



CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

SENATOR JOHN BURTON (RET.), CHAIRMAN

October 15, 2009

As Chairman of the State Democratic Party, I believe it's important that all our statewide candidates avoid negative campaigning and agree not to seek the party's pre-primary endorsement.

Democrats are blessed to have several fine candidates for Lieutenant Governor. All of you are dedicated, qualified public servants and California will be a better place when one of you is elected.

If the party were to be involved in multiple contested primaries, it would squander the party's resources early, ultimately hurting all the Democratic nominees.

Given the 60 percent threshold for endorsement plus the number of candidates currently running for this office, the chances of any one candidate securing an endorsement at our state convention are highly unlikely. The time, money and effort a candidate might spend seeking the Party endorsement would almost certainly be better spent communicating with California voters.

The State Convention is a time when we need all Democrats to come together with the goal of electing all our nominees in November.

I have spoken to a number of elected party leaders about the upcoming statewide races and a majority of our Party officers agree that it is best to avoid a negative primary campaign among Democrats and to avoid a pre-primary endorsement fight.

Please consider this request and contact Shawnda Westly, the Party's Executive Director, at (916) 442-5707 to let us know if you still plan to seek the Party's pre-primary endorsement.

Peace and friendship,

SENATOR JOHN BURTON, (RET.)
Chairman

