

### **Governing from afar**

Congressional candidate Phil Liberatore thinks he can represent the Congressional 8th District despite living in Diamond Bar. Despite our healthy debates here in the High Desert, we have remained a tight-knit community, and our passion for our personal and political views has never clouded our collective vision to support the brightest future for this region.

Numerous local candidates have been jockeying for position, and this election is shaping up to be one of the most interesting and most important for High Desert residents in decades, but Mr. Liberatore is trivializing it by sinking money into his campaign to win our local seat and govern from afar.

The law only requires that the candidate for any congressional seat live in the state in which that district exists. It does not require them to live in the actual district. But consider the insult to the Victor Valley and throughout the 8th District when Mr. Liberatore singled us out as the communities that he could most easily dupe. I have lived in and done business in this community for a long time, and while elected leaders may have their differences, and residents reside on all sides of party lines, we are proud of who we are. And we elect leaders who know the issues here and want what's best for the area.

Ironically, Mr. Liberatore has opted not to wait to take office to start stretching the truth. The only thing he's been able to glean from Google about San Bernardino County is that housing is still affordable here. The rest of his comments are blanket statements about the rise in crime that could be true of hundreds of other communities in California.

We've all heard the campaigns to support local businesses, and support local schools, but I never thought we'd see the day where we actually have to encourage people to vote for a local candidate.

Mr. Liberatore is a self-proclaimed taxpayer advocate, a radio show host, and a certified public accountant. He doesn't pay taxes in our district, his radio show doesn't play on the airwaves in our district, and we need to make sure he stays a certified public accountant. On June 5 send a message that our district is not for sale to the highest bidder — vote local.

*Joseph W. Brady*