

# 33<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District OPEN SEAT

**Sam Blakeslee (R) termed out in 2010**

<u>President 2004</u>		<u>U.S. Senate 2004</u>		<u>Governor – 2002</u>		<u>Assembly 2004</u>	
Kerry (D)	43%	Boxer (D-Inc)	45%	Davis (D-Inc)	37%	Jenkins (D)	33%
Bush (R-Inc)	55%	Jones (R)	50%	Simon (R)	54%	Blakeslee (R)	56%
<u>Governor 2006</u>		<u>U.S. Senate 2006</u>		<u>Attorney General 2006</u>		<u>Assembly 2006</u>	
Angelides (D)	31%	Feinstein (D-Inc)	48%	Brown (D)	46%	Cuthbert (D)	33%
Schwarzenegger (R-Inc)	64%	Mountjoy (R)	46%	Poohigian (R)	48%	Blakeslee (R-Inc)	67%
<u>President 2008</u>		<u>Prop 8 2008 - Ban</u>		<u>Insurance Comm. 2006</u>		<u>Assembly 2008</u>	
Obama (D)	50%	<u>Gay Marriage:</u> Yes	56%	Bustamante (D)	32%	Cuthbert (D)	36%
McCain (R)	48%	No	44%	Poizner (R)	57%	Blakeslee (R-Inc)	64%

**LOCATION:** A central coast district encompassing all of *San Luis Obispo County*, including California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) and the Hearst Castle; northwestern portion (44%) of *Santa Barbara County*, including Vandenberg AFB and the cities of Guadalupe, Lompoc, and Santa Maria.

**ETHNIC POPULATION (2000):** African American 3%; Asian 4%; Latino 27%; Native American 1%; White 64%

**VOTER REGISTRATION (2002):** Dem 36%; Rep 44%; DTS 14% - **211,497 total voters**

**VOTER REGISTRATION (2009):** Dem 36%; Rep 41%; DTS 18% – **227,894 total voters** (Permanent vote-by-mail voters 47%)

**Ethnic voter registration (2007):** Latino 13%; Asian 1%; Filipino 1%

**Ethnic voter registration (2009):** Latino 16%; Asian 1%; Filipino 1%

**POLITICAL ANALYSIS (POSSIBLE 2010 TARGET):** A two-county district, with most (67%) of the voters residing in the San Luis Obispo County portion. *Abel Maldonado* gave up this seat in 2004 due to term limits, successfully running the same year for the overlapping SD15. He was succeeded by *Sam Blakeslee* who himself will be termed out in 2010.

This district has been considered safely Republican in past elections, but with the significant drop in GOP registration this past decade, along with the fact that Obama narrowly outpolled McCain here, the Democrats have this district on their “watch” list.

Four Republicans have filed a Statement of Intention and are actively campaigning to win the GOP nomination in June.

**K.H. “KATCHO” ACHADJIAN** is serving his third term on the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors. In 2006, Governor Schwarzenegger appointed him to the California Coastal Commission. An Armenian who was born in Lebanon, Achadjian moved to the United States in 1971 to attend college. He received an AA Degree from Cuesta Community College and graduated from Cal Poly SLO in 1976 with a bachelor’s degree in business. After college, he bought a local Shell gas station where he was once employed to help pay his way through college (he now owns three stations and employs 30 workers) and became a U.S. citizen in 1982. **Endorsements** include Sen. Abel Maldonado, former Asm. Brooks Firestone, former Reps. Bob Lagomarsino and Bill Thomas, former Secretary of State Bruce McPherson, along with a bevy of local elected officials and community leaders. He and his wife, *Araxie*, have two children and reside in Pismo Beach.

**HENRIETTA (ETTA) WATERFIELD** is membership manager and economic development coordinator for the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce and, until recently, was a member of the Santa Maria Planning Commission (appointed 2003). She is also a member of the Santa Maria Police Advisory Council. For seven years, Waterfield served with the Santa Maria Valley Economic Development Association. **Endorsements** include Sen. Tony Strickland, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assoc., National Tax Limitation president Lew Uhler, and a long list of local community leaders. She and her husband, Robert (*Buck*), have three children, including one son in law enforcement. The have resided in Santa Maria since 1985.

**MATT KOKKONEN**, a financial planner, ran for this seat in 2004, coming in a close second to Blakeslee in a hard-fought three-candidate GOP Primary race. In 2006, Kokkonen lost a race for San Luis Obispo County Tax Collector-Treasurer and in 2008 ran unsuccessfully for congress against Lois Capps in CD23. Born in Finland, he immigrated to the U.S. by himself at the age of 16. A graduate of Westmont College in Santa Barbara, he received a bachelor’s in Philosophy, a master’s in both Financial Services and Management, and has been a Chartered Life Underwriter since 1973. This summer the GOP activist organized “Tea Parties” on the issue of health care. He and his wife, *Jean*, have two children, including a daughter in the Air Force (captain) who has served in Iraq.

**FRED STRONG** is a member of the Paso Robles City Council (elected 2004). The life-long political activist is retired after a 35-year career in newspaper editing, publishing and radio broadcasting. Born in Wisconsin in 1937, he was a Jesuit educated at Marquette High School and University. He came to California in 1963 and moved to San Luis Obispo County in 1973. He and his wife, *Patty*, a grand-grandniece of President James Buchanan, have three children and six grandchildren.

*The sole Democrat* filing an SI as of this writing is **HILDA ZACARIAS**, 47, a member of the Santa Maria City Council (elected 2006). From 1993-1998, she was a member of the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District Board of Trustees. Born in Texas, she moved with her family to Santa Maria at an early age, attended local schools and graduated from Allan Hancock College and Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, where she received a degree in Business. She completed her Masters in Public Administration at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Zacarias owned and operated an accounting and tax firm for 12 years and worked as an auditor of non-profits for a Santa Barbara-based CPA firm. She taught taxation and accounting at Cal Poly. She served on the Board of the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and was recognized as the Hispanic Businessperson of the Year.