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Today’s Key Stories

CA-07: Sacramento County agrees to pay $150,000 over deputy flashlight beating [Sacramento Bee, [05/26/2016](http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/crime/article79933372.html)]

Jones reaches settlement on Sheriff’s dep. Brutality case, still does not admit wrongdoing

Agreement notes neither side admits wrongdoing in the incident captured on dash-camera videos

In another setback for the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department, the county has agreed to pay $150,000 to settle an excessive-force complaint that alleges a suspect was needlessly beaten by a deputy wielding a flashlight.

The settlement stems from a July 2015 lawsuit filed by Rocklin resident Mickey Donohue, whose arrest in September 2014 was captured on Sheriff’s Department dashboard cameras and showed deputies beating Donohue after he was pulled over on suspicion of driving a stolen car.

According to a settlement agreement obtained by The Sacramento Bee from Donohue attorney Mark Merin, the county agreed to settle the lawsuit without either side admitting fault or wrongdoing, and the agreement notes that liability in the incident remains in dispute.

Sheriff’s Department spokesman Sgt. Tony Turnbull said he was not free to comment because the department does not consider the case settled.

A notice of settlement in the case was filed in U.S. District Court on May 6 stating that all parties involved “have agreed to the terms of a settlement completely resolving this matter.”

“I don’t know what to say,” Merin said Wednesday when told the department claims there is no settlement. “That’s weird. I’ve received the check. There’s nothing more for me to do.”

One of the deputies who is seen on camera beating Donohue is Deputy Paul “Scotte” Pfeifer, who has been the subject of at least three excessive-force lawsuits alleging he beat suspects with his department-issued flashlight.

The settlement could renew questions about excessive-force complaints against the Sheriff’s Department. It may also pose political challenges for Sheriff Scott Jones, a Republican challenging Democratic Rep. Ami Bera for the 7th Congressional District seat. Bera’s campaign had no comment Wednesday on the issue.

Jones already faces criticism in the wake of a May 17 jury verdict that awarded $3.6 million in damages to four female deputies who claimed they suffered retaliation by their superiors for speaking out against discrimination and preferential treatment in the department.

Jones said last week that the department “strongly disagrees with the verdict” and that the county will explore appealing it.

Bera also faces difficulty in his bid for re-election in the district, which stretches from Elk Grove to Folsom. Bera won the seat narrowly in 2012 and 2014. His father, Babulal Bera, pleaded guilty May 10 to two counts of election fraud arising out of more than $268,000 in donations he directed to his son mostly through straw donors to avoid campaign finance limits.

Ami Bera has said he knew nothing about the kickback scheme, and federal authorities say they have no evidence to the contrary.

The settlement in the Donohue beating case, which was obtained from Merin, calls for the dismissal of the lawsuit against the county. Donohue originally drafted the lawsuit himself as a hand-written document filed in federal court from his cell at Corcoran State Prison, where he is serving a six-year term for car theft, fleeing an officer and drug possession.

Donohue, a career criminal who had just been released from a prison stint for robbery and grand theft, claimed in the suit that deputies struck him repeatedly after pulling him over in a stolen car.

He claimed he was not resisting and begged, “Please, please stop.”

The dashboard camera videos, obtained by The Bee last September, appear to show deputies hitting and punching Donohue as he sits seat-belted in the car crying out in pain.

Donohue sued four deputies, including Pfeifer, who is named in the suit as the deputy who “beat me in the head and face with a big metal flashlight.”

Donohue also alleged that Deputy Jack Noble punched him and that after the beating stopped he heard them speaking to each other.

“Both officers that beat me were talking to each other and said, ‘I think we screwed up,’ ” his lawsuit stated.

“Don’t worry, it will be OK,” the lawsuit quotes Pfeifer as saying to Noble.

Donohue’s lawsuit sought $813,264 in damages for pain and suffering and $12,989 for a hospital bill.

Merin took over the case as Donohue’s attorney in September.

“This is a case that turns squarely on the fact there was dash-camera footage available,” he said in a telephone interview. “It shows the importance of this type of evidence instead of a he-said-she-said standoff. That’s why we were able to settle at a fairly early stage.

“Here we have an officer out of control and another who stepped up while his partner was catching his breath and punched my client in the face.”

Merin said he was informed by letter from the department that its internal investigation did not sustain the claims by Donohue.

“Both Pfeifer and Noble were exonerated of discourteous treatment and excessive force,” Merin said. “If they looked at the video footage and think that’s fine, I guess you could say this is yet another indication of Sheriff Jones’ lack of leadership.”

Pfeifer, a decorated 14-year veteran of the department, has been sued three times in cases alleging he beat suspects with his flashlight.

The first incident resulted in a $20,000 settlement with a 25-year-old woman who claimed deputies broke up a loud party at an Antelope home by tackling and dragging her, then pepper-spraying her. The woman alleged that Pfeifer hit her on the legs with his flashlight as he was trying to get her into the back of his patrol car.

The woman, Solomia Treshchuk, was charged with resisting arrest and went to trial in Sacramento Superior Court in June 2008.

Pfeifer testified in the case, telling the jury, “I used my flashlight, and I struck her in the lower portion of her legs, in the calf area, in order to overcome her resistance and get her to comply.”

The jury could not agree on a verdict, and prosecutors declined to retry the case.

Pfeifer also was sued in September by Carmichael resident John Reyes, who alleged that Pfeifer accosted him in December 2014 outside a Starbucks on Fair Oaks Boulevard.

The lawsuit, filed in Sacramento Superior Court by attorney Stewart Katz, alleges that Pfeifer beat Reyes with his flashlight, used a stun gun on him and hit him with pepper spray.

Reyes, who was on probation at the time and has a lengthy history of arrests for drug and other nonviolent crimes, said he was attacked after asking the deputy to move his car from blocking an intersection he was trying to cross on foot.

Reyes said he was accosted after cursing at the deputy. The incident was captured on cellphone video by bystanders.

That lawsuit is pending, and the department said last fall that Pfeifer was placed on paid leave while internal affairs detectives investigated the incident. Pfeifer subsequently returned to duty and became a detective in the department’s centralized investigations division, where he is today.

CA-10/CA-21: House passes resurrected LGBT measure [The Hill, [05/26/2016](http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/281316-house-passes-resurrected-lgbt-measure)]

*Denham, Valadao reverse votes on Maloney LGBT amendment, now attached to Energy bill*

House Democrats on Wednesday resurrected a measure ensuring equal protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people after their last attempt erupted in chaos last week.

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY) reprised his amendment to enforce an executive order President Obama issued in 2014 to prohibit federal contractors from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

The House approved his amendment to an Energy Department spending bill in a 223-195 vote late Wednesday night, in contrast to a similar vote a week ago when the measure failed by a single vote. Forty-three Republicans joined with all Democrats to support the amendment.

Cheers broke out on the House floor after the amendment passed.

Maloney's proposal originally had enough votes to pass last Thursday on another appropriations bill for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). But House GOP leaders held the vote open for seven minutes as they frantically lobbied Republicans to change their votes so that it would fail.

GOP leaders warned that adoption of Maloney's amendment would have jeopardized passage of the underlying VA spending bill. The night before, the House had passed the annual defense authorization with a provision that effectively exempts religious organizations from complying with Obama's executive order.

While unveiling his reprised amendment, Maloney, who is openly gay, angrily recalled the events of last week as the votes in favor of his measure gradually switched against it.

"With all time expired, it was clear as could be that equality had won the vote. But when the world watched, something else happened. Something shameful happened," Maloney said. "Something about treating LGBT people fairly just wouldn't do. "

Republicans were more prepared this time for Maloney's amendment since it was clear ahead of time that it would come up for a vote. Last week's vote, meanwhile, came with little warning, which resulted in GOP leaders partaking in the last-minute arm-twisting.

Rep. Joe Pitts (R-Pa.) offered a counter-amendment so that Maloney's proposal would be modified by stating that no funds could be used in contravention of the LGBT executive order except as "required by the First Amendment, the Fourteenth Amendment, and Article I of the Constitution."

"Does anyone in this chamber seriously oppose Article I of the constitution, the First Amendment, or the 14th Amendment?" Pitts asked.

Maloney allowed Pitts's amendment to pass by voice vote, saying that he had no objection to simply stating adherence to the Constitution.

"What do you say we abide by the whole Constitution? The part that tries to make it more progressive, more inclusive of people like me, of people of color, of women, of people who were shut out when it was written. How about we include the whole Constitution? Can we do that?" Maloney said.

Ahead of the vote, influential conservative group Heritage Action urged Republicans to oppose Maloney's amendment and said that it would be including it on its legislative scorecard.

"Make no mistake: A vote for the Maloney amendment is a vote for President Obama’s radical transgender bathroom agenda," the notice reads.

Heritage Action further dismissed the change made by Pitts's counter-amendment, saying it had "absolutely no substantive effect."

"Simply adding a reference to the Constitution at the end of the amendment will in no way mitigate the amendment’s damage to religious liberty," it added.

Earlier Wednesday night, the House adopted, 227-192, an amendment from Rep. Robert Pittenger (R-N.C.) prohibiting the Obama administration from revoking funds previously appropriated to North Carolina in retaliation for the state's controversial transgender bathroom law.

The Justice Department filed a lawsuit earlier this month against North Carolina for its law, which requires people to use the bathroom corresponding with their birth gender instead of their current gender identity.

“We believe this is an egregious abuse of executive power and that the State of North Carolina should not be required to comply to the president’s wishes. The president is not a monarch, he is not a dictator, he does not issue fiats, we are a Constitutional divided government," Pittenger said.

Pittenger's office said he plans to offer similar amendments to upcoming appropriations bills.

The House also passed, 233-186, an amendment offered by Rep. Bradley Byrne (R-Ala.) to prohibit the use of funds in contravention of religious freedom.

All seven of the Republicans accused by Democrats of switching their votes last week - Reps. Jeff Denham (Calif.), David Valadao (Calif.), David Young (Iowa), Bruce Poliquin (Maine), Mimi Walters (Calif.), Greg Walden (Ore.) and Darrell Issa (Calif.) - voted for Maloney's amendment on Wednesday.

Young, who's one of the most vulnerable House Republicans up for reelection this cycle, said in a statement that the tweaked version of the Maloney amendment was a "commonsense solution which furthers policies that adhere to our nation's principles and religious beliefs."

Issa maintained to The Hill earlier this week that he had changed his vote before House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) approached him on the floor and that he intended to oppose the amendment.

"People hit the wrong button regularly," Issa insisted.

Maloney had the ability to force another vote on his proposal on Wednesday because the Energy Department spending bill was considered under a process that allows members of either party to offer unlimited amendments.

However, Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) laid out plans this week to require lawmakers to submit their amendments in advance for upcoming spending bills to avoid more political curveballs from Democrats like last week's chaotic vote.

CA-07 Bera

Local News

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National News

From The Campaigns

Bera ‏posts video from Zika hearing [@RepBera , [05/26/2016](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZ_qOw1xZ2Q)]

As a doctor, glad to have the opportunity to examine threat of Zika virus in House Science cmte today: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZ_qOw1xZ2Q>

CA-10 Denham

Local News

Denham bill to promote better management of federal properties passes House [Ripon Advance, [05/26/2016](https://riponadvance.com/stories/denham-bill-promote-better-management-federal-properties-passes-house/)]

 Denham bill to promote better management of federal properties passes House

Jeff Denham

The House of Representatives approved bipartisan legislation on Monday that was introduced by U.S. Rep. Jeff Denham (R-CA) to promote selling or redeveloping underused federal properties.

The Federal Asset Sale and Transfer Act, H.R. 4465, would establish a Public Buildings Reform Board to identify opportunities to make recommendations on the sale of up to $8 billion in underutilized or vacant federal properties.

“Given our trillion dollar deficit and skyrocketing debt we must examine every area of government and look for ways to cut spending,” Denham said. “This bill is a bipartisan solution to a three billion dollar problem. By selling and consolidating unneeded and underutilized federal property we can save taxpayer dollars and revitalize communities in the process.”

Under the bill, the General Services Administration (GSA) would be directed to establish a database of all federal properties. The database would identify properties that are excess, surplus, underutilized or unutilized.

U.S. Reps Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) and Bill Shuster (R-PA) were cosponsors of the bill.

“Much of the real property owned or leased by the federal government is unneeded, unnecessary or impractical,” Chaffetz, the chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, said.

Shuster, the chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said that poor management of federal buildings and agency office space has wasted taxpayers’ money for years, and that the bill would “help cut through the red tape in the processes for managing, utilizing, consolidating and disposing of federal property.”

EGGMAN INVOLVED IN BERA CAMPAIGN FUNDS SCANDAL[Okdale Leader, [05/26/2016](http://www.oakdaleleader.com/section/44/article/17095/)]

Eggman for Congress donated to Bera’s campaign

In obtained public records, The Leader has discovered that Michael Eggman, a current candidate for California’s 10th Congressional District, is possibly involved in the Ami Bera campaign contribution scandal that is seeing Bera’s father, Babulal Bera, possibly serve up to a five-year prison sentence for election fraud involving the finances of his son’s campaign.

Federal court papers in the matter showed Babulal Bera was responsible for a scheme that after he made the maximum allowable individual contributions to his son’s run for office; he then recruited others to make maximum contributions. In return Babulal Bera would “refund” the amount back to the contributors in violation of campaign finance laws

Federal Election Commission filed papers from Michael Eggman’s failed 2014 congressional campaign for California’s 10th Congressional District show that on June 23, 2013 ‘Eggman for Congress 2014’ donated $1,000 to the ‘Bera for Congress’ campaign. Seven days later, on June 30, 2013, Babulal Bera donated $1,000 back to ‘Eggman for Congress 2014.’

Additionally, records show Eggman’s contribution to Bera's campaign was the only campaign contribution from his committee that was made to any candidate.

“I wasn’t here during that time,” said Eggman Campaign Manager Josh Lord, when informed of the discovery on May 25.

“Though the 2013 contribution to the Eggman campaign from the elder Mr. Bera was a legal contribution, given the recent news, we are donating his contribution to Planned Parenthood to fight back against Jeff Denham’s assault on women’s healthcare access,” Eggman campaign.spokeman Robert Phillips said later in the day.

Phillips added that the contribution was “in stark contrast” to Denham accepting over $8,000 from Harry Baker after Baker was accused of sexual assault of a minor.

Ami Bera was elected to the 7th Congressional District in 2012 and re-elected in 2014. The charges his father faces apparently stem from activities allegedly begun while Bera was running against incumbent Republican Rep. Dan Lungren in 2010. Bera contributors gave at least $235,000 to a campaign committee and Babulal Bera later illegally refunded the amounts to contributors.

In a May 9 press release on the matter, Ami Bera said, “Neither I, nor anyone involved with my campaign, was aware of my dad’s activities until we learned about it from the U.S. Attorney’s Office, and on the advice of my attorney, I have not discussed this matter or anything else regarding my campaigns with my father.”

On May 10 Babulal Bera pleaded guilty in Sacramento federal court to two felony counts of election fraud involving the finances of his son’s campaign committee. In court he admitted that during his son’s 2010 and 2012 campaigns for Congress he recruited a number of friends, family members and acquaintances to make contributions to the committee and reimbursed them with his own money.

It is unknown if authorities looked into continuing activities from 2013 and 2014.

Sentencing is scheduled for Aug. 4. The US Attorney’s Office has recommended that the sentence be no more than 2 ½ years.

“After Ami Bera’s father pleaded guilty to illegally reimbursing donors, these newest revelations suggest that Ami Bera’s campaign finance scandal goes deeper than anyone previously thought,” said National Republican Congressional Committee Spokesman Zach Hunter, when informed of the discovery. “With Michael Eggman and Babulal Bera’s donations coming within just seven days of one another, this exchange clearly appears to be coordinated.

“Michael Eggman should immediately return Bera’s tainted campaign cash and come clean with 10th District voters about exactly how involved he was with the Bera network,” Hunter added.

Current 10th Congressional District Incumbent Jeff Denham’s campaign strategist, Dave Gillard said he realized there was still a lot of investigation needed in the Bera incident.

“It was a very sophisticated scheme,” Gillard said. “His (Eggman’s) gesture with sending the money to Planned Parenthood doesn’t excuse his behavior.”

In 2013, Democrats touted Eggman as a “top tier” candidate who they believed to be “well positioned to win.” He ended up losing by double digits in the 2014 race.

Best to stick with the serious candidates, Denham and Eggman (Editorial) [Modesto Bee, [05/26/2016](http://www.modbee.com/opinion/editorials/article79880222.html)]

Editorial argues that Hodges on right & Barkley on left are too fringe for CA-10

The two most interesting candidates for California’s 10th Congressional District aren’t the ones you should consider voting for, unless you have an affinity for fringe. Robert Hodges and Mike Barkley both have some really out-there ideas – as in out on the fringe.

The most realistic candidates are Republican incumbent Jeff Denham and Democratic challenger Michael Eggman, familiar names. Eggman challenged Denham in 2014 and lost by 13 percentage points. But before we get serious, let’s check in on Barkley & Hodges.

Hodges, 29, is a Denair Unified School Board member running because Jeff Denham is just too darned liberal. He says Trump’s wall is a good start, but after ending federal support for “refugees and illegal immigrants,” he would militarize the southern border by putting U.S. Army bases along it. Not even Trump has suggested the military should protect us from one of our closest neighbors and largest trading partners. Hodges would defund the Department of Education, kill Common Core and gut Planned Parenthood. Really angry? He’s your man.

Barkley is well left of Eggman, which becomes abundantly clear on a website that details hundreds of policy positions. There’s everything from “recognizing Pete Rose” (at Cooperstown or Las Vegas?) to extending hardwood floor tariffs. Under the heading “Water,” Barkley starts with a dispute over Stony Creek (near Red Bluff) and eventually gets to restoring all salmon runs nationwide, including building refrigerated salmon bypass channels. The retired Manteca lawyer would restore Hetch Hetchy Valley and sell water to Nevada.

On June 7, voters must choose just one candidate, but the top two advance to the Nov. 8 general election. We believe Denham and Eggman should be those two.

Denham has been pro-trade and pro-veteran. His vote to deny protection for LGBT workers on federal contracts was wrong, but he refuses to vilify immigrants and he has championed a quicker route to citizenship for those who serve in our military. He’s been consistent – and consistently right – on this issue. He occasionally bucks his party and reaches across the aisle to pass legislation. He’s a moderate conservative in a mixed district.

But many area Republicans aren’t moderate. They embrace Donald Trump’s agenda – kill trade deals, punish bankers, cut taxes on the rich, etc., and will insist down-ballot Republicans endorse their hero.

Denham has been highly adept at recasting himself to suit the political mood – he stood alongside the tea party when popular in 2011; was a moderate in the state Senate in 2005, then turned hard-liner in 2007 – but could find it hard to embrace Trumpism.

That’s because thousands in District 10, which includes all of Stanislaus and part of San Joaquin counties, are registering for the first time – and it’s likely most are intent on voting against Trump and anyone associated with him.

That also explains Eggman’s strategy of portraying Denham as The Donald’s best buddy.

But telling us what’s wrong with Denham (and Trump) is not the same as telling us how you’ll do better. Eggman has no record to stand on because he’s never held elective office. He’s aiming high for a beginner. That bothered us about Eggman two years ago and still does. That said, he is the most credible Democratic candidate.

With Trump certain to be on the ballot in November, we won’t need any additional “characters” to make the election interesting. The Bee recommends voters consider Jeff Denham and Michael Eggman for Congress.

National News

**House passes resurrected LGBT measure [The Hill,** [**05/26/2016**](http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/281316-house-passes-resurrected-lgbt-measure)**]**

*Denham, Valadao reverse votes on Maloney LGBT amendment, now attached to Energy bill*

House Democrats on Wednesday resurrected a measure ensuring equal protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people after their last attempt erupted in chaos last week.

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY) reprised his amendment to enforce an executive order President Obama issued in 2014 to prohibit federal contractors from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

The House approved his amendment to an Energy Department spending bill in a 223-195 vote late Wednesday night, in contrast to a similar vote a week ago when the measure failed by a single vote. Forty-three Republicans joined with all Democrats to support the amendment.

Cheers broke out on the House floor after the amendment passed.

Maloney's proposal originally had enough votes to pass last Thursday on another appropriations bill for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). But House GOP leaders held the vote open for seven minutes as they frantically lobbied Republicans to change their votes so that it would fail.

GOP leaders warned that adoption of Maloney's amendment would have jeopardized passage of the underlying VA spending bill. The night before, the House had passed the annual defense authorization with a provision that effectively exempts religious organizations from complying with Obama's executive order.

While unveiling his reprised amendment, Maloney, who is openly gay, angrily recalled the events of last week as the votes in favor of his measure gradually switched against it.

"With all time expired, it was clear as could be that equality had won the vote. But when the world watched, something else happened. Something shameful happened," Maloney said. "Something about treating LGBT people fairly just wouldn't do. "

Republicans were more prepared this time for Maloney's amendment since it was clear ahead of time that it would come up for a vote. Last week's vote, meanwhile, came with little warning, which resulted in GOP leaders partaking in the last-minute arm-twisting.

Rep. Joe Pitts (R-Pa.) offered a counter-amendment so that Maloney's proposal would be modified by stating that no funds could be used in contravention of the LGBT executive order except as "required by the First Amendment, the Fourteenth Amendment, and Article I of the Constitution."

"Does anyone in this chamber seriously oppose Article I of the constitution, the First Amendment, or the 14th Amendment?" Pitts asked.

Maloney allowed Pitts's amendment to pass by voice vote, saying that he had no objection to simply stating adherence to the Constitution.

"What do you say we abide by the whole Constitution? The part that tries to make it more progressive, more inclusive of people like me, of people of color, of women, of people who were shut out when it was written. How about we include the whole Constitution? Can we do that?" Maloney said.

Ahead of the vote, influential conservative group Heritage Action urged Republicans to oppose Maloney's amendment and said that it would be including it on its legislative scorecard.

"Make no mistake: A vote for the Maloney amendment is a vote for President Obama’s radical transgender bathroom agenda," the notice reads.

Heritage Action further dismissed the change made by Pitts's counter-amendment, saying it had "absolutely no substantive effect."

"Simply adding a reference to the Constitution at the end of the amendment will in no way mitigate the amendment’s damage to religious liberty," it added.

Earlier Wednesday night, the House adopted, 227-192, an amendment from Rep. Robert Pittenger (R-N.C.) prohibiting the Obama administration from revoking funds previously appropriated to North Carolina in retaliation for the state's controversial transgender bathroom law.

The Justice Department filed a lawsuit earlier this month against North Carolina for its law, which requires people to use the bathroom corresponding with their birth gender instead of their current gender identity.

“We believe this is an egregious abuse of executive power and that the State of North Carolina should not be required to comply to the president’s wishes. The president is not a monarch, he is not a dictator, he does not issue fiats, we are a Constitutional divided government," Pittenger said.

Pittenger's office said he plans to offer similar amendments to upcoming appropriations bills.

The House also passed, 233-186, an amendment offered by Rep. Bradley Byrne (R-Ala.) to prohibit the use of funds in contravention of religious freedom.

All seven of the Republicans accused by Democrats of switching their votes last week - Reps. Jeff Denham (Calif.), David Valadao (Calif.), David Young (Iowa), Bruce Poliquin (Maine), Mimi Walters (Calif.), Greg Walden (Ore.) and Darrell Issa (Calif.) - voted for Maloney's amendment on Wednesday.

Young, who's one of the most vulnerable House Republicans up for reelection this cycle, said in a statement that the tweaked version of the Maloney amendment was a "commonsense solution which furthers policies that adhere to our nation's principles and religious beliefs."

Issa maintained to The Hill earlier this week that he had changed his vote before House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) approached him on the floor and that he intended to oppose the amendment.

"People hit the wrong button regularly," Issa insisted.

Maloney had the ability to force another vote on his proposal on Wednesday because the Energy Department spending bill was considered under a process that allows members of either party to offer unlimited amendments.

However, Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) laid out plans this week to require lawmakers to submit their amendments in advance for upcoming spending bills to avoid more political curveballs from Democrats like last week's chaotic vote.

From The Campaigns

CA-16 Costa

Local News

House Wading Into California's Long-Running Water War [NBC Bay Area, [05/25/2016](http://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/House-Wading-Into-Californias-Long-Running-Water-War-380884371.html)]

Costa one of the few CA Dems to support Valadao water bill

Wading into a longstanding California water war, the House of Representatives Wednesday endorsed a Republican plan to shift more water to San Joaquin Valley farmers and cut the flow for threatened fish and growers in another part of the state.

Rep. Jerry McNerney, D-Calif., tried to strike that proposal from a spending bill, but lost a 247-169 vote that broke mostly along party lines. He says the plan would pump too much water to Central Valley growers at the expense of the inland Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

CHP Investigating Another East Bay Freeway Shooting

The vote was a victory for Rep. David Valadao, R-Calif., and other Republicans, who represent communities where the farm economy is badly suffering from a longstanding drought.

Valadao argues that water from California's relatively wet winter could be going to the farmers he represents rather than flowing to the Pacific. He said during debate Tuesday evening that he has shanty towns in his district because of high unemployment in farm communities.

Extreme Weather[NATL] Extreme WeatherGetty Images

"This is not in a Third World country. This is in the United States of America, this is right here in California, and this is something that's happening in these communities because of this water being wasted," Valadao said.

On the other side were Democrats such as McNerney, who argued that Valadao's measure would hurt delta farmers and harm fish stocks that require fresh water to migrate to the ocean.

11 States Sue Over Federal Transgender Directive

"One region benefits and another region suffers. That is what exactly is going to happen here," McNerney said. "The delta region will suffer. Is that what we really want?"

Battles between Republicans controlling the House and California's two Democratic senators have for years prevented Congress from acting on the state's water issues.

TSA Chief: Agency Adding 768 Screeners

"The fact is we have a broken water system," said Rep. Jim Costa, D-Calif., among a handful of Democrats who voted for Valadao's measure. He added that flawed federal environmental policies have meant that billions of gallons of water that could have gone to irrigation and were wasted.

Valadao's bill has been attached to a spending bill funding the Energy Department and water projects. The Senate has passed companion legislation that does not take on the water battle. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., is a top negotiator on the underlying spending bill.

Thieves Steal 'Numerous' Guns in San Carlos

Republicans also moved Wednesday to separately add Valadao's legislation to an unrelated energy policy measure, prompting a lengthy rerun of Tuesday night's debate.

Rep. John Garamendi, D-Calif., said the GOP legislation would "gut the environmental protections of the delta and the San Francisco Bay, destroy the fisheries, destroy the economy of the delta and water for millions of people."

Top News Photos of the Week[NATL] Top News Photos of the WeekGetty Images

"Farmland that once fed the world now sits dry. People are losing their livelihoods and their hope," said Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif. "It doesn't have to be as bad as it is. Now, water that could be stored is being lost. Bureaucrats release fresh water out to sea. Our most valuable resource is wasted."

National News

House Republicans take unprecedented step to upend local D.C. law [Washington Post, [05/26/2016](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-politics/house-republicans-take-unprecedented-step-to-upend-local-dc-law/2016/05/25/be8a22ee-2291-11e6-8690-f14ca9de2972_story.html)]

Costa sides with GOP to strike down DC ballot measure restricting it’s authority

The House voted 240 to 179 to strike down the 2013 ballot measure, saying the District overstepped its legal authority — and the U.S. Constitution — by trying to excise Congress from the city’s budget process.

Two Democrats, Reps. Jim Costa (Calif.) and Brad Ashford (Neb.), sided with Republicans to pass the bill, which also forbids the city to take any future action that alters its relationship with Congress. President Obama has threatened to veto the bill.

House Speaker Paul D. Ryan (R-Wis.) said the bill was needed because “the D.C. government is running fast and loose with the Constitution,” which grants Congress authority over the nation’s capital. “The current D.C. government needs to be reined in,” Ryan wrote in a statement. “We will not allow Congress and the Constitution to be undermined.”

The vote brought months of simmering tensions between District leaders and Congress’s Republican majority to a boil on the House floor — and brought relations between Congress and its host city to perhaps their lowest point in recent years.

The District’s nonvoting House member, Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, led Democrats in blasting Republicans as “despots” and “hypocrites” and accused them of running the nation’s capital as a “plantation” where 700,000 residents live without the power to decide their own matters.

At issue is a ballot measure — approved overwhelmingly by D.C. voters — that said the city has a right to spend its own tax dollars as it wishes, much the way the 50 states do.

The measure, which had the backing of a D.C. Superior Court judge, allowed the District to spend its $13 billion budget — comprised mostly of local revenue — without first submitting it to Congress as part of the federal budget.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, led the floor fight for the bill and said it was rooted in the Constitution.

In an interview, he advised Democrats in the District and elsewhere agitating for statehood to attach the city’s residential neighborhoods to Maryland if they want the same rights as a state.

“D.C. is not a state,” he said. “And statehood is not going to happen on my watch.”

One after another, Republicans cited the specific article, section and clause of the Constitution that grants Congress “exclusive authority” over the workings of the federal district.

No, D.C. doesn’t live off of federal funds, and no, it’s not necessarily Congress’s job to manage our budget. Washingtonian staff writer Benjamin R. Freed dispels some misconceptions about control over the District. (Adriana Usero/The Washington Post)

But Democrats pushed back, saying that times change and Congress needs to adapt to the fact that a district carved from swampland with few residents is now a major metropolis.

“The same Constitution protected slavery and said certain people of color were worth three-fifths . . . ,” said Rep. Gerald E. Connolly (D-Va.). “Same Constitution. But we changed it. . . . The fact that you exercise your will over an entire city just because you can does not make it right or noble. In fact, if we follow the logic of my friends of the other side, why not take over? Let’s do rezoning. Let’s do emergency preparedness. Let’s run the EMT and the fire department. Let’s take over mental-health services. Why go only halfway? I’m curious. Why is it only the budget?”

Democratic Minority Whip Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.) called the bill an exercise in hypocrisy on the part of Republicans. “We’re witnessing the party that proclaims itself to be the champion of local autonomy and less federal involvement in local affairs . . . do exactly the opposite,” he said.

Rep. José E. Serrano (D-N.Y.) said that Republicans “use Washington as the place to manifest their discontent or desire” on social and budget issues they can’t control even in their home states, he said.

Ryan cited “real consequences” to giving D.C. budget freedom. “The D.C. government wants to use revenues to fund abortions in the District. House Republicans will not stand for that,” he said.

Rep. Michael C. Burgess (R-Tex.) noted it was as recently as the 1990s when Congress had to bail out the District from financial distress under Mayor Marion Barry.

And Rep. Mark Meadows (R-N.C.), the author of the bill, said the District wouldn’t have achieved its current financial health without its special reliance on Congress.

“If, indeed, everything is turning up roses, it is indeed the status quo . . . that truly has the authority rested and vested here in this esteemed body” to oversee District finances, he said.

Jonathan Turley, a constitutional law professor at George Washington University, said he believed that D.C. officials did not have the legal authority to spend their own tax dollars. But the reaction on Capitol Hill marks a new low in the relationship between the District’s Democratic leaders and their Republican overseers in Congress, he said.

“It’s positively toxic,” he said.

In recent weeks, D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) had cast the showdown with Congress as a first step toward making the nation’s capital the 51st state. The District has a larger population than Vermont’s or Wyoming’s, and its residents pay more in federal taxes than those in 22 states.

If the House bill becomes law, it “shakes the foundation” of home rule, Norton said. If the Senate passes the bill, it will be the only time since the city won partial home rule in 1973 that Congress has acted to repeal a D.C. law retroactively.

“If you never felt like a despot before, I hope that side of the aisle understands what it feels and looks like now,” Norton said Wednesday, pointing to Republicans on the House floor.

From The Campaigns

Costa ‏praises CA water bill [@RepJimCosta, 05/25/2016]

Today’s House passage of a bipartisan CA water bill provides us with more opportunities to fix CA’s broken water system.

CA-21 Valadao

Local News

House moves on California water bills, but toward what end? [Sacramento Bee, [05/26/2016](http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/article79903087.html)]

Provision introduced by Valadao would repeal San Joaquin River restoration program and replace it with something smaller

The House of Representatives passed yet another set of controversial California water provisions Wednesday, sending a political signal and, perhaps, putting pressure on the Senate.

Important differences, though, still split the state, and lawmakers have yet to show they can get out of their respective trenches and resolve them. For now, a final deal seems far off.

“We can’t wait any longer,” said Rep. Doug LaMalfa, R-Richvale. “It’s time we end the rhetoric.”

In a tactical maneuver, House Republicans on Wednesday considered California water language on two separate bills. One thrust effectively added a 174-page California water bill to an unrelated energy package.

The California water provisions introduced by Rep. David Valadao, R-Hanford, would repeal an ambitious San Joaquin River restoration program and replace it with something smaller. It directs the sale of the New Melones Dam on the Stanislaus River to local water districts and speeds studies of five potential storage projects. It also mandates pumping water to farms south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

“We’re not trying to steal from other communities,” Valadao said. “I think there’s a lot of room to compromise, and I’d appreciate the opportunity.”

By 241-178, the House approved the broader 1,000-plus-page energy package, which included the California water language along with provisions covering everything from renewable energy to natural gas exports. It now must be reconciled with the Senate’s version, amid continuing concerns from Northern California lawmakers.

“The provisions included in this bill will pit one region of our great state against another instead of providing a balanced long-term solution,” said Rep. Doris Matsui, D-Sacramento.

Advancing on a separate flank, GOP lawmakers Wednesday pushed ahead on a fiscal 2017 energy and water appropriations bill that also includes some of the controversial California water language sought by Central Valley farmers.

COMMUNITIES IN MY DISTRICT HAVE BEEN SUFFERING BECAUSE OF A LACK OF ACTION IN THIS HOUSE.

Rep. David Valadao, R-Hanford

The House, in a 169-247 vote, first fended off an effort by Reps. Jerry McNerney, D-Stockton, and John Garamendi, D-Walnut Grove, to strip the California water provisions from the energy and water funding measure.

“We should not be using an appropriations bill to ram through misguided policies that reward a few powerful stakeholders at the expense of others,” McNerney said during House debate.

The White House Office of Management and Budget this week added that it “strongly opposes” ending the San Joaquin River restoration, and it blasted “several highly problematic provisions that undercut the Endangered Species Act.”

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Bakersfield, countered that “we are planning for the future (and) planning for those years that you won’t have the big snowpack.” One California Democrat, Rep. Jim Costa of Fresno, sided with 100 percent of House Republicans in defeating McNerney’s amendment.

The House was expected to approve the overall energy and water measure by Thursday.

The dual moves this week push the California water policies into two separate negotiating arenas, where selected House and Senate members will work out their differences; often behind closed doors. A third possibility is to include the California provisions in a multi-state Western package, where Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein hopes to prevail.

“The Senate can no longer ignore it,” McCarthy said during House debate. “They need to come to the table and negotiate with us in conference.”

Each legislative vehicle has different merits, for those hoping to board them.

The energy policy bill would impose permanent changes, while the energy and water appropriations bill would last only through fiscal 2017. Some influential lawmakers might resist packing non-energy measures onto the energy bill. The appropriations bill has its own limits, as well, but it is certain to pass in order to keep the federal government operating.

“Here we are again,” Garamendi said during the House debate.

House wading into California's long-running water war [AP, [05/25/2016](http://www.usnews.com/news/politics/articles/2016-05-25/house-wading-into-californias-long-running-water-war)]

Many Democrats argue Valadao irrigation bill would hurt delta farmers, Costa supports bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Wading into a longstanding California water war, the House Wednesday endorsed a Republican plan to shift more water to San Joaquin Valley farmers and cut the flow for threatened fish and growers in another part of the state.

Rep. Jerry McNerney, D-Calif., tried to strike that proposal from a spending bill, but lost a 247-169 vote that broke mostly along party lines. He says the plan would pump too much water to Central Valley growers at the expense of the inland Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

The vote was a victory for Rep. David Valadao, R-Calif., and other Republicans, who represent communities where the farm economy is badly suffering from a longstanding drought.

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"This is not in a Third World country. This is in the United States of America, this is right here in California, and this is something that's happening in these communities because of this water being wasted," Valadao said.

On the other side were Democrats such as McNerney, who argued that Valadao's measure would hurt delta farmers and harm fish stocks that require fresh water to migrate to the ocean.

"One region benefits and another region suffers. That is what exactly is going to happen here," McNerney said. "The delta region will suffer. Is that what we really want?"

Battles between Republicans controlling the House and California's two Democratic senators have for years prevented Congress from acting on the state's water issues.

"The fact is we have a broken water system," said Rep. Jim Costa, D-Calif., among a handful of Democrats who voted for Valadao's measure. He added that flawed federal environmental policies have meant that billions of gallons of water that could have gone to irrigation and were wasted.

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"Farmland that once fed the world now sits dry. People are losing their livelihoods and their hope," said Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif. "It doesn't have to be as bad as it is. Now, water that could be stored is being lost. Bureaucrats release fresh water out to sea. Our most valuable resource is wasted."

Latinos Warn Democrats Not To Get Too Cocky About Facing Trump [Huffington Post, [05/26/2016](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/donald-trump-latinos_us_57460d74e4b03ede4413b865)]

Dems targeting GOP districts with large Latino populations, like CA-21/CA-25, where incumbents have not endorsed Trump

WASHINGTON — The GOP’s imminent nomination of Donald Trump has inspired Democrats to suggest they could retake the House in November. But civic engagement organizations that work with Latinos are warning Democrats that they need to do more to secure their votes to win down-ballot races, even with a nominee at the top of the ticket who frequently says nasty things about them.

Latinos are the fastest-growing group of voters in the country, according to the Pew Research Center. The number of eligible Hispanic voters has grown 17 percent since 2012, to 27.3 million eligible voters in 2016. While Trump said at a rally Wednesday that “the Hispanics are liking Donald Trump,” polling has shown the opposite. Just 9 percent of those polled had a “very” or “somewhat” favorable opinion of Trump in a recent poll of voters in battleground states.

But Latino civic engagement groups warn that voters won’t automatically link the reality television star to other GOP candidates who are on the ballot.

“Trump has the potential of being a motivating factor,” said Arturo Vargas, executive director of the NALEO Education Fund, but “people need to be informed that there’s more than just the presidency on the ballot.”

“This is where voter mobilization, voter education, is so key,” he added. “If you want to get people to vote in down ballot races you have to invest resources in making sure people understand that, and what their choices are, and not just thinking that if they’re going to vote against Trump they’re going to get to the end of the ballot,” past the presidential candidates.

Rafael Collazo, the national political director for the National Council of La Raza’s Action Fund, echoed Vargas’ concerns.

“As much energy as there is, and as much commitment as there is in the work that we do around electoral organizing, there still is going to need to be investments made,” he said. “Rhetoric, and headlines, and the initial energy we’ve seen around naturalization and voter registration in the beginning of this year doesn’t mean anybody can take the Latino vote for granted.”

Democrats would need to capture 30 additional seats to gain a majority in the House, which is a tall order considering they gained just 21 seats when now-President Barack Obama beat Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) by seven points in 2008. (And that was before Republicans captured a slew of state legislatures in 2010, helping them dominate the redistricting process that year, which in turn made it easier for them to win elections.)

There are 32 districts with Republican incumbents listed on the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee’s “Red to Blue” program, which identifies promising candidates in races the committee believes can flip in November, within a broader pool of over 60 districts the DCCC is competing in this cycle. But “there are no new districts that magically came on our battlefield because of Donald Trump,” cautioned Meredith Kelly, the national press secretary for the DCCC.

“The 2010 redistricting created a limit to districts that are at all competitive for Democrats,” she added. “It is just not an ever-expanding battlefield. There are certainly districts where we have known that we had the potential to be successful and that had some core Democratic elements, and Trump has allowed us to land some high-level, exciting recruits in those districts. But he’s by no means the only factor.”

Those sorts of recruits include former Colorado state Sen. Gail Schwartz, who got into the race to unseat Republican Rep. Scott Tipton relatively late. Tipton, whose district is roughly a quarter Latino but who hasn’t faced a strong challenge in past election cycles, has said he would support Trump (though he “has not supported everything Donald Trump has said or done.”)

“We’ve talked to Gail Schwartz in the past and local Democrats have urged her to run before,” Kelly said. “She sensed that opportunity and there’s a reason she got in this year, but it doesn’t mean Colorado’s 3rd didn’t always have some of those important elements that make them competitive for us.”

Democrats hadn’t mounted as strong a challenge to Tipton in the past, even with its high proportion of Latinos, but that is changing this year, with the potential for his oppenent to go hard on Tipton’s Trump association. House Majority PAC, the super PAC backing Democrats, has reserved more than $130,000 worth of television ads in Grand Junction, and upped its investment in the Denver television market, to target Tipton and boost Schwartz.

Other House Republicans who may be vulnerable have done more to distance themselves from Trump. Rep. Carlos Curbelo of Florida, who has said he will not support the presumptive nominee, told CNN he was “grateful” that House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) has so far refrained from endorsing Trump. (Registered voters who are Latino make up 60 percent of Curbelo’s district.)

California Reps. Steve Knight and David Valadao — whose districts have 24 percent of registered voters who are Latino and 58 percent, respectively — have so far held off on endorsing Trump. (Knight seems to be in denial that Trump is going to be his party’s nominee.)

GOP Rep. Will Hurd (Texas) has said he won’t endorse Trump until he “shows he can respect women and minorities.” (Fifty-seven percent of registered voters in his district are Latino.) And Rep. Mike Coffman of Colorado, who represents a district where Latinos comprise 20 percent of registered voters, has said Trump “needs to change his tone” toward women, minorities and veterans to earn his support. This gives the candidates wiggle room to eventually endorse Trump if he starts to talk about people of color and women in a less hostile manner, but it won’t help them win over Latinos who fear Trump’s policy positions.

Other incumbents in potentially competitive districts haven’t been as hesitant about Trump. Jeff Denham, who represents a California district where over 27 percent of registered voters are Latino, has said he would support the Republican nominee. And Rep. Cresent Hardy (Nevada) has said that the businessman’s tone toward people of color doesn’t bother him. (Fifteen percent of registered voters in Hardy’s district are Latino.)

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton is already setting up a shadow general election campaign infrastructure in states like Nevada, Florida and Colorado. But Latino-oriented organizations are frustrated that resources for their voter engagement efforts are scarce outside those states, though only a quarter of the Latino electorate lives in the traditional presidential battleground states.

“I’ve been asked by funders, ‘Why are you spending your time in Texas and California? You should be working in Florida and Colorado and Nevada,’” said Vargas. “That’s where all the money is going, but half of my electorate lives in California and Texas,” he said.

“One of the reasons why we have such a challenge in Latino voter turnout is because those people are consistently ignored,” he continued. “We’re doing all we can on a shoestring budget, because we have virtually been abandoned by the funding community for our voter engagement work.”

Editor’s note: Donald Trump regularly incites political violence and is a serial liar, rampant xenophobe, racist, misogynist and birther who has repeatedly pledged to ban all Muslims — 1.6 billion members of an entire religion — from entering the U.S.

National News

House Passes Bill on LGBT Rights for Federal Contractors [AP, [05/26/2016](http://www.usnews.com/news/business/articles/2016-05-25/house-reverses-course-on-lgbt-rights-for-federal-contractors)]

*Denham, Valadao reverse votes on Maloney LGBT amendment, now attached to Energy bill*

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House reversed itself late Wednesday and approved a measure aimed at upholding an executive order that bars discrimination against LGBT employees by federal contractors.

More than 40 Republicans helped Democrats power the gay rights measure over the opposition of GOP conservatives who dominate the chamber.

Conservatives did prevail in a separate vote designed to make sure federal funding isn't taken away from the state of North Carolina over its controversial bathroom law for transgender people.

Wednesday night's 223-195 tally reverses a vote last week on the gay rights measure. Then, GOP leaders twisted arms to defeat the legislation, causing several supporters to switch their vote, leading Democrats to erupt in protest.

Openly gay New York Democrat Sean Patrick Maloney returned to attach the measure to a funding bill for the Energy Department.

This time, GOP leaders let members vote as they wished; about a dozen Republicans, including several from California, rethought their opposition and Maloney's amendment made it through fairly easily.

It would prohibit agencies funded by the bill to award taxpayer dollars to federal contractors that violate President Barack Obama's executive order barring discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

"It says you do not take taxpayer dollars and fire people just for being gay," Maloney said.

Maloney said last week's vote "snatched discrimination from the jaws of equality."

Earlier, the House voted 227-192 to block several federal agencies from retaliating against North Carolina over its law requiring transgender people to use the bathroom of their original sex.

That amendment, by Robert Pittenger, R-N.C., came in response to warnings from the Obama administration that it may take federal funding away from North Carolina in response to the state law that blocks certain protections for gay people.

"The President and his emissaries have stated ... that funds should not be dispensed to North Carolina until North Carolina is coerced into complying with the legal beliefs of the President, and his political views," Pittenger said. "This is an egregious abuse of executive power."

The North Carolina law was passed after Charlotte passed an ordinance allowing transgender people to use restrooms of their chosen gender identity. The state law went further to take away federal protections for gays, putting the state at risk of losing a variety of federal funds.

Top House Democrat Nancy Pelosi of California blasted Republicans as favoring discrimination against gays.

"Republicans overwhelmingly voted to support ... the hateful and discriminatory state law in North Carolina, and to enable anti-LGBT bigotry across our country," Pelosi said in a statement. "History will not look kindly on the votes Republicans proudly took to target Americans because of whom they are or whom they love."

Maloney's proposal had appeared on track to pass last week, peaking at 217-206 as an amendment to a veterans' spending bill.

But GOP leaders prevailed on seven Republicans to switch their votes, including California GOP Reps. Jeff Denham, Darrell Issa, Mimi Walters and David Valadao. Swing-district freshmen David Young, R-Iowa, and Bruce Poliquin, R-Maine, also switched positions on last week's vote. Each of them switched back Wednesday, joined by several other Republicans who opposed Maloney's plan last week.

The energy and water projects bill is the second spending bill for the upcoming budget year to come to the House floor.

From The Campaigns

CA-25 Knight

Local News

Congressional candidate appeals disbarment over nude photos [Santa Clarita Valley Signal, [05/26/2016](http://www.signalscv.com/section/36/article/152580/)]

Knight’s GOP challenger Moffat admits he sent Facebook message asking for nude photographs

A tax attorney running for the 25th Congressional District has filed an appeal after an Arizona judge ordered his disbarment over allegations of misconduct.

Jeffrey Moffatt, a Republican from Lancaster, admits that in October 2013 he sent a Facebook message to a woman asking her to send him nude photographs.

Moffatt — a candidate for the congressional seat that takes in the Santa Clarita Valley and is now held by Steve Knight, R-Palmdale — said his actions were a “mistake,” but he believes he did nothing illegal.

“I happen to have a male drive that on occasion will come out,” he said. “In this case, it was an inopportune time.”

The woman who received the request filed a complaint in New Mexico, where she was at the time, according to Moffatt. He said the State Bar of New Mexico investigated the claims and determined by December 2013 that no attorney-client relationship existed and that the conduct was not illegal.

Moffatt said he believed the case was a “done deal” until November 2015, when the State Bar of Arizona filed charges against him. Although Moffatt is based in Lancaster, he handles federal cases and his license to practice law is through Arizona.

Judge William J. O’Neil signed the order of disbarment April 19. Moffatt appealed the decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth District.

Moffatt believes he is being targeted for political reasons, arguing that other attorneys have done worse and not been barred from practicing law.

“I’m being taken down for asking an out-of-state chick for a nude over Facebook three years ago,” he said.

His appeal notes that the State Bar of Arizona filed charges only a week after his wife, Star Moffatt, announced her candidacy for California Senate District 21, which takes in most of the Santa Clarita Valley.

Moffatt alleges the judge who issued the order has a history of targeting high-profile Republican attorneys.

In his appeal, Moffatt argues the state of Arizona does not have jurisdiction in his case, which he asked to be moved to federal court. He also claims that O’Neil has not signed his oath of office, meaning every ruling he has issued is invalid.

“If I happen to be proven right, then for all these Republicans who have been targeted by this Democratic judge, I might be able to get their bar cards back,” Moffatt said.

Heather Murphy, spokeswoman for the Arizona Supreme Court, said O’Neil would not comment on the case. She said the judge is an employee of the state Supreme Court rather than an elected official.

She said his loyalty oath would have been filed with the court’s human resources department and not with the Secretary of State, which keeps oaths for elected judges. Murphy said she has been told that O’Neil has signed his loyalty oath.

“It’s a non-issue,” she added.

Moffatt is running against Rep. Steve Knight, R-Palmdale, and Democratic challengers Bryan Caforio and Lou Vince. The top two vote-getters in the June 7 primary will advance to the general election.

National News

From The Campaigns

Steve Knight and Donald Trump Agree: Who Cares About Victims of the Foreclosure Crisis? [DCCC, 05/26/2016]

Reminder of Knight’s Porter Ranch Negligence

To the surprise of no one, Donald Trump doubled down on his comments cheerleading the 2008 housing market crash. Slightly less surprising is that Trump’s heartless comments reflect a similar sentiment from vulnerable Congressman Steve Knight.

In 2008, as our economy spiraled into the worst recession since the Great Depression, Knight was asked if we should help people forced to default on subprime mortgages.

Knight said, “I don’t support bailing out people who made a bad decision.”

There seems to be a trend: Knight’s reluctance to help victims of the housing crisis sounds a lot like his negligence during the Porter Ranch leak last year. Amidst the environmental disaster, Knight voted to make it more difficult for victims to file class action lawsuits, like those brought by Porter Ranch families.

“Steve Knight showed his true colors by not wanting to help victims of the housing market collapse that Donald Trump supported and possibly helped create,” said Barb Solish of the DCCC. “Knight’s Trump-like comments are disappointing but not surprising after witnessing his negligence during the Porter Ranch crisis.”

Caforio receives Alliance for Retired Americans endorsement [‏@BryanCaforio , 05/25/2016]

Honored to be endorsed by The Alliance for Retired Americans. They are leading the fight to protect #SocialSecurity

CA-31 Aguilar

Local News

National News

From The Campaigns

Chabot ‏calls accusses “Fake GOP Flynn” of false attacks [@DrPaulChabot, 05/26/2016]

FAKE GOP FLYNN TRIES BULLYING CONSERVATIVE CHABOT WITH FALSE ATTACKS FUNDED BY LIBS #CA31 http://conta.cc/253ynXp

CA-36 Ruiz

Local News

National News

From The Campaigns

CA-52 Peters

Local News

National News

From The Campaigns

ACU ENDORSES DENISE GITSHAM [Gitsham for Congress, [05/25/2016](http://www.deniseforcongress.com/acu_endorses_denise_gitsham)]

American Conservative Union endorses Gitsham over Atkinson

Washington, D.C. – The American Conservative Union (ACU) today announced its endorsement of Denise Gitsham, the leading conservative in California’s race for the 52nd Congressional District. The seat is currently held by liberal Democrat Scott Peters, who votes 85% of the time with Nancy Pelosi, and is currently seeking re-election in this strong military, pro-business, San Diego-based district.

“Denise Gitsham is committed to upholding and promoting the core principles that our country was founded on. She will put Americans first, stand up to liberal big-government overreach and return control back to local communities. Her desire to create an economy based on innovation will preserve and restore America’s economic strength,” said ACU Chairman Matt Schlapp. “I’m proud to call Denise a friend and she will definitely be an effective and conservative leader in Washington.”

“I’m honored to have earned the support of ACU, an organization I have long respected for its thoughtful and engaged leadership, and the principled positions they take on the issues that matter most to the American people,” said Gitsham. “From preserving states’ rights, to strengthening our free market economy, to championing the inherent rights, benefits, and responsibilities of every American, the ACU represents foundational truths that make our nation exceptional. I look forward to providing a new generation of principled leadership in Washington, and am grateful for ACU’s support along the way.”

Founded in 1964, the American Conservative Union (ACU) is the nation’s original conservative organization. For more than fifty years, ACU has served as an umbrella organization harnessing the collective strength of conservative organizations fighting for Americans who are concerned with liberty, personal responsibility, traditional values, and strong national defense. As one of America's premier conservative voices, ACU promotes a conservative vision on issues before Congress, the Executive Branch, State Legislatures, the media, political candidates, and the public.

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