



Dear Friends:

I am excited to announce that I will be a Democratic candidate for California State Assembly in 2012.

More than four years and six elections have passed since the national economic crisis began to take its toll on our state budget and in our communities.

Over this period, millions of school children have moved on to middle and high school, enduring more crowded classes, transient staffing, and inadequate facilities and supplies along the way. Parents have lost jobs, lost hours and wages, have less in their retirement accounts and are more in debt.

Cities like Alameda, Oakland and San Leandro are staffing their classrooms and police and fire departments at levels not seen since the 1950s. Billions have been cut from higher education and California's safety net programs.

The \$15 Billion in cuts approved in last month's budget reduces government's participation in the state economy to levels not seen since 1972-73, when our population was half the size.

A few special interests and politicians in Sacramento continue to peddle the dishonest position that investing in our people is bad for business. They leave a trail of unnecessary pain and missed opportunities in their wake.

I am running for Assembly because the world's eighth largest economy is capable of better safeguarding its local schools. Together, we are capable of keeping more cops and firefighters on the job.

I am running for Assembly because good times or bad, California's seniors, the disabled and those in need of healthcare deserve basic levels of protections. We can do all of this while creating jobs and maintaining a solid climate for economic growth.

As a Vice Mayor, former Hospital Board Member and attorney with experience advocating for the interests of everyday people, I have the passion and skills to help bring real change to the Capitol. As a husband and father of three children, I know from personal experience how this tough economy can impact a family's sense of security and safety.

In the coming weeks, I will be offering specific ideas about what we can do together to boost economic recovery, achieve real budget reform in California, and protect and invest in our people. I am eager to hear your thoughts.

In the meantime, I am asking for your early support. This campaign is about seizing the moment. It's about fighting for jobs and improving our economy in a way that keeps the faith with our people.

So please, visit www.robbona.org to make a contribution and show your support. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best,
Rob