



*Candidacy announcement for the
33rd Assembly District Republican Primary
by Paso Robles' Mayor Pro-Tem Fred Strong
June 30, 2009*

On Thursday (June 25) I filed papers in Sacramento with the Secretary of State for the 33rd Assembly seat currently held by Sam Blakeslee.

For the past four and a half years I've been moving many needed projects forward and increasing citizen involvement at the local level only to see many of those efforts hampered by flawed fiscal policies and micro-management at the state level. I have been representing local interests at the state level for many years. I now realize that I can be a much more effective advocate for the people by having a voice, a seat and a vote in the Assembly.

I've represented the people of California on major policy documents, legislation and initiatives since the mid-70s. I'm currently the only candidate for this office that has been walking the walk and not just talking the talk. I've consistently sought and achieved positive changes in Sacramento for local control and people's rights.

However, it is getting more difficult since too many of the people in Sacramento have become afraid to do anything to offend special interests even when it is in the best interests of the people.

I seek equal opportunity for our people and businesses. I have a solid public record of doing so for decades.

I believe in full, knowledgeable public participation in the government process. I have already achieved much in this regard and hope to do more.

I intend to seek and obtain the Republican nomination for the 33rd Assembly District seat, win the final election and represent the people of this district in Sacramento. I do this as a Republican centrist who is first and foremost an American and a Californian.

The state has spent billions of dollars telling local government and our people exactly how they must act and what they must do down to the ridiculous. It has micromanaged all of us into near bankruptcy without learning that one size fits all solutions don't work! The state should set general policy and let local government carry it out.

We have very competent people doing very sensible things at the local level. The tremendous success of Mayor Lavagnino and the Santa Maria City Council in getting \$47 million in repairs to the Santa Maria River Levee is an outstanding example. The efforts by the leadership in both Paso Robles and in Lompoc to save

their respective Fourth of July fireworks shows through public support and sponsorship is an outstanding example of government and the people working together.

The cooperation of all of the cities in Santa Barbara County, lead by Santa Maria, in opposing mandatory spay and neuter policies proposed by the county is a significant statement of concern about the erosion of local control that shouldn't be ignored.

The joint efforts by many cities in San Luis Obispo County in protesting additional cuts to local funds and services, as well as unfunded mandates, by the state is another cry for justice that must be recognized and addressed. Mayor Tony Ferrara and the Arroyo Grande City Council are to be commended for leading the way and championing that effort.

There are outstanding examples of clear headed thinking and responsible decision making in every city in both counties in the way they manage and distribute Community Development Block Grant money. Through this simple and effective process they have all shown outstanding ability to address local needs at the local level.

Examples abound that all government is local and it is time that the state recognize this and act accordingly.

Policy needs to be set at the state. Funding mechanisms must be appropriately created. Implementation should then be carried out locally in cooperation with appropriate state agencies. Punitive actions must be minimized while incentives and assistance are expanded. Our people are neither incompetent nor stupid. It is time to take our government back to the people in a responsible manner that protects against special interests taking destructive advantage through the influence and initiative processes.

I am very well qualified through years of success in making state government more responsive to the people at the local level. Opportunities for this abound. It is time to grab them and move the great State of California forward.

Many of my credentials to date can be found on my personal web site at www.fredstrong.com. I welcome the help and support of every person in the 33rd Assembly District.

I thank my wife and family for their support and personal sacrifice in this endeavor. I thank all of those who have supported me to this point. I take my efforts to the next level primarily to enhance and complete what we have already started locally.