



## Sherman wins first debate with Berman

*Takes 64% of Democratic vote in straw poll at well attended Woodland Hills debate*

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(January 6, 2012) Brad Sherman scored a decisive victory over his Democratic opponent Howard Berman in the first debate in the hotly-contested battle for California's Congressional District 30.

Sherman and Berman, joined by two Republican candidates Mark Reed and Susan Shelley, engaged in a spirited 90 minute debate in front of over 400 San Fernando Valley voters. The debate, the first of the campaign, was hosted by the Woodland Hills Chamber of Commerce.

After the debate 233 of the attendees voted in a straw poll. Of the 173 who voted for one of the Democratic candidates, an overwhelming 64% voted for Brad Sherman.

Several important differences emerged during the evening. On TARP, Sherman laid out his strong leadership role in opposing TARP and his successful fight to ensure that bailout funds not be used to buy "toxic assets." Berman voted for the TARP bailout.

Sherman and Berman clashed over trade deals, with Sherman arguing that the \$800 billion trade deficit was exacerbated by unfair trade agreements which are destroying million of American jobs. Berman defended his vote in favor of every trade agreement.

The two also sparred over the run-up to the Iraq War. Berman led efforts among a small group of pro-war Democrats to support George Bush's invasion plans. Sherman detailed three separate amendments that he voted for and Berman opposed which would have prevented the war if Saddam Hussein opened up Iraq to unfettered weapons inspections.

Sherman and Berman also disagreed over a pledge to limit the involvement of SuperPACS, campaign organization that can raise and spend unlimited amounts of undisclosed corporate money in campaigns. Berman, who has said he favors a constitutional amendment to eliminate SuperPACS has nevertheless established three SuperPACS to aid his campaign. Sherman offered to sign a pledge which would have required the each campaign to donate to the US Treasury an amount equal to the expenditure of any SuperPAC in that candidate's behalf. Berman brusquely refused to sign.

