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Republicans Rally Around Caballero

Democrats Say Caballero's Republican Donor Base Shows Her True Political Leanings

According to recent financial reports and announced endorsements, Anna Caballero is seeking Republican support to boost her campaign for the Democratic primary for the State Assembly – and she is finding success. But prominent Democrats in the 28th Assembly District say Caballero's Republican financial support shows she'll be the voice of conservatives rather than working families.

Caballero's most recent financial statement filed with the Secretary of State's office shows her campaign has solicited thousands of dollars from prominent Republicans, including Don Nucci and Mann Packing Co. (\$1,000 and \$5,000 respectively), Don Chapin Co. (\$2,800), Kurt Gollnick and Scheid Vineyards (\$200 and \$3,804 respectively), Roger Mills (\$2,000), William Ramsey (\$500), Jeff Gilles (\$500), and others.

On her website's homepage, Caballero also touts the endorsements from the honorable Ann Soldo, the honorable Betty Bobeda, and the honorable Judy Doering-Nielsen – all Republicans. She also lists Republican County Supervisor Jerry Smith as a supporter.

“Anna Caballero apparently thinks that the way to reach the hearts and minds of Democrats in the 28th Assembly District is with Republican money and Republican supporters,” said Ventura Phares' campaign manager, Skyler Porras. “Republican support for Anna Caballero shows that Ana Ventura Phares is the real Democrat in this race for Assembly.”

“Ana Ventura Phares is supported by groups and individuals who are fighting for real solutions to the problems working people face, and that's who she'll represent in the Assembly,” said Francisco Rodriguez, member of the Pájaro Valley Federation of Teachers.

Ana Ventura Phares has been endorsed by the California State Council of SEIU, California Federation of Teachers, the United Farm Workers, former Salinas Mayor Alan Styles and a majority of the Democratic elected officials in the district.

Ventura Phares was the first Mexican-American woman elected to the Watsonville City Council in 1998. In 2002, she was re-elected and in November 2004, Ventura Phares was appointed to serve as Mayor. She also served on the Watsonville Planning Commission from 1995 to 1998. Ventura Phares grew up in the 28th Assembly District as her family of migrant farm workers traveled between the Salinas, Imperial, and Pájaro Valleys.

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