

Legislative Profile: George Plescia

Horseracing and politics are very similar. They embody opportunity, strategy, and a lot of competition. They also happen to be two of Assemblyman George Plescia's passions.

On March 8, Plescia was unanimously elected by his colleagues to serve as the Assembly Republican Leader, replacing Kevin McCarthy, who is not seeking reelection to the Assembly in favor of a run for Congress. Prior to that, Plescia was the Assistant Republican Leader and served on the Assembly Budget Committee, the Veterans Committee, and as Vice-Chair of the Government Organization Committee.

First elected to the State Assembly in 2002, Plescia serves the 75th Assembly District, which includes portions of the City of San Diego, Escondido, La Jolla, and Poway. He and his wife, Melissa, make their home in La Jolla. With the Del Mar Race Track in his backyard, he has become quite familiar with the industry, both with its successes and its challenges.

Although Plescia may not be as lucky at the track as he would like, he has been a vocal member of the Assembly Select Committee on the California Horse Racing Industry and a bona fide champion of California horse racing. He has carried multiple pieces of legislation aimed at promoting the industry and providing additional opportunity to strengthen the business. He feels that horseracing needs to aggressively

market itself to fight strong competition from other sports and gambling activities.

"Increasing interest, attendance and revenues in horseracing supports a very important part of California's agricultural and entertainment business," said Plescia. "We should encourage economic growth and job creation from this industry."

Plescia has also fought against tax increases, wasteful spending, and burdensome regulations on small businesses. As a fiscal conservative, he has consistently stood up for balancing the state budget through economic growth, rather than tax increases.

He has also authored legislation that successfully paved the way for the historic agreement among the water agencies that serve Southern California, locked away gas tax dollars for transportation funding, protected our children by strengthening Megan's Law and taken taxpayer-funded impotence drugs away from convicted sex offenders.

Among other things, Plescia intends to continue working to help move California down the road to economic recovery; support the mission of our troops abroad and protect the military installations in California; and – most important to thoroughbred owners – insure a vibrant future for the state's horseracing industry.



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