

CALPEEK

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BATTLE TO REPLACE HILDA SOLIS CAMPAIGN 2009: APRIL 18TH SHOWDOWN FOR CALIF. DEMO PARTY ENDORSEMENT IN 32ND CD.

Editor's note: Mark your calendar for 12:30 p.m., April 18th. That's when about 540+ delegates gather at the Garvey Intermediate School in Rosemead to see if they can endorse someone to replace new Dept. of Labor Secretary Hilda Solis in the 32nd CD. The district takes in a great part of the San Gabriel Valley – including East L.A. and Covina. The primary is May 19th, with a runoff on July 14th. Here is a brief update & analysis...

...The two leading contenders are both Demos. They are State Sen. Gil Cedillo and BOE Chairwoman Judy Chu. There's a third Demo, Emanuel Pleitez, who was part of Pres. Obama's transition team. At stake is the official endorsement of the Calif. Demo Party. Both Cedillo and Chu have tons of endorsements. But Chu won the L.A. Co. Federation of Labor and CTA endorsements, two jewels in the "endorsement triple crown." FYI: At Chu's campaign kickoff Mar. 14th, Irma Ricon, Hilda's sister, endorsed Chu, saying, "I'm here to say that my whole family supports Judy Chu."...

...Back to the CDP endorsement. Winning the endorsement requires a 60% vote and with two strong candidates, that's not going to be easy. The delegates are selected in a complex process. All Demo clubs in the 32nd CD, and all L.A. Co. Central Cmt. members from the 32nd CD are delegates. And then there are the elected officials from all over Calif. The idea here is to get Statewide, U.S. House and all Demo Legislators (including losing candidates) to assign their delegates to one of the candidates. Sources in Sacto told *Calpeek* that Senate Pres. Darrell Steinberg(D) had urged his members to back Cedillo and requested that they assign their delegates to vote for Cedillo. That request didn't fly with Senators Alquist, Lu, Pavley, Wiggins or Wolk. They're with Chu...

...All of this delegate stuff had to have been completed by March 10th – the day Gov. Schwarzenegger called the election...

...No one really has a clue of the outcome, but Chu consultant Parke Skelton told *Calpeek* his team has been working hard on this endorsement. It's not a guarantee that winning the L.A. Co. Labor Fed, CTA and CDP's endorsement will bring a win, but it helps. Stay tuned...