

Summit Spotlights Candidates for Governor, Presidential/California Political Analysis

Two 2010 gubernatorial candidates and NBC News Political Director Chuck Todd were just a few of the many guests to speak at the 2009 California Chamber of Commerce Business Summit, which marked its 22nd anniversary on May 18–19.

Candidates for Governor

Business and local chamber of commerce leaders who attended the annual summit listened to California Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner and former California Director of Finance Tom Campbell discuss their views on how the state of California could make its way out of the economic downturn under their gubernatorial leadership.

Poizner proposed two changes in California so as not to be “steamrolled in the 21st century global economy.” He said the state must fix the public school system and overhaul the tax and regulatory codes.

“It really matters where companies locate and where they stand. That’s where

the wealth gets generated, that’s where taxes get paid, that’s where we get the resources to invest,” Poizner said.

Campbell said the “means for correcting our problems are within our hands.” He focused on putting an end to overregulation and improper use of litigation and taxation.

“We should not impose regulatory burdens on those who offer jobs in our state with the consequence that jobs will go elsewhere,” Campbell said.

Panel Discussion

A discussion panel that included Dan Schnur, director, Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics, University of Southern California, and Greg Lucas, a political writer for *California’s Capitol* blog followed the gubernatorial candidates.

The discussion, moderated by CalChamber President Allan Zarembeg, covered topics ranging from a California constitutional convention, the 2010 race for Governor, the importance of the

young voters and a new strategy for the Republican party.

Federal View

NBC News Political Director Chuck Todd discussed national politics and the first 120 days of President Barack Obama.

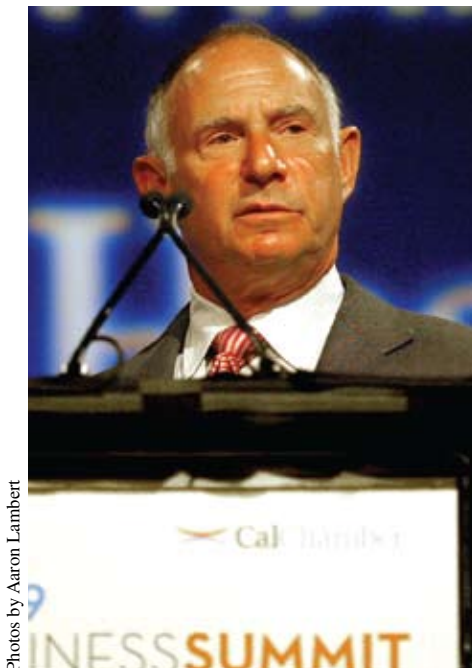
Todd discussed the recent criticism that Obama is “doing too much,” and how it is a reaction to the American public getting used to the “new normal.”

“Everything is just resetting right now in American business and the American economy, which means there will be a new normal,” Todd said.

Todd described the “ADD culture” of America as the largest challenge for the Obama administration and said that the activeness is a response to that.

“This is their response to this ADD mindset,” Todd said.

The administration will do two to three stories a day, assuming that in this “24-hour culture” their story is going to be stepped on, Todd said.



Photos by Aaron Lambert

CalChamber President Allan Zarembeg (left) moderates a discussion on California’s changing political landscape by political writer Greg Lucas (center), *California’s Capitol* blog, and Dan Schnur, director of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics at the University of Southern California, during the morning general session at the CalChamber Business Summit on May 18.