

PATRICIA McKEON

for Assembly 2012

November 15, 2011

I came about the decision to run for the State Assembly in an unconventional way compared to most that choose to serve. Some begin to think about the next rung on the political ladder the day after their most recent election. Some think a wall full of plaques and photos with politicians qualify them to lead.

My decision was made standing in the checkout line in the grocery store. I'm not joking.

At checkout, the very polite cashier asked if I wanted to pay an additional \$.10 for paper grocery bags as they were no longer permitted to provide any bags beginning July 1st. Having raised six children, trust me when I say I have experienced lean times. With many people struggling to make ends meet, paying for groceries is a struggle. Just think about how much food we could buy if we weren't forced to pay ten cents for grocery bags.

So that's how it happened. It's that simple.

State government was no longer protecting me. It was hitting me right where it hurt - my pocket book. As the one who wrote the household checks for 49 years --- yes, Buck and I have been married for 49 years - I knew full well we paid too much in taxes and government spent too much. However, confronted with the opportunity to pay a surcharge for the privilege of choosing how to bag my groceries, I reached my tipping point.

In explaining my decision to run for State Assembly to one of my sons, and sharing my concern that I've never held office, he stopped me and said, "Mom, maybe that's a good thing."

Another factor to consider was Buck's continued service in Congress and my sensitivities to voters seeing two McKeons on the ballot. Many have reminded me that while Buck and I raised our family here, and we're proud to call it home, we are two separate people - with different perspectives and strengths.

My role as full time mother naturally led to my work with groups like the Boy Scouts, Pop Warner Football, school booster clubs and, of course, my church. That type of work rarely makes news but I'm proud to have done my part to help preserve our way of life.

My respective service as President of my children's school PTA, as a Member on the Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital Board, as Vice President of the Republican Women's Federated, and as a volunteer for the Los Angeles County election board haven't made the front page, but the work got done.

And, it's clear that work needs to get done in Sacramento.

Far too long, Sacramento has been controlled by special interests and the politicians who do their bidding. Sacramento is a mess and it's time to shake things up by reforming state government, reducing spending, and passing meaningful pension reform.

In order to have that honor, I need to know if you'll stand with me. Because modern campaigns are expensive, I am asking neighbors for \$25 to help get this campaign off the ground. It doesn't sound like a lot, but it will send a strong signal we stand united.

Your contribution will go directly toward office supplies, postage and the brochure we'd like to print for our door-to-door efforts. If you have the ability to contribute more, your doing so will mean all the difference in the world.

If you want to speak to me directly, I'd love to hear from you. Give me a call at 661-259-2015 or message me on Facebook and we'll get the conversation going.

In closing, a mother of 6 children and 31 grandchildren may not be the choice favored by the status quo. However, I'm prepared to fight for the values that made our community great and to restore accountability to state government.

I would be honored if you would be among the first to join me with your endorsement and contribution returned in the envelope that came with this letter.

Sincerely,



Patricia McKeon