

# LOBBYIST REPORT

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The victory laps continue for newly elected Los Angeles City Councilmember Joe Buscaino. The Realtors came together with the BizFed PAC (Los Angeles County Business Federation) on an Independent Expenditure (“IE”) campaign to support his candidacy. NAR assisted local Realtor associations with funding for polling, robo-calls, newspaper ads, and mailers. In all, NAR provided \$35,000 worth of invaluable campaign materials. This is the first time the NAR program has been utilized in California and the results were outstanding. Councilmember Buscaino fully realizes the impact that the IE campaign had on his victory and has been very thankful to all organizations for their support. Just a caveat, IE campaigns are operated totally outside of a candidate’s campaign. There can be no coordination whatsoever. IE campaigns can be POSITIVE or NEGATIVE. The IE campaign for Buscaino was completely positive about his qualifications. No negative pieces on his opponent were considered or produced.



Another change at Los Angeles City Hall is that our good friend Councilmember Herb Wesson has been elected as President of the Council. Council President oversees the meetings and doles out committee assignments. Friends of Wesson were rewarded, while those not so friendly were reassigned to lesser committees. We congratulate Councilmember Wesson and look forward to working with him as we did when he was in the Assembly and, previous to that, as Chief Deputy to Supervisor Yvonne Braithwaite Burke.

The Public Works Committee is one of those committees with completely new membership. As I have written over and over, that committee is the one charged with the “sidewalk” issue we’ve been dealing with since 2005. At their last meeting, the last one under the old leadership, the sidewalk issue was kicked down the road again to the new committee. The new committee will consist of, are you ready, Councilmember Joe Buscaino as Chair... and he’s on board with opposing “sidewalk repair during the escrow period”...Councilmember Eric Garcetti, also opposed to the “sidewalk repair during the escrow period”, and Councilmember Paul Krekorian, who, at this moment we don’t know how he stands on the issue, but we have great access to his office to present our argument against the program. This should bode well for resolving this pesky sidewalk issue for the Realtors, though funding of the sidewalk repairs is still to be resolved. Currently, and for the past 3 years, the City has put no money into the sidewalk repair budget.

Culver City has an election coming up next month. At their last Public Policy Committee meeting, the members hosted a forum for the Culver City Council Candidates. Four vacancies (3-Full Term, 1-Unexpired 2 Year Term). BHGLAAR was fortunate to have a great Culver City team with Dannie Cavanaugh, Chris King, and Rich Kissel involved with planning this event. They collaborated on questions and viability, bringing us the best executed forum the committee has seen. Public Policy Chair Crystal DaCosta moderated the forum with Dannie, Chris, and Rich advising on the format. Excellent job team!

The LCRC Trustees gave maximum support to candidates Andrew Weissman, Scott Malsin, Mehaul O’Leary, and Meghan Sahli-Wells. Only Sahli-Wells has not served on the Council before. She ran two years ago and came in very close to winning.

At the next Public Policy Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 28th at 2:00, the committee will host a Candidates Forum for the 46th Assembly District. That district (new area with the redistricting process), covers parts of the Valley and over into our area in the Hollywood area. We will host four candidates: Laurette Healey, Andrew Lachman, Adrin Nazarian, and Brian Johnson. If you have interest in participating, please join us.

Wishing you a great March and a big welcome back to Daylight Savings Time!

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