

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



9.10

During the oral communication section of the agenda for Tuesday, June 12, 2012, Shirley Ferrante read letter she sent to president into the record.

**ATTACHMENTS FILED WITH
CLERK OF THE BOARD**

**AGENDA NO.
9.10**



**Riverside County Board of Supervisors
Request to Speak**

Submit request to Clerk of Board (right of podium),
Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject
Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form.

SPEAKER'S NAME: Shirley Fervante

Address: 4291 MONROE ST. # 81
(only if follow-up mail response requested)

City: Riverside **Zip:** _____

Phone #: 500-7713

Date: 6/12/12 **Agenda #** Dval-

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

_____ **Support** _____ **Oppose** _____ **Neutral**

Note: If you are here for an agenda item that is filed
for "Appeal", please state separately your position on
the appeal below:

_____ **Support** _____ **Oppose** _____ **Neutral**

I give my 3 minutes to: _____

BOARD RULES

Requests to Address Board on "Agenda" Items:

You may request to be heard on a published agenda item. Requests to be heard must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board before the scheduled meeting time.

Requests to Address Board on items that are "NOT" on the Agenda:

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these rules, member of the public shall have the right to address the Board during the mid-morning "Oral Communications" segment of the published agenda. Said purpose for address must pertain to issues which are under the direct jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. YOUR TIME WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES.

Power Point Presentations/Printed Material:

Speakers who intend to conduct a formalized Power Point presentation or provide printed material must notify the Clerk of the Board's Office by 12 noon on the Monday preceding the Tuesday Board meeting, insuring that the Clerk's Office has sufficient copies of all printed materials and at least one (1) copy of the Power Point CD. Copies of printed material given to the Clerk (by Monday noon deadline) will be provided to each Supervisor. If you have the need to use the overhead "Elmo" projector at the Board meeting, please insure your material is clear and with proper contrast, notifying the Clerk well ahead of the meeting, of your intent to use the Elmo.

Individual Speaker Limits:

Individual speakers are limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes. Please step up to the podium when the Chairman calls your name and begin speaking immediately. Pull the microphone to your mouth so that the Board, audience, and audio recording system hear you clearly. Once you start speaking, the "green" podium light will light. The "yellow" light will come on when you have one (1) minute remaining. When you have 30 seconds remaining, the "yellow" light will begin flash, indicating you must quickly wrap up your comments. Your time is up when the "red" light flashes. The Chairman adheres to a strict three (3) minutes per speaker. **Note: If you intend to give your time to a "Group/Organized Presentation", please state so clearly at the very bottom of the reverse side of this form.**

Group/Organized Presentations:

Group/organized presentations with more than one (1) speaker will be limited to nine (9) minutes at the Chairman's discretion. The organizer of the presentation will automatically receive the first three (3) minutes, with the remaining six (6) minutes relinquished by other speakers, as requested by them on a completed "Request to Speak" form, and clearly indicated at the front bottom of the form.

Addressing the Board & Acknowledgement by Chairman:

The Chairman will determine what order the speakers will address the Board, and will call on all speakers in pairs. The first speaker should immediately step to the podium and begin addressing the Board. The second speaker should take up a position in one of the chamber aisles in order to quickly step up to the podium after the preceding speaker. This is to afford an efficient and timely Board meeting, giving all attendees the opportunity to make their case. Speakers are prohibited from making personal attacks, and/or using coarse, crude, profane or vulgar language while speaking to the Board members, staff, the general public and/or meeting participants. Such behavior, at the discretion of the Board Chairman may result in removal from the Board Chambers by Sheriff Deputies.

June 2012

Addressed to:

President of the United States

United States Senate

Republicans

Democrats

County of Riverside, Board of Supervisors

City of Riverside Councilmembers

Mayor of Riverside, California

We are writing this letter to address the following concerns. We reject the language that is used on Fox News and MSNBC. The language has been sexist and anti-religious. We are not voting for you in this election period for that reason. We choose not to allow our children and grandchildren to watch political campaign material. We would like to see open primaries. We want to be able to vote for independents.

We would like to see money taken out of politics. We would like to see public campaign finance laws in effect. We have heard Rick Perry say that he wants politicians to work part time and get paid part time to save money. However, we know that politicians already work part time. We are in support of the Bowles/Simpson movement to pass bipartisan support. We would like politicians to leave their egos at the door.

We would like to see more moderate candidates running for office. Many candidates are extreme. The public can go to the Open Secrets site to get information about what is really going on in politics. We are aware that individuals are not held responsible nor prosecuted for the current financial crises.

We appreciate you reading this letter and giving consideration to our concerns.

Sincerely,

Disgruntled Seniors

Submitted by Shirley Ferrente
6-12-12 Item ORAC
(date)



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EDITORIAL MEMO: LOBBYING DISCLOSURE KEY TO PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO KNOW

March 14, 2011

Contact: Gabriela Schneider 202-742-1520

According to a [recent investigation by the Sunlight Foundation](#) (<http://reporting.sunlightfoundation.com/2011/03/14/doe-run-peru/>) and reported by ABC News, the Obama administration and lawmakers intervened on behalf of a billionaire whose company is in a complex financial and environmental dispute with the Government of Peru over an idle metal smelter that has made the surrounding town of La Oroya one of the most polluted places on earth. The Renco Group, owned by billionaire Ira Rennert, hired eight former government officials working at five different firms in a span of 82 days beginning in November to get federal help. At least two members of Congress with ties to those lobbyists wrote letters to Treasury and the State Department on Renco Group's behalf.

Virtually every day of the week, private interests hire Washington lobbyists with an eye to employing their insider connections in order to influence public policy. In fact, from 1998 to 2009, this kind of hiring spree led to a nearly 150 percent increase in lobbying spending, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. However, once a firm is hired, little information is publicly disclosed about its work to influence Congress. And, since lobbyists for the Renco Group did not respond to Sunlight's interview requests, our investigation was only able to note the connections between the lobbyists and the members of Congress who acted on the company's behalf. The full story of how lobbyists are working to benefit billionaire Rennert cannot be told.

This shows how we need better lobbying disclosure laws, including real-time, online disclosure for lobbyists' activity, so we know what's happening while it's happening. Additionally it's time to close the loopholes that allow many to lobby but not register because they spend less than 20 percent of their time on it. (One of the most famous examples of such a "senior advisor" is former Senator Tom Daschle.) And what about former lawmakers, like Senator Chris Dodd, who leave Congress to head lobby groups, but insist they won't lobby?

Current lobbying disclosure rules include a requirement for lobbyists to list previous federal employment, such as whether it was for Congress or the White House. Yet, once a lobbyist does work for a client, they only need to disclose a minimal amount of detail about his or her activity. Instead of lobbyists disclosing they met with someone from the Senate, we should know more specific information, such as which senator or staff was met and what issues they discussed. All of these activities and contacts should be posted to the web every day—and without any lag time. (For more details on Sunlight's lobbying disclosure reform proposals, please see <http://www.scribd.com/doc/44763730/Goals-for-LDA-Amendments> (<http://www.scribd.com/doc/44763730/Goals-for-LDA-Amendments>)).

The public has a right to know how special interests and lobbying help shape public policy—for better or worse. After last year's Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission ruling, campaign finance and lobbying disclosure became even more closely linked. How? The lack of election spending disclosure rules for contributions owing to the Supreme Court's decision has allowed special interests to influence public policy through the very real threat of unlimited—and often anonymous—spending on campaign ads. In effect, lobbyists can—without ever saying a word—threaten that their clients will spend millions on ads if senators or representatives do not do what the lobbyist wants.

The solution is meaningful lobbying disclosure reform, so journalists and citizens alike can "follow the action," even if they can no longer follow all of the money. Online reporting of lobbying information is critically important in today's Washington. We need better lobbying disclosure laws to create real-time, online disclosure for lobbyists' activity, so we know what's happening while it's happening.

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We can't let our democracy go to the highest bidder. Let's put the pressure on to redefine the public's right to know this Sunshine Week.

The Sunlight Foundation is a non-partisan non-profit that uses cutting-edge technology and ideas to make government transparent and accountable. Visit SunlightFoundation.com (<http://sunlightfoundation.com>) to learn more about Sunlight's projects, including InfluenceExplorer.com (<http://Influenceexplorer.com>) and Party Time (<http://politicalpartytime.org>).



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Sunlight Foundation Reporting Group

Monday, May 21, 2012

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Democratic Super PAC raises individual, union, corporate and Super PAC contributions

By [Bill Allison](#) Jun 23 2011 6:05 p.m.

The [House Majority PAC](#), one of the two Democratic Super PACs currently seeking permission from the Federal Election Commission to have federal candidates and party officials solicit funds for them, has disclosed its first batch of donors in the 2012 election cycle. Among the big givers are stalwart Democratic donors, including unions like the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (\$200,000) and the Communications Workers of America (\$50,000), individuals like Fred Eychaner (\$100,000) and George Soros (\$75,000), trial law firm Kazan McClain Lyons Greenwood & Harley (\$10,000), tech company Integrated Archive Systems (\$25,000) and [America's Families First Action Fund](#) (\$50,000), which is itself a Super PAC.

Super PACs, or independent expenditure-only committees, can raise unlimited money from individuals, corporations and labor unions and spend it to influence federal elections, provided they don't coordinate with candidates or party committees.

Law firm Perkins Coie represents both groups; Robert Bauer, an attorney at the firm and former White House Chief Counsel, represents the Democratic National Committee and President Barack Obama's reelection campaign.

The donations to the House Majority PAC arrived between April 19 and May 23, 2011. Most of the donations were received before James Bopp Jr., a conservative lawyer and co-founder of an independent expenditure-only committee called the [Republican Super PAC](#), announced that he intended to enlist Republican federal candidates and party officials in fundraising efforts for his group.

The Center for Responsive Politics reported yesterday that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., solicited on behalf of the [Majority PAC](#), a companion organization of the House Majority PAC that focuses on supporting Democratic Senate candidates. Reid's solicitation was dated on June 21.

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Mystery Health Care Group Funneled Millions to Conservative Nonprofits

By [Viveca Novak](#) and [Robert Maguire](#) on May 18, 2012 2:35 PM



This is the seventh story in an exclusive series about the funding behind politically active tax-exempt organizations that don't disclose their donors. You can read the other stories in the series [here](#).

A secretive, well-funded group whose name gives the misleading impression that it is solely concerned about health care gave more than \$44 million in 2010 to other tax-exempt groups, many of which spent millions on TV ads attacking Democrats running for the House and Senate and have begun spending for the same purpose this year.

None of the groups -- including eight of the most politically active nonprofits in 2010 -- disclose their donors, and the role of the Center to Protect Patients' Rights (CPPR) in funding them has not previously been reported.

Based in Arizona, CPPR provided large grants to a cluster of well-known conservative organizations that operate under section 501(c)(4) of the tax code, which classifies them as "social welfare" groups and allows them to keep their funding sources from public view. Politics is not supposed to be their primary purpose, although critics say many of the organizations have stretched the rules too far.

American Future Fund received the largest grant from CPPR, a total of \$11.7 million for "general support." That amount exceeded the nearly \$10 million the group told the Federal Election Commission it spent supporting or opposing Democratic candidates in ads in the midterm elections ("independent expenditures") or broadcasting slightly less explicit appeals close to election day ("electioneering communications"). In fact, the gift was more than half of the \$23.3 million the group raised all year.

American Future, which is based in Iowa, ran a series of hard-hitting ads against Democratic candidates around the country in 2010 that left little doubt where the group stood, even when the ads didn't refer to the election. "With the biggest tax cut in American history looming, [Bruce] Braley was the deciding vote to adjourn the house. Instead of fighting for lower taxes, Braley went home," one ad, which ran in October

2010, said of the Iowa Democrat. "Tell Braley: Don't vote to raise taxes on Iowa families."



Layers of Anonymity

The donors to the Center to Protect Patient Rights are almost entirely unknown. Such tax-exempt organizations must detail the groups to whom they gave grants, but not the sources of their own funds. A small grant of \$200,000 came to CPPR from American Action Network, yet another 501(c)(4), according to the Form 990 tax return that American Action filed with the Internal Revenue Service this week.

And if its donors are unknown, so is much else about CPPR. According to its own 2010 tax return, which was filed last November, it is run by Sean Noble, who is listed as its director, president and executive director. Noble describes himself on his Twitter account as a "PR/Political consultant, conservative strategist/operative, former GOP Hill chief of staff, blogger, proud father, fighting for liberty." Noble was chief-of-staff to former Republican Rep. John Shadegg of Arizona, for whom he worked for 13 years, and since then has worked as a political consultant and in public relations.

Noble took no salary from CPPR, but his firm, Noble Associates, was paid \$340,000 by the group for "management services." Noble was also paid \$10,000 to lobby for the group.

He is currently managing partner of DC London Inc., a political consulting firm that offers robo-calling and other services. CPPR's other director and secretary is Courtney Koshar, an anesthesiologist in the Phoenix area.

The organization's mission, as listed on the tax form, is "Building a coalition of like-minded organizations and individuals, and educating the public on issues related to health care with an emphasis on patients rights. Engaging in issue advocacy and activities to influence legislation related to health care."

Noble did not return our calls seeking comment.

Adding to the confusion is the fact that CPPR's name is almost exactly the same as that of another group, the Coalition to Protect Patients' Rights, a group that organized lobbying efforts against health care overhaul proposals being debated in Congress in 2009. And CPPR gave the Coalition \$205,000 in 2010. Further, the records for both groups were listed as being stored at the same Glendale, Ariz., address by a woman who describes herself as an employee of DCI Group, a lobbying firm practiced in manufacturing "grassroots" campaigns for the tobacco industry and others that has handled public relations for the Coalition.

But the Coalition's spokesman, physician and lawyer, Donald Palmisano, told *OpenSecrets Blog* he'd never heard of the other group, as did a publicist with DCI Group.

The second-largest grant from CPPR, \$5.6 million, went to Americans for Limited Government, also for "general support," as were all the CPPR gifts. That amounted to more than half the group's \$9 million budget for 2010. The creation of libertarian real estate mogul Howard Rich, Americans for Limited Government distributes money to its own large network of 501(c)(3) and (c)(4) organizations. One such group, Colorado at Its Best, in turn funded a group called Clean Government Colorado in 2008, which backed a ballot initiative that critics said would limit the ability of public employees' unions to make political contributions. In 2010, ALG funded a group called Alaskans for Open Government, which in turn provided money to another group backing an "anti-corruption" ballot initiative. The Alaska group eventually ran into trouble over failing to disclose its own sources of funding.