

# Won't be bought

Joseph W. Brady  
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Congressional candidate Mr. Phil Liberatore thinks he can "represent" the 8th Congressional District despite living far outside the confines of our new political boundaries.

Little does he know that 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. The 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 Phil Liberatore is trivializing it by sinking money into his campaign to win our local seat and govern from afar. I hear that he may be willing to spend \$1 million to win!

The law only requires that the candidate for any congressional seat must 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 our collective intelligence here in 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.

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. Despite his money, and his fund-raising efforts that brought the likes of celebrity sheriff Joe Arpaio to town, I'm confident that High Desert residents sniffed out this scheme from the very beginning and will use this election as a very expensive lesson for Mr. Liberatore: We will not be bought.

*JOSEPH W. BRADY*  
**President, Joseph W. Brady Inc.**