

## **Interview with 47th District CA Congressional Candidate Scott Baugh on Sat. Oct. 28, 2023**

### **Kent Bewley, Student Writer**

In communities across the United States of America, there are people who represent the interests of many different groups of citizens. Those people who represent the community at the highest levels of government come from various backgrounds and environments, like a farm in the middle of an isolated valley or a law school far from home. That is the case with Scott Baugh, a local attorney and former chairman of the Republican Party of Orange County. Baugh has a background in studying law from an educational standpoint as well as growing up working on a farm that he lived on with his family.

Baugh represented the 67th district of California in the State Assembly from 1995 to 2000 and he lives in the area that he formerly represented in a secluded neighborhood in Huntington Beach. After losing in a midterm election race for a local representative seat in the U.S Congress, Baugh is running for that same congressional district seat in next year's general election. Having the advantages of time and fundraising efforts, Baugh seeks to be more lucky in winning the votes of local Orange County citizens in the 2024 general election. Being a year away from the election, Baugh gave his perspective on his background, politics and election campaign efforts for this story. The interview with Baugh took place at his house on Sat. Oct., 28 and excerpts of his answers to some questions asked towards him are written down below.

1. Q: How did your experience growing up in a small town shape your belief system?

A: Well, I grew up in Redding but most of our time was in Anderson, which is an even smaller town. It's just south of Redding. ... Went to school in Anderson and that's a real small town. Everyone knew everybody seemingly... it seems like there were many groups of families

that we all knew, either from sports or from school or from church. And so, there was a sense of community and values, taking care of one another and reputation was important. You didn't lie, you didn't steal, you didn't cheat because... you could hold other people accountable.

2. Q: Where do you think you gained your best educational experience?

A: Well, there's a great education when you grow up on a farm. You get rooted in fundamentals, you get rooted in the soil. You learn a responsibility of taking care of animals... they need somebody to give them food and water. So, that is sort of a work ethic education very critical and important to my life even to this day. I actually went to a private grammar school and C.W Powell was our headmaster, he was a man who was almost like that Chesterton-type individual where he had an expertise in so many different areas of education from literature to the Bible to math. He taught us, there was only like 30 of us in the room, and that was grades 5 through 12. He had this versatility about him and he could teach every single grade and every single topic.... So, he's probably the single most influential teacher I had that influenced my way of thinking.

3. Q: Which aspect of serving in the state assembly as a younger politician did you like the most?

A: There were two primary components of being an elected representative in the state legislature. One is you get to serve the community, you get to help people solve problems and if you're oriented towards helping people solve problems, it's a fantastic job because a lot of people have difficulties interfacing with government and you get to help them. The other part is also very rewarding and it's when you get to go vote and advance an agenda that you believe in. As an elected member, your vote is more concentrated and the people are behind you and you represent them, but you actually get to fight to stop bad things from happening or you get to

promote good things. And it's not always a partisan issue, or good and bad, sometimes it's just making government work better for you. And there's a lot of reward in both of those.

4. Q: How confident are you in the possibility of being elected to the open congressional seat you are running for in next year's election?

A: Well, I would never seek to undertake an election unless I believed I could win it. I've won elections and lost them, but I always believed I had a shot to win. This time, I think I have a better shot certainly than I had last year. [In 2022] I ran against somebody who had \$30 million. I was outspent 30 million to 3 million, I had some outside help but that[money held by my opponent] was a record amount of money by I think double in a congressional race. I was also running against an incumbent who had universal name ID. So, if you're running against an incumbent with big name ID and big bank accounts, it's difficult but I still thought I could win. In ten months, I raised 3 million and we only lost by 3%. It was a valiant effort, my team did a fantastic job, but next year will be very different for several reasons.

Number one: I have two years to campaign, two years to get to know all the different groups in the community. Number two: I have two years to raise money instead of ten months, so I'll be able to raise more money. Number three: I'm not running against an incumbent, and number four: I'm not running against somebody with an enormous bank account. ...The dynamics are radically different than they were last year.

5. Q: Why do you care so much about issues such as gang reduction and drug addiction in younger people?

A: I started the Orange County Marathon, I was the founding chairman. We've trained over a hundred thousand kids in the importance of exercising nutrition. I'm the chairman of the Gang Reduction & Intervention Partnership and we work to keep kids out of gangs. I've been

very involved with the promotion and protection of children for the last 20-25 years. I've had great opportunity in my life and I've seen so many people who didn't have good opportunities and it's my way of giving back. It's my way of helping, and you also derive a tremendous amount of joy from helping young people improve themselves, better their lives, put them on a trajectory that's more meaningful and purposeful. The effort I put in is its own reward.

Baugh also mentioned his favorite presidents in the interview, who are George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan. He loves Washington for being an ultimate statesman in stepping down from the presidency after two terms, Lincoln for solving the issue of slavery in America, and Reagan for having a "steely-eyed vision" of where he wanted to take the country. Baugh has some strong opinions about the debt ceiling of our nation's economy and that it will only increase exponentially higher with the spending bills being passed in Congress by the current administration. He has concerns that there will be lower job growth in our country in the future, as he compared the economic situation here to the lack of gross domestic product in Japan for the past 30 years. Overall, Scott Baugh looks to win next year's election and represent the best interests of Orange County citizens on Capitol Hill very soon in pushing his agenda shaped by his beliefs, party affiliation and passion for participating in helping the community in any way he can.