

# DAILY NEWS

## More on R,W&B Dinner, polling, public unions

By Don Polson

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Boy, did I ever drop the ball: I told readers interested in the Republican Red, White and Blue Fundraising Dinner, 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 9, at the Veterans Memorial Hall, they would have to choose between prime rib or chicken for dinner. Au contraire! You will get both, yes both, served up hot and tasty by award-winning Snackbox Catering. That means if you are attending with someone who prefers, say, chicken over beef, and your tastes are just the opposite, you could trade and feast on twice the prime rib while your partner chows down twice as much chicken.

Pardon my shameless over-selling of the event, but it's truly a highlight of our political year, as I wrote last week. What is not to be under-sold is the raffle of a rifle that night; tickets are only \$10, or 3 for \$25. What makes this rifle raffle special is that you will get to choose the caliber, which eliminates wondering if the rifle's right for you.

The fine Savage Axis XP model, bolt action, can be either right or left handed, and comes with a detachable magazine, a Bushnell 3x9 40mm variable scope, mounts and rings in the following calibers: 7MM-08, 308, 30-06, 25-06, 270, 243, 223, or 22-250. Attendance is not required to win, if you simply wish to purchase raffle tickets and skip the dinner you'll be leaving more food for the rest of us, as my dad would say. Phone numbers are 567-2323 or 529-1226.

Here are a few polling results: Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) found support for Governor Brown's (and the Democrats') preferred solution to the budget crisis extend temporary taxes and fees for 5 more years to have precipitously dropped since January. Then it was favored by a solid 54 to 41 percent of likely voters; March polling found support dropping below 50 percent and virtually tied with those opposed, 46 to 45 percent. Voters get that we can't tax our way to solvency in California.

A different sample of adults (which would include those who pay little, if any, taxes) found two-thirds supporting higher taxes for education just not on income, sales or vehicles.

Tax businesses, many of them say, which illustrates their ignorance of what drives businesses and jobs out

of state (unemployment rate still over 12 percent, by the way).

Mark my words, if Republicans cave on putting tax increases on the ballot (hey, Democrats insisted that extending the Bush tax rates made them tax cuts, so extending the so-called temporary tax hikes makes them tax increases), public employee unions will flood the airwaves with many millions of dollars of your tax money to persuade the gullible to vote yes, and raise taxes on you.

When Scott Rasmussen finds results that don't support liberal positions, Democrats squeal but the fact is he balances party affiliation reflective of the last election, making his polling quite accurate. In February, likely voters (including 59 percent independents) revealed that a solid 6 in 10 would rather "have a partial government shutdown until Democrats and Republicans can agree on what spending to cut." They oppose "avoiding a government shutdown by authorizing spending at the same levels as last year." In fact, 61 percent want less spending than last year; only 6 percent want more spending.

The "cut spending rather than raise taxes" theme was emphasized this month when Rasmussen polled just "Adults," which usually favors the Democrat position. Not this time. "Just 20 percent of Adults would be willing to pay higher taxes to help reduce the federal budget deficit. 71 percent would not be willing to do so 83 percent of Americans say the size of the federal budget deficit is due more to the unwillingness of politicians to cut government spending than to the reluctance of taxpayers to pay more in taxes."

Some self-explanatory statistics: Private school teachers made, on average, about \$40,000 in 2007-

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2008; public teachers made about \$53,000 (National Center for Education Statistics). The median single-earner income in Tehama County was almost \$27,000 in 2009; two-incomes brought in a median \$42,000 per household. Average teacher salary in Tehama County, anyone? Wisconsin public teachers bring home pay and benefits ranging from over \$60,000 to almost \$80,000 per year; the Wisconsin average single-income check is \$40,600. In 41 states, "public workers earn more" than private workers. (USA Today)

"Today, according to the Cato Institute, if state employees were paid at the same rates as their private sector equivalents, no state in the nation would be running a deficit. From their own reduced means, middle income Americans put up most of the funds for those outsized compensation packages. As a result, funds are denied for smaller class sizes, better roads and bridges, and lower taxes. By wrapping their indefensible demands in the cloak of the labor movement as a whole, the public employee unions are discrediting all unionization." (Clark Judge)

"I want to emphasize my conviction that militant tactics have no place" in the public sector. (President Franklin Roosevelt)

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*Don Polson has called Red Bluff home since 1988, is a past president of the Tehama County Association of Realtors, licensed from 1994-2010. He can be reached by e-mail at [donplsn@yahoo.com](mailto:donplsn@yahoo.com)*



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