the Pharmaceutical Researchers and Manufacturers Association to provide \$10 million over the next two fiscal years to create and publicize a Web-based clearinghouse to help Californians enroll in manufacturers' free and discount drug programs.

Through this program, discounted prescription drugs would be available to California residents with family incomes below 300 percent of the federal poverty level (\$27,936 for an individual and \$56,568 for a family of four). Through a simple enrollment process, participants will be able to enroll in Cal Rx through a local pharmacy, physician office, the Internet or a toll-free phone number. Cal Rx will offer consumers an average savings of at least 40 percent off retail prices and will significantly expand access to existing free drug programs.

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Cal RX Plan

But feel free to tell me what you think. I am happy to listen to your input on this or other issues. Please contact our Capitol office at 319-2005, or our District office at 349-1995. I'm also available by e-mail at: Assemblymember.Niello@assembly.ca.gov.

Assemblyman Roger Niello represents the 5th Assembly District, including the cities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, and Sacramento, and the communities of Arden Arcade, Carmichael, Fair Oaks, Foothill Farms, Granite Bay, Natomas, North Highlands, and Orangevale.



**DAVE COX SENATE REPORT**

April 2005

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Health Care and Health Care Costs  
One of the biggest issues currently being debated at the capitol is health care. The Senate Committee on Banking, Finance and Insurance considered SB 840 (Kuehl), the

California Health Insurance Reliability Act, which would establish a government-run health care system. While the goal of providing health insurance for all Californians is laudable, establishing a single-payer statewide bureaucracy is simply the wrong approach. I voted against SB 840 because I believe that the responsibility for health care lies with the individual and the family, not employers or the government. If health care was a personal responsibility, we would see a more efficient use of health care. SB 840 would essentially eliminate California residents flexibility and choice of different types of health care coverage. SB 840 does nothing to address the underlying costs impacting health care premiums. Despite claims by supporters, there is no evidence from experience that a government run health system is superior to private competition. In fact, the evidence is that consumers have less access to care under a single-payer system. Simply put, all existing single-payer systems explicitly ration care. I support providing health care savings accounts, which will provide families with the care they want and need with tax-free dollars that they set aside specifically for that purpose. Some of the significant increase in health care costs is caused by technological advances in medicine. One of the biggest cost drivers in the provision of health care in America, however, is the cost of prescription drugs. In response to this latter problem, many services are available to senior citizens and people who have problems paying for their medications. Recently, dozens of health care organizations banded together to launch a new website and toll free number to coordinate all of these discount programs that provide more than 2,300 medications through more than 350

programs. It is called Rx Help for Californians. More than 6 million Californians may be eligible for some help under this program. People simply have to answer a few questions, and the program determines which discount program matches the person's individual situation. The website can be found at [www.RxHelpforCA.org](http://www.RxHelpforCA.org), and the toll free number is 1-877-777-7815.

**Prescription Drugs Purchased By The Government**

The State of California purchases about \$4.2 billion in prescription and non-prescription drugs every year. It would not surprise many people to know that the government often pays more than is necessary for these drugs. The Legislative Analyst's office recently completed a study of how we can purchase these products more efficiently and perhaps save tens of millions of dollars every year. For a copy of this report from the Legislative Analyst you can go to:

[http://www.lao.ca.gov/2005/prscrptn\\_drugs/prscrptn\\_drugs\\_021005.htm](http://www.lao.ca.gov/2005/prscrptn_drugs/prscrptn_drugs_021005.htm)

**Nursing Home Information**

Many Californians are faced with the difficult task of finding adequate nursing home care for themselves or a family member. We have promoted in previous newsletters the availability of a valuable resource available to everyone from the California Healthcare Foundation. We wanted to mention it again for our new subscribers. The Foundation has unveiled an expanded and improved edition of its California Nursing Home Search Website. This website contains information about skilled nursing facilities, home health care agencies, hospices, and other long-term care providers in California. It provides objective

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## Cox Report

quality evaluations on all of these services including quality of care ratings, locations, types of services provided, nursing staff levels, information on complaints or citations against the provider, and costs and types of insurance payments accepted. This information can be very helpful in making these difficult decisions. The California Nursing Home Search Website can be found at: [www.CalNHS.org](http://www.CalNHS.org)

The Legislature On The Internet  
Our offices work hard to help constituents with their legislative questions and concerns about state government. Since the advent of the Internet, the Legislature and the rest of state government has been quick to make available volumes of information on legislation and administrative actions taken by various agencies. If you need the agenda of the upcoming Fish and Game Commission meeting, or the regulations being proposed by the Air Resources Board, you can usually find them on the Internet. Just go to [www.ca.gov](http://www.ca.gov) and click on Agency Index to find the Department or bureau that deals with the issue you are interested in. State legislative information is also available on the Web. You can go to [www.sen.ca.gov](http://www.sen.ca.gov) and find information on legislation all the way back to 1993. The Senate and Assembly Web site also has information about all 120 state legislators and the districts they represent. One of the best features of the Legislative website is the ability to follow an unlimited number of bills moving through both houses. If you are interested in a particular bill, you can subscribe to the measure through the website and receive e-mailed messages every time an action is taken on that bill. If you

don't wish to receive e-mails you can check back every week or so to look at information on votes, analyses, or hearing dates on bills that interest you. For further information on the Legislature on the Internet, just call one of my offices and ask for the brochure The California Senate on the Internet. We will be glad to send it to you.

### Folsom Dam Road To Open

It has just been announced that the federal Bureau of Reclamation will soon open Folsom Dam Road to traffic during morning and afternoon commuting hours. When Folsom Dam Road was closed four years ago, it made an already bad traffic situation much worse; in some cases it added an extra hour to local commuters who simply wanted to get around Folsom to other parts of our region. While there were security concerns about possible terrorist activity on Folsom Dam, the impact of closing the road across the Dam was a nightmare for local residents and had a significant impact on local businesses. Thanks go to the hard work and tireless efforts of Congressman Dan Lungren, Congressman John Doolittle, and former Congressman Doug Ose who were able to persuade the Bureau of Reclamation to re-open Folsom Dam Road during peak commuter hours. Thanks should also go out to the staff of the City of Folsom, the Folsom City Council, Folsom Police Chief Sam Spiegel, and the Folsom Chamber of Commerce for their collective efforts. The Folsom Dam Road will be opened to regular commuters for three hours in the morning and three hours in the afternoon. Drivers utilizing Folsom Dam Road will be pre-screened and granted an authorization pass allowing them to use the road during designated hours. The Bureau of Reclamation will continue to control the security surrounding Folsom Dam Road.

### Quote Of The Week

“The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave. Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death.” - Patrick Henry

### WORDS OF WISDOM:

“Discrimination against the negro race in this country is unjust, is unworthy of a high-minded people whose example should have a salutary influence in the world.”

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“I believe the time will come when the sense of justice of this nation, when the enlightenment of this century, when the wisdom of our legislators, when the good feeling of the whole people will complete this grand work of lifting up out of degradation a race of men which has served long and faithfully by placing it, so far as the laws are concerned, upon an equal footing with all other classes, I have faith in this county.”

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“We love freedom more, vastly more, than slavery; consequently **we hope to keep clear of the Democrats!**”

Rep. Joseph Rainey (R-SC), the first African-American in the U. S. House of Representatives (1870-79)

## THE GOVERNOR'S CORNER



Arnold  
Schwarzenegger

### A Special Message from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

March 25, 2005

#### A Time of Renewal for California

For many Californians, Easter is a time for change and renewal, for families here and around the world. It is a time filled with opportunity and hope.

A time to look at old problems in new ways.

In this spirit, I ask all of my fellow Californians to join with me in reaching for a future for our state as golden and promising as the one our parents and grandparents sought for us. This is our chance to fundamentally change the way government affects our lives and serves the people. A chance to make government not a roadblock to our dreams, but a partner in our lives.

Two California Governors I greatly admire are Hiram Johnson, the Republican reformer, and Pat Brown, the Democrat builder. These leaders demonstrated the importance of moving in a new direction, and they made tough choices for the good of California.

Today, as Republicans and Democrats, we have to remember the lessons of those great leaders, because this generation of Californians demands reform. We must summon the courage to overcome the great challenges of our time.

That is why I have declared 2005 to be the Year of Reform for California.

A time to take control of runaway government spending.

A time to unshackle the economy and bring opportunity to every person.

A time to make our education system once again a model for the nation.

A time to elevate the people above the political class, and restore true democracy to our elections.

Right now our budget and state pension systems are out of control, and threaten essential services like education, public safety and health care for years to come.

Our education system does not reward good teachers, and limits the opportunities for students to succeed.

And our elections process is distorted by electoral district lines drawn to benefit politicians instead of the people they are supposed to serve.

So I have entered this fight to change things – not because I want to, but because I must. Because I was sent to office in a special election called by the people; it was an election that was not about one person or one idea, but about Californians' demand for fundamental reform. The citizens elected me on the promise of change and with a need for urgency.

It is going to be tough, but it is a fight that must be fought right now. Delay simply puts us into a deeper hole.

In political battles, the first casualty is often the truth. So defenders of the status quo will say all sorts of things to protect their interests. But my responsibility is to serve all Californians, and I see my

responsibility clearly. I embrace it for the sake of my four kids and for the sake of all California children who deserve a secure future.

This is not just a Democrat or Republican issue. Legislators on both sides are refusing to address our problems because they fear the displeasure of their political benefactors more than the consequences of inaction.

So that is why I turn to you. I ask you, my fellow Californians, to join with me to renew our great state. You are the true power in this state. When you flex your muscles, California will be stronger.

I have been told that I often see things in simple terms. It is something I share in common with millions of hard working citizens across this state. Only in politics do we confuse and confound so thoroughly, preferring the safer road of slogans to the truer one less traveled.

Spring brings with it new opportunity and hope for the journey ahead. During this season, we must seize this chance for renewal. We must make reform a declaration of our purpose as a people.

So as we renew our commitment to family and friends, let us also renew our commitment to all Californians – those of us here today, and those whose future is in our hands.

### Some scenes from the Thank You Arnold rally!

Carl Burton yells thanks Governor Arnold



Schwarzenegger!

Florin Ciuriuc and Fred Hildebrand say thank you for your leadership Governor!



All these people came out to say "Thank you Arnold" for all the heavy lifting you are



doing to get our state back on track!

River City Republicans love you Arnold and we will do everything we can to help you out.

Director of External Affairs, John Kabateck at our March meeting tells it like it is!



John Kabateck

Some scenes from the California Congress of Republicans convention, held in Fresno April 8, 9 and 10, 2005.



Senator Chuck Poochigian



Pam Corradi and Ted Costa



George Bradshaw, General Nguyen Khanh and Richard LaFontaine

### ON THIS DATE IN APRIL:

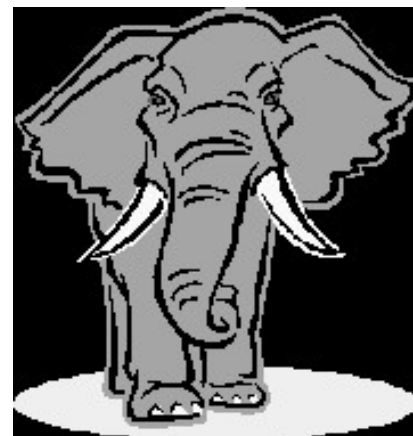
April 3, 1944 - U. S. Supreme Court strikes down Texas Democratic Party's "whites only" primary election system.

April 7, 1862 - President Lincoln concludes treaty with Britain for suppression of slave trade.

April 8, 1865 - 13th Amendment banning slavery passed by U. S. Senate with 100% Republican support, 63% Democrat opposition.

April 9, 1866 - Republican Congress overrides Democrat President Johnson's veto; Civil Rights Act of 1866, conferring rights of citizenship on African Americans, becomes law.

April 16, 1862 - President Lincoln signs bill abolishing slavery in District of Columbia; in Congress, 99% of Republicans vote yes, 83% of Democrats vote no.



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Editor: Robert S. Evans  
Telephone 359-5741

## The President's Corner



Republican Of River City President Carl Burton

### THANK YOU RIVER CITY

With help of Republicans of River City delegates to the April convention of the California Congress of Republicans (CCR) in Fresno, I was elected the President of the CCR for the next two years.

With the CCR President's job comes a great deal of responsibly and I'm sure I can fulfill the job with your help and support. For the next two years Sacramento is going to be where the action is.

First we must make sure that the Governor's reform initiatives receive the necessary signatures in order to qualify for a special election this fall. You can help by not only gathering signatures but also volunteering to help the People's Advocate to process incoming redistricting petitions. Call the People's Advocate office at 916-482-6175 and ask for Esther and tell her Carl asked you to call to volunteer opening mail. The People's Advocate office is located at 3407 Arden Way, Sacramento (with free parking).

After the Governor's initiatives qualify for the ballot he will need

your help in getting them passed this fall.

William Chan has volunteered to be our Registration Chairman. In this position he will need members support in setting up registration booths and staffing them in our community. On May 18 Republicans of River City will register new citizens at the Crest Theatre on the K Street Mall. William will need your help; you can reach him by calling 359-5741 and leaving a message.

Again I want to thank our delegates who took time and paid their own way to Fresno in order to vote for me as CCR President; a big thank you to: Betty Axup, George Bradshaw, Florin Ciuriuc, Annette Faller, Donald L. Faller, Patricia Hildebrand, Fred Hildebrand, Norman Jachens, Richard M. La Fontaine, Jeff Scott, Barbara Sullivan and Robert Evans.

Carl Burton, President  
(916-359-5741)

Would you like to be a contributor to the Republicans of River City newsletter? If so, let us know about it!

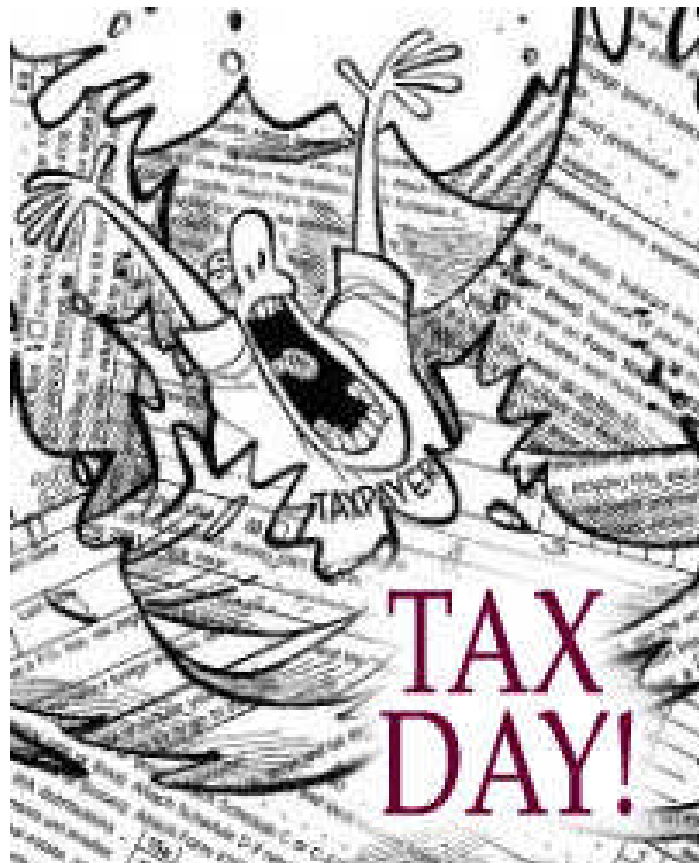
Call us at 359-5741 and/or send an email to us at [editor@sacrrc.com](mailto:editor@sacrrc.com).

Would you be interested in placing an ad for your business, product or service in this newsletter?

The Republicans of River City newsletter is read by more than 750 Republicans and Republican policy supporters.

If you are interested in placing an ad in the Republicans of River City newsletter, contact Carl Burton at 916-359-5741 or send an email to [editor@sacrrc.com](mailto:editor@sacrrc.com).

Carl will discuss ad rates and the terms and conditions of advertising in our newsletter with you. We look forward to helping you reach new customers with your ad.



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**TOM ROSS, A PARTNER AT MERIDIAN  
PACIFIC, INC. WILL ADDRESS RIVER CITY AT  
OUR NEXT GENERAL MEETING ON APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup>.  
AT 7 PM, KVIE, CHANNEL 6, IN THE OSE ROOM;  
2595 CAPITOL OAKS DRIVE, SACRAMENTO.  
OUR SOCIAL HOUR BEGINS AT 6 PM**