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# Capps, Seastrand outline their views

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Is Rep. Andrea Seastrand a foot soldier for an extreme right-wing agenda, or a common-sense protector of Central Coast families?

And is Walter Capps a liberal, ivory-tower academic who triumphs tax-and-spend causes, or is he a principled man seeking to restore hope and civility in government?

For voters watching television, attending public forums or searching through newspapers, these are the types of negative charges — and positive portrayals — they might be hearing and reading. Some of the characterizations have been voiced by the candidates themselves in their quest for the highly sought-after 22nd Congressional District seat.

The Santa Barbara News-Press today attempts to shed light on what matters most to voters: Where the candidates stand on key issues. An accompanying graphic is based on extensive



NEWS-PRESS FILE

**Does Andrea Seastrand follow Newt Gingrich? Do the unions control Walter Capps?**

interviews with Seastrand and Capps, and coverage of a dozen forums where they outlined their views.

Also presented is a rundown of the votes cast by Seastrand over the past 18 months, the truest record of how her views have translated into action.

At those appearances, the contenders have often resorted to not-so-veiled barbs, employing political rhetoric rather than reasoned discourse.

SEE ISSUES

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Why does Walter Capps continue to refuse to come clean on where he stands on important issues? This apparent deliberative avoidance suggests posturing with hidden agendas. He claims, for example, that he stands strongly for fiscal responsibility, but at the same time he advocates spending more on roads, highways, transportation and communication systems, education programs, environmental issues, education for illegal immigrants, subsidies for farmers and access for all to affordable high-quality health care.

I suspect Capps is positioning himself to support a tax increase to pay for all of his favored programs. Before Nov. 5, in fairness to voters, Capps should state whether he would support a tax increase, or, conversely, would he make a pledge not to do so.

Most likely he will elect to do neither and once again it will be the voters who lose.

Richard A. Johnson  
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## ISSUES

Continued

Seastrand, R-Shell Beach, charges the Democratic Capps with losing control of his campaign and being a marionette for "labor union bosses." She calls him a "liberal," and says his ideas are "dangerous."

Though he has stressed trying to run a "clean" campaign, Capps is not without his own digs. He says Seastrand takes orders from House Speaker Newt Gingrich, and doesn't stand on her own feet. He alludes to her as anti-abortion and anti-environment in her "lockstep" voting with the House's Republican majority.

Fueling the volatility is the coveted nature of the congressional seat, which has been held in Republican hands for more than 40 years. Republicans want to continue the tradition; Democrats seek to use the seat as a piece of the strategic puzzle of regaining control of Congress.

That the race has at times been long on talk, but short on substance, is a point realized by Capps.

"We've talked about the issues, but there's also a lot of talk about where we're getting our support from," said Capps, a UCSB religious studies professor who lost in a close race to Seastrand in 1994. "That mostly has to do with the strategy of the campaigns."

"I've learned something by all of this. Issues are important, but even more important are the principles by which the congresswoman or congressman would make decisions. We haven't talked about that very directly. But that has come out in our discussions. People know we've done things very differently, we have differing priorities."

Seastrand decries the "distortion" of her voting record, and says she has tried to "dig my way out of the hole" she thinks has been created by special-interest groups trying to defeat her, such as the Sierra Club and the AFL-CIO.

"I try to talk to voters about what I stand for," Seastrand said. "I've worked hard these two years. I'm working around the clock. My only disappointment is I wish I had the same amount of dollars in outside money as my opponent."

On Nov. 5, the voters will get a final say, and give the candidates a message they can't miss.

## LET THE RECORD SHOW

Rep. Andrea Seastrand, R-Shell Beach, has said she is running for re-election on her record. Here is a Congressional Quarterly accounting of votes she cast in the 104th Congress:

Approve fiscal 1997 omnibus spending package: Yea	Grant Wisconsin waiver to implement welfare changes: Yea	Repeal ban on certain semiautomatic weapons: Yea
Impose new rules on unionizing by Federal Express workers: Yea	Terminate the authorization for the space station: Nay	Strip language limiting legal immigration from bill: Nay
Curb U.N. designation of certain kinds: Yea	Authorize \$5.3 billion more for science programs: Nay	Require employees to verify worker immigrant status: Yea
Deny public education to illegal aliens: Yea	Minimum wage increase passes House: Nay	Express sense of Congress to defend Taiwan: Yea
Ban late-term abortions: Yea	Exempt small businesses from boost in minimum wage: Yea	Toughen anti-terrorism laws, limit death row appeals: Nay
Kill motion to release Gingrich report: Yea	Repeal 4.3-cents-per-gallon gas tax increase: Yea	Eliminate language expanding law officers' authority: Yea
Expand export promotion programs: Nay	Adopt resolution to balance budget by 2002: Yea	Eliminate one international affairs agency: Yea
Restrict placement of U.S. troops under U.N. command: Yea	Authorize \$12.4 billion for defense spending: Yea	Require states to fund rape and incest abortions: Nay
Raise the minimum wage by 90 cents an hour: Yea	Allow abortions at overseas military hospitals: Nay	Pass Republicans' omnibus spending bill: Yea
Overhaul welfare system: Yea	Provide adoption tax credit, ease adoption process: Yea	Tighten trade embargo on Cuba: Yea
Allow employers to offer comp time over overtime pay: Yea	Overhaul federal public housing policy: Yea	Reauthorize farm programs: Yea
Pass campaign finance overhaul: Yea	Require police to give information on sex offenders: Yea	Phase out the sugar price support program: Yea
Pass commerce, justice, state spending bill: Yea	Require disclosure of shipper-carrier contract terms: Nay	Overhaul telecommunications law: Yea
Adopt uniform limit on pesticides in food: Yea	Override veto of State Department authorization bill: Yea	Allow local control of waste flow: Nay
Overhaul welfare program: Yea	Adopt omnibus bill for unfunded department: Yea	Provide temporary government spending: Yea
Allow federal employee health plan to cover abortions: Nay	Overhaul National Wildlife Refuge System: Yea	Approve 1996 Defense Authorization: Yea
Freeze the salaries of members of Congress: Yea	Expand federal power to prevent and punish terrorism: Yea	Override shareholder lawsuits veto: Yea
Ban federal recognition of same-sex marriages: Yea	Take transportation trust funds off budget: Yea	Prohibit federal agency lobbying: Yea
Restore funds for AmeriCorps education grants: Nay	Modify several regulations governing tax collection: Yea	Provide temporary government spending: Yea
Deny most favored-nation trade status to China: Yea	End debate on rule on supermajority to raise taxes: Yea	Prohibit U.S. troop deployment in Bosnia: Yea
Pass \$12.1 billion interior spending bill: Yea	Adopt resolution proposing anti-tax amendment: Yea	Weakens gift ban proposal: Nay
Lift ban on environmental protections for murrelet: Nay	Limit awards to consumers injured by faulty products: Yea	Increase defense spending: Yea
Make destroying religious property a federal crime: Yea	Allow portability of health insurance coverage: Yea	Ban late-term abortions: Yea
Freeze defense spending at fiscal 1996 level: Nay	Outlaw partial-birth abortions: Yea	Approve GOP tax and spending cuts: Yea
Prohibit funding for certain tobacco programs: Yea		Reduce projected Medicare spending: Yea
Approve fiscal 1997 budget resolution: Yea		Approve telecommunications overhaul: Yea
Pass \$11.9 billion foreign operations		Oppose limits on environmental regulations: Nay
		Require compliance with ABM Treaty: Nay
		Relax Clean Water Act regulations: Yea

# 22ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ISSUES

Rep. Andrea Seastrand, R-Shell Beach, and her Democratic challenger, Walter Capps, have clear ideological differences on social and economic matters. Here are their stances on several key issues. The answers are culled from numerous interviews and coverage of public forums where they were participants.



## ABORTION

### SEASTRAND:

Seastrand calls herself a pro-life candidate who speaks of the "sanctity of life," and always explains her stance by affirming she is the mother of two adopted children. She believes in the "government protection of life, whether it is in the womb, a 100-

year-old person or a mentally disabled child." The only instance she cites where she would allow abortion is if the mother's life is threatened. Seastrand states that she has no stance on whether she would support abortion in cases of rape or incest. She supports a bill outlawing late-term abortion procedures. "I don't want taxpayer money to go for unlimited abortions or gender-selection abortions," she said.

### CAPPS:

Capps thinks abortion should be a matter of conscience, to be decided by a woman in consultation with her physician and spiritual beliefs. "I am pro-choice without any restrictions," he said. "I don't want government interference with a woman's right to choose. I also think we need to reduce the number of abortions." Capps supports education, prevention and family planning and opposes a constitutional ban on abortion.



## ECONOMY

### SEASTRAND:

She supports a balanced budget act and tax reform. She also would seek a reduction in the capital gains tax, which she said would give people more money to expand businesses and create

jobs.

"We need to give tax relief to make sure families get more in their paychecks to spend as they see fit," she said. Seastrand has spoken in favor of eliminating the Internal Revenue Service and ending federal income taxes, to give people more control of investing or spending their own money. She said she would like to study the possibility of other tax reforms, including creating a national sales tax or a flat tax with a single tax rate, and thinks the current tax codes should be abandoned. She supports efforts to promote Vandenberg Air Force Base as a commercial spaceport.

### CAPPS:

He favors targeted tax breaks, such as a \$1,500 annual tax deduction to pay for community college education and a \$10,000 annual tax deduction for families or students to spend on education or job training. He supports allowing people to use individual retirement accounts to purchase first homes or fund college educations. Capps supports tax breaks for small businesses seeking to expand, and for research and development initiatives. He'd like local, state and federal representatives to jointly examine creating business opportunities conducive to the the Central Coast, including the software industry and other new technology that would be compatible with the area's environment.



## EDUCATION

### SEASTRAND:

Seastrand, a former elementary school teacher, supports the elimination of the U.S. Department of Education, with funding for that department reallocated to state and local entities.

"I want to see those dollars kept at home," she said. "I don't want to send those dollars to Washington ... I want to make sure those education resources go to education and not the bureaucracy."

She supports charter schools and allowing teachers and districts to control school curriculums, not the "rules coming from the federal government 3,000 miles away."

"We will continue to streamline and consolidate 760 federal education programs and 38 agencies," she said. "I want to strengthen local control, streamline and consolidate that maze. I have a feeling there's overlapping duplication and waste. Quality education isn't an issue of spending more, it's an issue of spending smarter."

### CAPPS:

A UCSB religious studies professor, Capps supports a strengthening of student loan programs and grants.

"Every dollar spent on education has an \$8 return either in invention, cre-

ativity or savings of money," he said. "Education is a real good deal. It isn't very expensive for what the returns are."

All levels of education, like all levels of government, can work cooperatively, Capps said.

He supports the availability of a college education for everyone, and would like to see tax deductions available to help parents pay for college educations. Capps also believes there should be more study to define job opportunities that don't require a college education.

Capps would also like to see classrooms updated with computer technology, and wants students to have access to lifelong retraining and skills improvement.



## ENVIRONMENT

### SEASTRAND:

"We tried to base things we did on common sense, flexibility and sensible approaches," she said of the Republican majority in the 104th Congress. "We need to look at new innovations and new technology."

Toxic polluters, she said, need to be held accountable, and she would like to "give people incentives to make them want to clean up their properties," such as fining polluters. She says too much of the Superfund toxic cleanup funds are paid to attorneys' fees; she wants the money spent on cleanup.

The government needs environmental standards, she said, but also "common-sense approaches so we're not tied up on rules and regulations that don't work."

She said she favored giving local entities control in meeting clean-water standards, and voted to preserve a moratorium on offshore oil drilling and maintain federal funds to protect the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

### CAPPS:

"This (the 22nd District) used to be the environmental capital of the world," Capps said. "I'd like to reassert that reputation. It's very important for this area. I don't think that goes against business. Good environmental policy is good business policy."

Capps favors a "polluter pays" policy that would fine any industry caught fouling a stream or waterway. The industry, not the taxpayer, should pay for cleanup, he said.

He supports standards for beach water quality and a protection of wetlands. He would also like to see tax incentives to reward "environmentally sound growth."



## IMMIGRATION

### SEASTRAND:

She supported House Resolution 2202, a bill that would "do more to lock illegal aliens out of the United States and out of American jobs, allow states to deny schooling to illegal aliens, tighten the political asylum process and restrict public benefits for illegal

aliens."

Seastrand supports doubling the size of immigration patrols at the California-Mexico border and building of a 14-mile, triple-layer fence along the border south of San Diego.

"We cannot control our budget unless we get our borders under control," Seastrand said.

Seastrand would like to increase the penalty for people who hire illegal immigrants. She is against a national identification card, but in favor of creating an 800 number, which employers could call to voluntarily check the validity of a worker's Social Security card.

As for legal immigration, Seastrand wants to examine the use of visas, and would like to see a crackdown on people who ignore visa departure deadlines. She'd also consider revising downward the number of immigrants allowed into the country.

### CAPPS:

He states he is "totally, completely, absolutely, opposed to illegal immigration."

Capps opposes denying schooling to children of illegal immigrants. He says he supports the "strong tradition" of legal immigration, and scorns the "humiliation and discrimination" some immigrants face because of the "color of their skin."

Capps favors strengthening the borders with patrols, the deportation of criminals and the creation of fraud-resistant identification papers. He also supports penalizing employers who hire illegal immigrants.

He does not support giving benefits such as welfare to illegal immigrants, but would consider allowing emergency health care in the interest of public health.