



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

CAOC-backed candidates fare well in statehouse races

Oil industry darling “Chevron Cheryl” toppled in big win for consumers

SACRAMENTO (Nov. 9, 2016) – Bucking the national trend that swept Donald Trump to the presidency, Californians elected more than a dozen pro-consumer candidates supported by Consumer Attorneys of California in Tuesday’s legislative races.

Voters in Assembly District 47 sent a loud message favoring people over corporations, as trial lawyer Eloise Gomez-Reyes defeated incumbent Cheryl Brown by a margin of more than six percentage points.

Brown, better known as “Chevron Cheryl” for her support of the oil industry, had huge financial backing from Big Oil during the campaign. Gomez-Reyes, who has been a consistent advocate for civil justice in her career, enjoyed the backing of trial lawyers, unions and environmentalists.

The first Latina to open her own law firm in the Inland Empire, Gomez-Reyes helped neighbors stop a planned toxic waste dump in their Colton neighborhood. She has volunteered to provide legal care, consistently fought for workers and their civil rights, and has been honored by groups including the California State Bar and the League of Women Voters.

“As an attorney for injured workers, Eloise Reyes knows that access to our courts is essential to achieving justice and equality under the law,” said Greg Bentley, CAOC incoming president. “We’re proud to have helped secure this victory alongside a broad coalition of workers, environmental leaders and families.”

Another corporate Democrat was defeated Tuesday in Assembly District 27, where Ash Kalra was elected over Madison Nguyen. Kalra served as a public defender before his tenure on the San Jose city council. He has been a consistent advocate for workers, the environment and the disadvantaged, and he will bring a tenacious spirit to fight for civil justice in Sacramento.

Two CAOC-supported candidates who were victorious over Republican incumbents were Al Muratsuchi, a winner over David Hadley in Assembly District 66, and Sharon Quirk-Silva, who appears to have earned a narrow victory over Young Kim to reclaim the Assembly District 65 seat she lost to Kim in 2014.

CAOC backed three candidates who won open Assembly seats by wide margins, Monique Limón in Assembly District 37, Laura Friedman in Assembly District 43 and Todd Gloria in Assembly District 78.

On the Senate side, CAOC supported five candidates for open seats who won their races handily: Bill Dodd (Senate District 3), Nancy Skinner (Senate District 9), Anthony Portantino (Senate

District 25), Henry Stern (Senate District 27) and Steve Bradford (Senate District 35). Incumbent Jim Beall cruised to victory in Senate District 15 with CAOC support.

Consumer Attorneys of California is a professional organization of plaintiffs' attorneys representing consumers seeking accountability against wrongdoers in cases involving personal injury, product liability, environmental degradation and other causes.

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