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Press Release for 2008 Presidential Election TV Special

An E-Mail to Local Newspaper Editors

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NewsRap with Barry Gordon

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PCAC PRESIDENTIAL FORUM LIVE, ON TAPE, & ONLINE FEATURES ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS

Local Cable TV Special Includes Congresswoman & Members of State Assembly and State Board of Equalization as Surrogates for Democratic Presidential Contenders, with Questions from Moderator and Audience at Home

PASADENA—Barry Gordon, longest-serving president of the Screen Actors Guild and former candidate for Congress, will host an "Election Special" of PCAC Channel 56 talk show "NewsRap" airing live from 9 to 10 p.m. on Thursday, January 24. The program will also be shown repeatedly on PCAC before the California Presidential Primary Election, February 5; and it will also be available online. Gordon will act as moderator, posing questions about the economy, the war in Iraq, and other pressing issues to surrogates for the top candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination: Rep. Linda Sánchez (D-Calif.) will represent Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.); Judy Chu, Vice Chair of the State Board of Equalization, will represent Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.); and Assembly Member Anthony Portantino, of the 44th Assembly District (including Pasadena), will represent former Sen. John Edwards (D-N.C.). Phone lines will be opened, allowing audience members at home to ask questions of the surrogates.

With a face and voice known to millions over the years from stage, screen, and TV—in everything from "Archie Bunker's Place" and "Curb Your Enthusiasm" to "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles"—Gordon in his

mid-thirties graduated from Loyola Law School and went on to serve as president of the Screen Actors Guild from 1988 to 1995—one year longer than even Charlton Heston or Ronald Reagan. Gordon has been a fixture in Pasadena politics since 1998, when as the Democratic nominee for Congress, he surprised the political establishment and nearly unseated popular incumbent Rep. James Rogan, who went on to become one of the House impeachment managers; in 2000 Rogan lost his seat to the current congressman, Rep. Adam Schiff.

When the liberal Air America Radio affiliate in Southern California went off the air for a period starting in 2004, Gordon felt the need for a "progressive" voice on the air locally, so he created "NewsRap"—a live, call-in talk show on PCAC, Pasadena cable-access channel 56. Since then, through the cablecast and the webcast, on www.pasadena56.tv, "NewsRap" has grown. With a large and loyal following in Pasadena—whom he encourages to call in and "talk back!"—Gordon continues to host the show on Wednesdays. On Tuesdays, the host is PCAC producer/director Stuart Johnson; and "Pasadena Weekly" investigative reporter Andre Coleman hosts on most Thursdays—on Thursday, January 24, however, Gordon will host the Election Special; Coleman will substitute for the vacationing Gordon on Wednesday, February 6, for an election post-mortem.

And on January 30, for final pre-election analysis, Gordon will play host to returning guest Christine Pelosi, a political activist and author in her own right as well as the daughter of Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), speaker of the House of Representatives.

Hosting renowned guests is nothing new for Gordon. In 2006 and 2007, he hosted "Barry Gordon From Left Field," a talk radio show on KCAA, the Air America Radio affiliate in the Riverside / San Bernardino area. Gordon talked politics with such nationally known figures as Sen. Barbara Boxer, Rep. John Conyers, then-Mayor / Attorney General-candidate Jerry Brown, John Dean, Lou Dobbs, Arianna Huffington, "peace mom" Cindy Sheehan, Ron Suskind, Helen Thomas, and Gore Vidal. And returning to his roots, Gordon also talked show business with the likes of Ed Asner, Burt Bacharach, Ed Begley Jr., Nora Dunn, Lisa Loeb, and Jim "Jibjab" Meskimen.

Audio archives of "Barry Gordon From Left Field" can be found in <http://BarryTalk.com>; video archives of "NewsRap with Barry Gordon" can be found in <http://NewsRapArchives.com>. Thursday's show will be posted online by the weekend.

The surrogate for Obama on the "NewsRap Election Special" is Congresswoman Sánchez, representing California's 39th Congressional District (stretching from Whittier through Cerritos and Lakewood to South Gate). Sánchez is the first Latina in history to serve on the powerful Judiciary Committee. She also serves on committees or subcommittees concerned with immigration, foreign affairs, education, and labor. She is a co-founder of the Labor and Working Families Caucus, having worked extensively with the IBEW

and other constituent unions of the AFL-CIO. Born to immigrant parents from Mexico, Rep. Linda Sánchez is sister to Rep. Loretta Sánchez (D-Calif.), from the 47th district, in Orange County: They are the first sisters and the first women of any relation to ever serve together in Congress.

The surrogate for Clinton is Dr. Judy Chu, Vice Chair of the California State Board of Equalization. Chu was elected to the Board in 2006 from the Fourth District, representing most of Los Angeles County. From 2001 to 2006, Chu was assembly member for the 49th District, in the west San Gabriel Valley. In the assembly, she served as Chair of the Assembly Appropriations Committee and as a member of Speaker Nunez's executive leadership team. In 2004 Chu authored a tax amnesty bill that brought in \$4.8 billion, making the program the most successful to date in the state and nation. Prior to the assembly, Chu served on the Monterey Park City Council from 1988 to 2001 and as a board member of the Garvey School District from 1985 to 1988. For 20 years, Dr. Chu was a community college professor of psychology.

The surrogate for Edwards is assembly member Portantino, elected in 2006 from the 44th District, including Pasadena. In the assembly, Portantino has been active in legislation affecting such concerns as education, job training, and umbilical cord blood-banking—which gained broad bipartisan support for having the potential to save thousands of lives annually. Before the assembly, Portantino served nearly eight years on the La Canada-Flintridge City Council and as vice chair of the Santa Monica Mountains Advisory Committee. Portantino was born and raised in New Jersey; he came to California to pursue a career in film and television production, working on "Unsolved Mysteries" and productions for Telemundo as well as numerous independent and industrial films.

Interest in the California Presidential Primary Election is running especially high this election cycle for several compelling reasons. The date of the election has been moved to February 5 from the first Tuesday in June. In previous years by the time California held its primary, candidates had already won sufficient numbers of delegates in other states' primaries and caucuses to secure the nominations of the Democratic and Republican parties. This year, however, the California primary election will be held much earlier, on "Super Tuesday"—when 24 states nationwide hold primaries and caucuses, with 52% of all pledged Democratic Party delegates and 41% of all pledged Republican Party delegates at stake.

California voters stand to make a major impact on the presidential races in both parties, particularly because neither party has a clear frontrunner, let alone a candidate who has secured the nomination. Among the Democrats, Clinton and Obama—who are statistically tied in some nationwide polls (most of which show Clinton with a small lead)—have each won state primaries or caucuses; they and Edwards have each won delegates to the Democratic nominating convention. But with over 500 Democratic Party delegates, California alone represents more than have been pledged or estimated to have been won by Clinton, Obama, and Edwards together to date.

California's 29th Congressional District, which includes Pasadena, has five Democratic delegates at stake. Each candidate who wins at least 15% of the vote in any congressional district will receive at least one delegate; the remainder will be apportioned by the vote in that district. And unlike in the Republican primary, political independents—"decline to state" registered voters who are not registered with any political party—may vote in the Democratic Party Presidential primary this year.

As Debra Bowen, Secretary of State, writes in the Official Voter Information Guide for this election, "Presidential primary elections happen just once every four years, but this one is particularly exciting because it is America's first presidential election since 1952 in which no incumbent president or vice president is running. Your vote can make a real difference in the future of our nation."

Gordon's producer, Doug Drenkow, says: "The objective of the 'NewsRap' Election Special will be to provide local Democratic primary voters with as much information possible, from the most competent surrogates for the candidates." And as always on 'NewsRap,' Gordon invites his audience at home to call in and "talk back!"

The "NewsRap with Barry Gordon" Election Special will air live on PCAC Pasadena cable-access channel 56 from 9 to 10 p.m. Thursday, January 24. It will also stream live on <http://www.pasadena56.tv>. Video of the show will be available for later viewing in <http://NewsRapArchives.com>. The phone number of the studio for call-in during the show is 626-794-8585.

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