

POLITICO

The most competitive California congressional races -- Rahm Emanuel is in Europe

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CALIFORNIA PLAYBOOK -- per David Siders and Carla Marinucci -- It's still early, but with second-quarter financing a wrap, the landscape in California's competitive congressional races is becoming more clear. Top lines from **California Target Book Publisher Darry Sragow** and **Research Director Rob Pyers**, from their analysis prepared exclusively for POLITICO:

Rep. Steve Knight (CA-25): "Five Democratic challengers, including **Bryan Caforio**, Knight's DCCC-backed 2016 opponent, have filed statements of candidacy with the FEC, although only three have reported any fundraising activity. The DCCC establishment candidate vs progressive insurgent dynamic that created an issue in the 2016 campaign looks set to resurface in 2018, although **Katie Hill**, filling the progressive role this cycle, is better positioned to make it a competitive effort with Caforio."

Rep. Devin Nunes (CA-22): "After incumbent Republican Devin Nunes courted controversy during the House Intelligence Committee's Russia investigation, the DCCC added CA22 to their target list in May, and three Democrats have filed with the FEC to challenge Nunes, who possesses the single largest war chest for any California incumbent. Despite being the sole Democrat in the race in the second quarter against the GOP lightning rod, prosecutor **Andrew Janz** reported an uninspiring haul."

Rep. Ed Royce (CA-39): "Two Democrats and one No Party Preference Berniecrat filed during the second quarter, although the post-Q2 addition of lottery winner **Gil Cisneros**, who will be in a position to self-fund, and former Tesla regulatory counsel and **Rep. Cardenas Chief of Staff Sam Jamma**, will likely muddy the waters further, with no clear front-runner on the Democratic side at this stage."

Read the full run-down of competitive districts here. Bottom line: Democrats have fielded a glut of candidates in competitive races. But fundraising is uneven -- and in some cases shaky. Despite a flood of press surrounding her bid to unseat Republican Rep. Steve Knight, for example, Democrat **Jess Phoenix** raised just \$77,001 in the second quarter. Look to the next fundraising period to start separating serious challengers from also-rans. <http://politi.co/2uz52uQ>

FLORIDA PLAYBOOK -- per Marc Caputo -- Via Sergio Bustos and Matt Dixon: Billionaire Republican **U.S. Rep. Francis Rooney** has spent more money in legal fees

than any other member of Congress this year, an amount he says is needed to ensure his complex finances are in compliance with congressional rules.

“We have some fairly complex financial arrangements in our family that need to be thoroughly vetted,” he told POLITICO Florida. “I am just making sure that we are absolutely safe and our office does not have any problems.”

Rooney, a 63-year-old freshman from Naples, is currently majority owner of Manhattan Construction Company, a family-owned company that built Cowboys Stadium in Dallas, the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center and the Cato Institute headquarters, both in Washington, D.C., among other buildings. <http://politi.co/1OC2BLg>

ILLINOIS PLAYBOOK -- per Natasha Korecki -- *Una Stupidaggine* ... Mayor Rahm Emanuel is in Europe, with events today in Milan. “Grab your espresso,” the mayor’s office suggested in a news announcement last night: “Chicago and IIT have a new partner in Italy! ... Mayor Emanuel will announce new partnership between Illinois Institute of Technology’s Institute of Design (IIT-ID) and Politecnico di Milano University’s School of Design in Milan, Italy. The partnership will increase international academic cooperation and support research into urban design solutions for a sustainable economy.”

Back in Chicago neighborhoods where people are dying by the dozens due to gang violence, the demand for espresso was, well, not high: “Adults spoke through tears, in English and Spanish. The Police Department organizes these events, called ‘Operation Wake Up,’ after a victim so undeserving of a violent end dies by gunfire. Most often they’re children, and most often the gunfire is meant for someone older, someone part of the gang conflicts that lead to shootings,” wrote the Tribune’s Peter Nickeas.

The mayor’s trip to Europe during what is historically one of the most violent months in Chicago, may be a sign of the political heat turned down on violence, despite the fact that murder numbers in Chicago are on pace with last year’s surge. There’s been criticism of Emanuel’s absence (we’ll get to Kass’ column below) but it’s somewhat muted. Emanuel was around after the 4th of July holiday weekend when 100 people were shot and 15 killed. At the time, DNAinfo asked Emanuel if the level of carnage exposed a weakness in the technology-assisted crime-fighting. “It takes a web of investments and strategies [including] putting more police on the streets,” Emanuel said then.

But **John Kass**, a frequent Emanuel critic, pounced: “Rahm, enjoy your ‘vacation’ from Chicago,” by Chicago Tribune’s John Kass: “Mayor Rahm Emanuel isn’t at his desk. He’s not even in Chicago ... The mayor is in Europe with Chicago tech business owners, polishing his international profile ...

“[A]s long as the mayor is on his many voyages, to New York and Montreal and Washington and to great European cities, he doesn’t have to answer bothersome questions back home. Like questions about Chicago’s gang wars, where 56 people were shot over the weekend and 11 were killed, including a 10-year-old boy and an anti-violence counselor. And the body count keeps growing. More than 4,000 people were shot in the city last year. This year it could be just as bad

or worse. And City Hall has no answers. So if you were mayor, wouldn't you rather be somewhere else?

We asked Emanuel's office to explain the import of this trip. Here's what his office said: "The Mayor has been working to promote Chicago's companies on a global stage and increase innovation collaboration between Chicago and our international partners. International trade and relationships support thousands of jobs in Chicago, and by strengthening these partnerships through these official visits we can drive economic results at home for years to come. The Mayor remains in close contact with his staff and CPD." <http://politi.co/2vjwzOb>

MASSACHUSETTS PLAYBOOK -- per Lauren Dezenski -- As Gov. Charlie Baker assails the Senate Republican health care effort in Washington, Democrats are going after the Republican governor over his own health care push here in Massachusetts.

Baker was one of 11 signers on a letter from a bipartisan group of governors calling on senators to not repeal the Affordable Care Act without a replacement, an option that now appears to be kaput. He also defended his own health care proposal which would shift 140,000 people off of MassHealth and onto the Health Connector to help control ballooning costs. As Baker put it to reporters yesterday, it's similar to the state's health care system before Obamacare came along, and called his deal the "same kind of bipartisan policy moves that you don't see coming out of Washington at all."

But eyeing a potential chink in the nation's most popular governor's armor, two Democratic gubernatorial candidates **Jay Gonzalez** and **Setti Warren** separately say that's not true — Gonzalez took to the State House yesterday to lobby against Baker's effort, while Setti took to Facebook calling on the legislature to reject Baker's plan and, going a step further, to move to a single-payer health care system. <http://politi.co/2u8m28q>

NEW YORK PLAYBOOK -- per Jimmy Vielkind and Azi Paybarah -

- Outgoing **Councilman David Greenfield** is swapping out his name as the Democratic candidate in his re-election race for his longtime ally, **Kalman Yeger**. Greenfield is leaving to take a job with a non-profit organization and the selection of Yeger — who was until recently running in the district next door — was technically made by a handful of Greenfield's supporters (members of his "Committee to Fill Vacancies"). The Democratic voters in his district did not have a role in this process, since the switch came after petitions were filed. Greenfield said his hand was forced, because the job offer came, unexpectedly, just days ago. The switch, he told NY1 last night, is the "best of the worst options."

Later, in that interview, Greenfield explained why it would be worse to leave in time to force a special election — where the Democratic nominee is chosen by the county committee.

"[E]veryone knows in my district there's an assemblyman with something of a checkered past" and "he controls the political machine in Borough Park" Greenfield told NY1. In that kind of scenario "the assemblyman's son runs unopposed on the Democratic line because I chose that option."

As our **Conor Skelding** reported, **Yoni Hikind** "could still run on the Conservative Party line." The older Hikind told Skelding that "running or not running is a decision that [Yoni] has to

make” and “the bottom line for me, and I’ve made it very clear, is that there be more than one candidate.” <http://politi.co/1gJSEwx>

NEW JERSEY PLAYBOOK -- per Matt Friedman -- Remember red light cameras?

Don’t worry. **Assemblyman Nicholas Chiaravalloti** doesn’t want to bring them back. But he did propose a bill last week that would allow speed cameras in construction zones, with \$100 fines if you go more than 11 miles per hour over the speed limit.

I asked **Assemblyman Declan O’Scanlon** if he planned to co-sponsor it, and surprisingly he’s not signing on as a co-sponsor. <http://politi.co/1WdOXgU>