

Legislative Profile: Ron Calderon By Manon Banta

Calderon is an imposing political name – and not just south of the border, but locally as well, in the 58th Assembly District which has seen its own political dynasty.

Following his brothers, Charles and Tom, into public service, the Montebello native, Assemblyman Ron Calderon (D-Montebello) credits his mother as influencing their lives with her example of devoting time, resources, and energy to her community while raising a family.

“When you grow up around someone with that type of conviction,” said Calderon, “you gradually come to understand the significance of community, family, and charity. This is what influenced my brothers and I to become involved with public service. It was our way of giving back and ensuring positive and fair growth opportunities for the families, neighborhoods, and students of our community.”

Calderon has served two terms in the Assembly for the 58th District, which encompasses Hacienda Heights, Montebello, portions of Whittier, East Los Angeles, Downey, and Pico Rivera – whose Sports Arena hosts many equine events. He recently won the Democratic Primary for State Senator of the 30th District.

Calderon currently serves as the Chairman of the Banking and Finance Committee, and has championed a bill that gives businesses the same rights and protections from identity theft as individuals. He also serves on the committees for Governmental Organization, Appropriations, Insurance, and Rail and Safety Management.

Believing a bill must have merit based on whether or not it will have an impact, correct outdated laws, or fill a void in a certain area of policy, Calderon introduced AB 407 in February, 2005, which would remove the limitation of 23 races a day that can be imported from out of state for Simulcasting – thus giving California racing interests parity with ADW operations. The legislation was held in committee last year and reintroduced this year so lawmakers could continue to

negotiate the quantity of simulcast races allowed and move the bill forward.

Acknowledging that, “A bill has a very brutal route to take in order to become law. It must pass committees in both houses and two floor votes before reaching the Governor’s desk,” Calderon believes that this bill is a winning bet for both the horseplayers, who currently are locked

out of certain races, and for the State – which will reap the benefit of increased revenue from the additional simulcast races.

Having attended the races with friends as a younger man, Calderon views horse racing as offering “a varied change of pace for its patrons. Its low wager scale makes it affordable even to those who don’t tend to place bets,” Calderon said. “It is very much in line with baseball. It provides individuals, couples, and families an opportunity to be out and enjoy the slow pace of the day with an injection of thrill when the horses race out of the gate.”

A graduate of UCLA with a BA in Psychology, Assemblyman Ron Calderon makes his home in Montebello with his wife of 24 years, Ana and their two children, Jessica and Zachary.



Tracking Trends

DAILY ATTENDANCE & WAGERING through Sunday, May 21, 2006

| | Racedays | Reported Attendance | | Pari-mutuel Wagering | | Pari-mutuel Purse Revenues | |
|---|----------|---------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|
| 2006 Los Angeles Turf Club - Final | 86 | 18,350 | 4.4% | \$11,202,607 | 8.9% | \$431,851 | 7.9% |
| On-Track | | 9,177 | 13.9% | \$2,245,531 | 9.9% | \$154,256 | 8.3% |
| Off-Track | | 9,173 | -3.7% | \$2,966,709 | 1.4% | \$139,967 | 0.7% |
| CA ADW | | | | \$827,298 | 15.7% | \$41,303 | 23.0% |
| Out-of-State (Reg. & ADW) | | | | \$5,143,069 | 12.3% | \$96,325 | 13.1% |
| 2006 Hollywood Park Spring - Current | 21 | 15,213 | -17.1% | \$10,404,233 | -1.9% | \$391,750 | -2.6% |
| On-Track | | 6,009 | -26.2% | \$1,662,505 | -7.1% | \$109,418 | -8.2% |
| Off-Track | | 9,204 | -10.0% | \$3,310,545 | -4.5% | \$145,865 | -6.1% |
| CA ADW | | | | \$1,115,865 | -3.2% | \$53,787 | 10.1% |
| Out-of-State (Reg. & ADW) | | | | \$4,315,318 | 2.7% | \$82,679 | 5.1% |
| 2006 Golden Gate Fields Spring - Final | 65 | 6,106 | -7.2% | \$4,051,115 | -2.9% | \$160,644 | -1.1% |
| On-Track | | 2,221 | -23.6% | \$597,415 | -18.9% | \$40,310 | -19.4% |
| Off-Track | | 3,885 | 5.7% | \$1,475,638 | 8.2% | \$77,230 | 7.6% |
| CA ADW | | | | \$342,776 | 3.5% | \$18,193 | 29.8% |
| Out-of-State (Reg. & ADW) | | | | \$1,635,286 | -6.1% | \$24,911 | -6.5% |