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Campaign Wrap: Brown Support May Help Clinton Clinch California

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California Governor Jerry Brown said today that he's supporting Hillary Clinton, giving her a strong boost ahead of the state's June 7 primary.

- In [an open letter to California Democrats and independents](#), he wrote: "I believe this is the only path forward to win the presidency and stop the dangerous candidacy of Donald Trump"
 - He also argued for party unity, saying, "Clinton's lead is insurmountable and Democrats have shown—by millions of votes—that they want her as their nominee"

Brown's backing is a valuable asset for Clinton as he's respected by progressives and popular in the state, [Bloomberg's Sahil Kapur reports](#)

- In 1992, Brown ran a bitter primary battle for president against Bill Clinton

Bernie Sanders told reporters in Emeryville, Calif., that he wasn't worried that Brown endorsed Clinton, saying "it is not surprising to me that we'll have the Democratic establishment supporting Hillary Clinton"

- Sanders spent the weekend campaigning in California; he attended a Golden State Warriors basketball playoff game yesterday and is scheduled to be there at least through Wednesday
- Sanders told reporters that the Warriors, who trailed in game, "turned it around" to win, [CNN reports](#)—"I think that is what our campaign is going to do as well; a very good omen for our campaign"

Clinton is leading Sanders 51 percent to 38 percent in the [Hoover Institution Golden State Poll](#)



ON THE TRAIL

Trump held a press conference in New York City on his donations to veterans' groups, saying he's given almost \$6 million to them and listing out each donation to each group name

- Final total will probably be over \$6 million; he said he's given \$5.6 million so far

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told radio host Hugh Hewitt that Trump is "a phenomenon" and isn't going to change the Republican party "in a fundamental way"

- "He appeals to a lot of voters, he'll be the nominee. I don't have any problem supporting him"

Clinton said in a *New York Magazine* interview that Trump may put the Republican-heavy state of Texas in play

- "If black and Latino voters come out and vote, we could win Texas"
- Texas has been a reliably Republican state for more than a generation, despite a recent increase in Latino voters who more often vote Democratic; Democrats haven't won a presidential election there since Jimmy Carter in 1976

She also rolled out proposals for military families today, such as:

- Making it easier to switch between active, national guard, and reserve
- Increasing child-care options
- Letting families stay in their housing for up to 6 months "under common sense" circumstances when a military member is moved

Sanders spoke on health-care policy in Emeryville, Calif.

- The event was billed as a press conference, but he didn't take any questions from reporters, *Politico* reports



ENDORSEMENTS

Environmental group NRDC Action Fund endorsed Clinton for president, saying it's the first time it has backed a presidential candidate



POLLS

CA: Clinton leads Trump in reliably Democratic state, 42%-33%: [Hoover Golden State poll](#)

NH: Clinton, Trump tied at 44% in state: [Franklin Pierce University-Boston Herald poll](#)

NJ: Clinton leads Trump in state, 38%-34%, Monmouth Poll finds

VA: Clinton up 45%-41%: [Gravis Marketing](#)



CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Aides to Republican mega-donor Sheldon Adelson are holding discussions about forming a super-PAC to support Trump, [*Politico* reports](#)

- Gov. Chris Christie, R-N.J., is said to be involved in the talks, along with Republican consultants Nick Ayers, Phil Cox, Chip Englander, Josh Holmes

Purple PAC, a libertarian group founded by former Cato Institute president Ed Crane, may support Libertarian Party nominee Gary Johnson, [*Washington Post* reports](#)

- The group was founded to support Libertarian Robert Sarvis for statewide office in Va., and briefly supported Rand Paul in 2015
- Johnson's campaign is looking to at least three other super-PACs for potential support



ETC.

Va. Sen. Tim Kaine tops *USA Today's* power rankings of possible Hillary Clinton vice presidential picks

- Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown and Labor Secretary Thomas Perez tied for 2nd
- Others include Mass. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, N.J. Sen. Cory Booker, Calif. Rep. Xavier Becerra



CONGRESSIONAL RACES

SENATE

CA-SEN: Democrat Kamala Harris leads field with 26% support in open primary; fellow Democrat, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, is in 2nd with 13%: Hoover Golden State poll

- In a state where the top two candidates advance, regardless of partisan affiliation, that result would freeze Republicans out of the Senate race in November

FL-SEN: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" that Republicans are "doing everything we can to encourage" Sen. Marco Rubio to reverse his decision to retire, the *Washington Post* reported

- Rubio has said it's unlikely he'll seek a second term after his losing bid for the presidency; filing deadline is June 24
- Democratic Rep. Alan Grayson on Sunday married Dena Minning, who's seeking to succeed him in FL-09, *Miami Herald* reported

NH-SEN: Sen. Kelly Ayotte at 48%, Democratic Gov. Maggie Hassan at 47% in FPU-Boston Herald poll

- Senate Majority PAC, a Democratic super-PAC seeking to overturn GOP's 54-46 majority, says in TV ad that Republican Sen. Kelly Ayotte supported a plan to raise the Medicare eligibility age and turn program into "voucher"
- Ad cites Ayotte's votes in 2012 and in 2013 for budget blueprints promoted by Paul Ryan, then chairman of the House Budget Committee

- Ayotte said in a statement after 2012 vote that “it’s past time” for Senate to vote on plan “that addresses our nation’s staggering debt and deficits, preserves our entitlement programs, and secures America’s economic future”

OH-SEN: Republican Sen. Rob Portman’s first TV ads “highlight his record fighting Ohio’s severe prescription drug and heroin addiction problems,” Washington Post reported

- Portman is a chief author of S. 524, which would authorize funds for treatment and recovery and for law enforcement initiatives and programs to prevent overdoses; Senate passed it 94-1 in March

HOUSE

CA-17: With Democratic Rep. Mike Honda “wounded by an ongoing federal ethics probe,” Democratic challenger Ro Khanna is looking to “cement his place in a November rematch,” *San Jose Mercury News* reported in a preview of the June 7 primary

- Honda and Khanna are expected to be the leading vote-getters in all-candidate “Top 2” primary; Honda defeated Khanna by fewer than 4 percentage points in 2014 general election

CA-24: Citizen Super PAC in TV ad says Republican Justin Fared “represents a new generation of fiscally conservative leaders”

- Fared is competing for a November ballot spot in a crowded primary field that includes Democrats Salud Carbajal and Helene Schneider and Republican Katcho Achadjian
- Citizen Super PAC describes itself as the “first people-powered Super PAC”; donors include Houston retiree Windi Grimes, who gave \$150k in Feb

IA-01: Democrat Monica Vernon says in TV ad that “people in Washington” have given tax breaks to corporations to offshore jobs, adds that she wants to “invest in northeast Iowa”

- Vernon and Pat Murphy are competing in the June 7 primary for the right to oppose Republican Rep. Rod Blum

NC-02: Super-PAC aiding Republican Rep. George Holding says in a TV ad that he “voted against Obama’s bad budget deal,” while Republican Rep. Renee Ellmers voted for it and “thinks like a Washington insider”

- Ad from American Foundations Committee cites Jan. 2014 vote for \$1.1 trillion bipartisan spending bill; Ellmers joined John Boehner, Paul Ryan, Kevin McCarthy among 166 Republicans in support, while Holding was among 64 Republicans who voted no

NH-02: Former state Rep. Jim Lawrence seeking Republican nomination to oppose Democratic Rep. Annie Kuster, WMUR reported

- Lawrence sought same seat in 2014, placed third in GOP primary

NC-12: WBTV-TV questions whether Rep. Alma Adams has actually moved to Charlotte, as she promised she would after redistricting, or if she still lives in Greensboro, her long-time home

- Redrawn district is entirely contained within Charlotte area; former district stretched from Charlotte to Greensboro, about 90 miles to the northeast: WBTV

NV-04: Democratic ex-state Rep. Lucy Flores raised \$610k in a 55-day period ended May 25, overwhelmingly in <\$200 increments, according to pre-primary report filed withFEC

- Philanthropist Susie Lee gave another \$100k to her campaign on May 27, according to FEC report
- Flores, Lee and state Sen. Ruben Kihuen are among the eight Democrats competing in June 14 primary; freshman Republican Rep. Crescent Hardy is seeking re-election in Democratic-leaning district