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MAGA Mike Garcia: A Vulnerable Incumbent with a Very Damaging Record

by Brandon Zavala at MWD May 7 meeting

As the 2024 elections draw closer and we analyze the vulnerabilities of Republican incumbents and candidates whose records and positions will not resonate with their constituents.

In Orange County, the likely CA47 Nominee, Scott Baugh:

- As a state legislator, Scott Baugh faced more than 20 criminal charges, indicted on 4 felony charges, and 18 misdemeanor charges, for violating campaign finance laws, and perjury.
- After serving in the California State Legislature, Baugh cashed out and became a professional lobbyist to lobby his former colleagues and give his clients special access in Sacramento.
- While Baugh was chair of the Orange County Republican Party, it was embroiled in a voting fraud scandal that resulted in 12 people being charged, after dozens of residents had their voter registration changed to Republican without their consent.

In California's 27th District, MAGA Mike Garcia stands out as a prime example of a vulnerable incumbent with a damaging record. In previous meetings we have discussed last November's low turnout in the Antelope Valley and how we need to reintroduce MAGA Mike to voters, this afternoon we will highlight some of the strongest hits on Garcia's poor record as a pro-Trump extremist and explore effective strategies for communicating his negative record to voters as we approach the March 2024 Primary Election. After our meeting, we will provide a brief memo with links to longer research documents on Mike record for those who really want to jump into the weeds.

As we are all well aware, Garcia voted against certifying the 2020 election results, even after rioters stormed the Capitol in a deadly insurrection on January 6th. This act alone demonstrates Garcia's commitment to Trump's big lie that the election was stolen rather than the voices of his own constituents. In east Palmdale where Biden beat Trump nearly 3 to 1, our voters are going to have a problem with their Congressman trying to silence their voices — over the last 2 years there has not been a strong enough field or paid media effort for this message to break through with lower propensity voters. To add insult to injury, Garcia even referred to the Capitol Police as the gestapo.

Garcia's stance on women's rights is equally troubling. He urged the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade, and they did, he supports a national abortion ban without exceptions for victims of rape or incest, and even voted against protecting access to birth control. These positions alienate many voters, particularly women and their

families, who view reproductive rights as an essential aspect of their personal freedom. That's the fight we are having in 2024 and Democrats are fighting for freedom.

Healthcare is another critical issue where Garcia's positions fall short of his constituents' needs and demonstrated voting behaviors when fully informed. MAGA Mike has consistently campaigned on fully repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA), even though approximately 1.7 million Californians rely on the ACA annually. Garcia's insistence on getting the ACA "off the books" and only supporting Medicare "at certain levels" underscores his lack of empathy for the healthcare struggles of working-class families in his district. He even opposed capping the cost of life-saving prescription drugs like insulin for fixed-income seniors so that pharmaceutical companies can make even more money.

As housing costs continue to soar, Garcia voted against multiple plans to invest in putting people to work building affordable housing units; leaving many families struggling to find a place to call home. It's not a surprise though, why would a real estate investor turned politician ever want to make housing more affordable.

When it comes to keeping our kids safe in school, Mike couldn't care less. Despite the widespread support for gun violence safety measures, Garcia has consistently opposed legislation such as expanded background checks for gun purchases or even banning high capacity magazines.

In a particularly egregious act, Garcia opposed the opening of a polling place in a working-class, African American, and Latino precinct in East Lancaster in 2020. This opposition to expanding access to the ballot box for marginalized communities showcases Garcia's blatant disregard for democratic values and that he will do whatever he can to keep people he doesn't like from voting.

We have a lot of work to do, but we have plenty to work with to make this Mike Garcia's last term. We have to do the incredibly important of reminding Antelope Valley voters that Mike Garcia is just like another politician we already tossed to the side, Steve Knight.

Just like Steve Knight, it's time to knock Mike Garcia out of Congress by partnering with local organizations in the Antelope Valley. We can educate voters about the importance of voting down-ballot, confirm voter registration information is accurate, showcase Mike Garcia's record, and remind them of the upcoming elections. It is crucial to emphasize the stakes of this election and the potential impacts if we come up short – which we can start doing at the May 20th canvass with AV Democrats for Change.

In 2022, the Associated Press' call of CA27 for Mike Garcia was the call that officially brought Republicans into the House majority – it was their 218th seat, stripping Nancy Pelosi of the Speaker's Gavel. So make no mistake that in 2024, the Antelope Valley will

decide who controls the House of Representatives and the choice could not be more night and day between a pro-freedom Democrat and MAGA Mike Garcia.

Thank you.