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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 26, 2008

Bass boldly identifies Ferial Masry to Fill Seat

by Minerva L. Williams, freelance writer



All photos in this series by Todd Hoover

CAMARILLO, CA - Assembly Speaker Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles) expects two more seats out of seven to open up to Democrats in the Nov. 4 election for the California State Assembly. She took part in Saturday's rally for third time Democratic hopeful Ferial Masry, candidate for the 37th Assembly District.

"There's a blue wave sweeping across this nation, and we have to make sure it comes across the state," Bass said. "We have some districts, and I'm sorry to say this was one of them, where we had to tell people, 'No, this is not an automatic Republican district.'"

Picture: Jack Phillips, Karen Bass, Ferial Masry and Pedro Nava

Bass, the main speaker at the rally (in blue jacket), believes that if ten seats can be acquired we will greatly improve the Democrats' chance of attaining "the all-important two-thirds majority in the State California Assembly".

The rainy day didn't keep the local rally of 150-200 enthusiastic Camarillo's who's-who and Ferial Masry supporters from gathering and attracted: Joe O'Neil, Chair, Ventura County Central Committee, the several members of various Ventura County Democratic Party clubs and San Fernando Valley Democratic groups who were all in attendance. Bob Handy, Director, 10th Regional District for the State Democratic Party was emcee for the evening.



The flow of on lookers and volunteers was constant and came as far as Antelope Valley, Castaic, and Los Angeles to Ojai and Santa Barbara. In attendance and extending their well wishes were Assembly Representatives Pedro Nava (pictured, D-35th AD includes: Oxnard, Ventura, Santa Barbara, Goleta, Carpinteria, Buellton, and Solvang.

Julia Brownley (D-41st AD) and Paul Krekorian (D-43rd AD). Strategy representatives from the Los Angeles County Central Committee, 37th Assembly

District Renee Lancon and Paul Markowitz (both of Topanga Canyon) and Minerva and Todd Hoover (both of Castaic) were present. The Green party members were also present. In the back of the headquarters, Democratic and Republican volunteers for Ferial Masry's GOTV were planning last minute precinct walking and phone calling in one of the more polite but contested races.

Masry offered that her legislative priorities are for Education, Healthcare, and Improving the Infrastructure of California. The funding for implementation would be through increased revenue in the long run. "We must first balance the budget by closing the tax collection loopholes on the top 1 or 2%. Then, we must collect the uncollected taxes that John Chiang campaigned on. We must also reinstate the vehicle registration fee. That would give us \$12 billion of the \$16 billion deficit now. With a better educated workforce, we would be able to attract more business and that would bring in more revenue", she said.

Meantime the Democratic State Party provided a million dollars towards the Hannah Beth Jackson 19th senatorial campaign in order that she might defeat Tony Strickland. Jackson is hammering Strickland's claims of being "the environmental candidate" with cutting television advertisements that has Ventura County buzzing with activity and volunteerism. This should help Masry's chances of winning against Audra Strickland since Jackson is making the Strickland name mud.

Several termed-out Republican seats have yet to be targeted: Namely Assembly Districts 10, 15, 26, 78 and 80. Not to be taken lightly, the Republicans are doing the same thing in termed out San Joaquin Valley with Assembly District 30. The Senate District 5 of termed out Democrat Mike Machado (D-Linden) is a hopeful shot for Assemblywoman Louis Wolk (D-David), whose race has reached a feverous pitch.

"We are on a blue wave which is agitated by the current world economy, the melt down of the real estate market, the automobile industry, the roller coaster ride in gas prices and the on going Iraqi and Afghanistan wars. Down ticket balloting will make a huge difference," says Renee Lancon, who worked on the 2006 and 2006 Masry campaigns.

"It is time for the Democratic Party to rally under the big tent now. Outreach is important and sharing strategic approaches are required; GOTV is a given and assembling as many of the party faithful as possible to volunteer is tantamount," said Todd Hoover, Santa Clarita Valley webmaster and strategist.

Hoover, who has been working with the Ferial Masry campaign since January, feels that there is a significant possibility that Masry, who is running a third time, will call it quits if this race doesn't solidify into a seat. However, up until recently, Masry has never enjoyed the generous Democratic financial support that other Red-zone contested races throughout the state have had. The race against incumbent Audra Strickland didn't heat up until three weeks ago upon the Strickland camp's learning that Masry was announced in the California Target Book as one of the seven districts to watch.

Democratic registration in the 37th AD has increased significantly since 2006 while the Republican numbers have continued to fall. The 37th Assembly District includes the following cities: Acton, Agua Dulce, Camarillo, Canoga Park, Castaic, Chatsworth, Fillmore, Los Angeles, Moorpark, Newbury Park, Oak View, Ojai, Piru, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, Somis, Thousand Oaks, Val Verde, West Hills, and Westlake Village.

According to the Ventura Star Editorial Board "In the Assembly, Democrats hold 48 of 80 seats, six shy of a two-thirds majority". More decline-to-state voters in the district are believed to be voting for Democratic candidates than ever before. With all of this the energy emitting from the

rally and months of hard work having come to a climax, Karen Bass expresses her wish for these up-and-coming Democratic candidates to be successful.

To volunteer for the Ferial Masry Campaign please visit campaign headquarters: 1727 East Daily Drive, Suite # D, in Camarillo near the Denny's Restaurant; OR 810 Lawrence Drive, Suite #124, in the Industrial Center area of Newbury Park, CA. off of Teller and Lawrence Drive, (on the Teller Street side). Donations to the Masry's federal account # ID # 1300148, are not tax deductible. For general questions, please contact campaign manager, Vitali Mostovoj <mostovojv@earthlink.net> or call (805) 492-4122.

BASED ON THE NUMBERS: Assembly District 37

Report of Registration as of September 5, 2008

Registration by State Assembly District

Total Registered	Democratic	Republican	American Independent	Green
Kern 4	1	2	1	0
Los Angeles 36,632	13,592	14,504	809	192
Ventura 207,660	73,008	89,218	4,269	1,231
District Total 244,296	86,601	103,724	5,079	1,423
Percent 100%	35.45%	42.46%	2.08%	0.58%

Other picture considerations:
Percy Severn, Minerva Williams, Renee Lancon



Assembly Speaker Karen Bass and Obama-Biden Activist Carol Keavney

Bob Handy, was Emcee for the evening. Bob Handy, Director, 10th District State Democratic Party, praises Masry's conviction, "...wish we had more Democrats who are tenacious as she is . . ."



Assemblyperson Brownley, rallies the troops



Attentive crowd of Democrat, Republican and Green Party supporting Ferial Masry



Ferial in awe of the enthusiasm.



Assemblyman Paul Krekorian offering hope!



Karen Bass delivers plans to send in two more assistants, more money and current statistics to an eager MASRY campaign crew



The Masry Ladies Strategy Squad pose with State Assembly Speaker Karen Bass: (from right to left) Renee Lancon, Minerva Williams, Ferial Masry, Percy Severn, and Pari Mostovoj

