

21st Assembly District OPEN SEAT

Ira Ruskin (D) termed out in 2010

<u>President 2004</u>		<u>U.S. Senate 2004</u>		<u>Governor – 2002</u>		<u>Assembly 2004</u>	
Kerry (D)	67%	Boxer (D-Inc)	66%	Davis (D-Inc)	54%	Ruskin (D)	52%
Bush (R-Inc)	32%	Jones (R)	31%	Simon (R)	33%	Poizner (R)	48%
<u>Governor 2006</u>		<u>U.S. Senate 2006</u>		<u>Attorney General 2006</u>		<u>Assembly 2006</u>	
Angelides (D)	41%	Feinstein (D-Inc)	72%	Brown (D)	68%	Ruskin (D-Inc)	68%
Schwarzenegger (R-Inc)	54%	Mountjoy (R)	23%	Poohigian (R)	27%	Kiraly (R)	32%
<u>President 2008</u>		<u>Prop 8 2008 - Ban</u>		<u>Insurance Comm. 2006</u>		<u>Assembly 2008</u>	
Obama (D)	72%	<u>Gay Marriage:</u> Yes	34%	Bustamante (D)	36%	Ruskin (D-Inc)	71%
McCain (R)	26%	No	66%	Poizner (R)	55%	Temple (R)	29%

LOCATION: Split almost evenly between two counties, encompassing the southern *San Mateo County* communities of Atherton, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Carlos, Woodside; and the *Santa Clara County* communities of Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Palo Alto, and a small portion (6%) of San Jose.

ETHNIC POPULATION: African American 4%; Asian 12%; Latino 17%; Native American 0%; White 64%

Voting Age Population: African American 3%; Asian 12%; Latino 15%; Native American 0%; White 67%

VOTER REGISTRATION (2002): Dem 45%; Rep 33%; DTS 18% - **227,539 total voters**

VOTER REGISTRATION (2009): Dem 47%; Rep 27%; DTS 23% – **250,251 total voters**

Ethnic voter registration: Latino 7%; Asian 6% (Chinese 4%, Korean 1%, Japanese 1%); Filipino 1%; Jewish 4% (2007)

POLITICAL ANALYSIS (SAFE DEMOCRATIC): This high-wealth mid-peninsula/Santa Clara foothills district typifies what has happened to the Republican Party in the San Francisco Bay Area. Three decades ago, most of this area was safely Republican; today, if not totally safe for a Democrat, it has a strong Democratic bias. *Joe Simitian* gave up this seat in 2004 to run successfully for the state senate in SD11, which set up a hard-fought four-candidate 2004 Democratic primary, the top vote-getter being Redwood Councilmember *Ira Ruskin*.

In the 2004 general election, which should have been a cakewalk for a Democrat, Ruskin had to face multi-millionaire Republican business executive *Steve Poizner*, who spent more than **\$6.9 million** in attempting to pull off a major upset. Ruskin and the CA Democratic Party were required to spend some big bucks in a district party leaders would have preferred to have been able to ignore. But it proved dollars wisely spent, Poizner coming within four points of pulling off a major upset. (*Note above the 2006 Poizner vote in this district for Insurance Commissioner.*) Ruskin will be termed out in 2010, and as of this writing five Democrats filed a Statement of Intention to run for this seat.

MARC E. BERMAN is an associate in the Silicon Valley office of Latham & Watkins. He grew up in Palo Alto, attending Palo Alto High School (Sr. Class President). He received his bachelor's in Political Science from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. and a law degree from USC, where he was elected Student Body President. Before attending law school, Berman spent three years living all over the country working for political campaigns, from state assembly in Santa Monica to two separate U.S. Senate races in South Dakota. He has worked for Cong. *Anna Eshoo*, both in the district and Washington D.C and was active in the first campaign of Cong. *Mike Honda*.

RICHARD S. GORDON is a member of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors (elected 1997). Prior to his election to the Board, he served as a member of the County Board of Education (1992-1997). He is third-generation Californian who was born and raised on the peninsula. Gordon received his bachelor's in Sociology in 1970 from USC. He served as a minister in the United Methodist Church and received his Masters of Divinity from Garrett Theological Seminary at Northwestern University in 1973. In 1976, he began work in the nonprofit sector at the Sequoia YMCA in Redwood City. He went on to found Youth and Family Assistance, a program for at-risk youth. Cong. *Anna Eshoo* has endorsed Gordon. In 2008, he married his domestic partner of 24 years, *Dr. Dennis McShane*, a prominent physician noted for his AIDS research. They reside in Menlo Park.

YORIKO KISHIMOTO, 58, is a member of the Palo Alto City Council. She was elected in 2001 and reelected in 2005. She is the founder and president of an international consulting business (1982-present; on leave). Born in Japan, she has been a Palo Alto resident since 1988. She received her bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University (Connecticut) and received her MBA from Stanford University Graduate School of Business. She is married to *Lee Collins*, whom she married 28 years ago in Japan while they were graduate students. Collins is an engineer with Apple. They have two college-aged daughters.

HAL W. PLOTKIN is a member of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District Governing Board of Trustee, elected 2003. He is a journalist and author based in Palo Alto who focuses on technology, business, education, public policy and science. He was a founding editor of Marketplace, the public radio network's nationally broadcast business and economic news program. He is the first graduate of Foothill College elected to serve on the board of trustees, having earned an AA in History in 1985. He received his bachelor's in Behavior Sciences from San Jose State University. He and his wife, *Loren Stein*, a journalist, have one daughter.

KAI STINCHCOMBE, 28, is a co-founder and CTO of IncentAlign, an enterprise software company, filed a Statement of Intention to run for this seat. He received his bachelor's in History and Math from Colorado College and a master's in Political Science from Stanford University. He is currently in Stanford's Ph.D. program. Kai is a founder and former executive director of the Roosevelt Institution, a non-partisan national network of campus based student think tanks that grew from a Stanford start-up to a self-sustaining D.C. headquartered national organization that grew to a staff of 20 and 10,000 members.

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