Seldom do California voters have such a distinct choice about the future than in next month’s gubernatorial election. As an overwhelmingly “blue state,” most statewide offices have little competition. And because most legislative districts have been gerrymandered, voter choice is usually limited in those races as well. That is not the case in this year’s election for governor.

The latest polls have shown much stronger support than normal by independents and Democrats for a Republican candidate for governor. These voters are supporting Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger for re-election because of his record of bipartisan leadership and for what he can do for California.

Gov. Schwarzenegger has been the breath of fresh air and reform we all hoped for since he was first elected in the recall of Gov. Gray Davis. He has brought a can-do and never-say-die attitude to Sacramento.

He initiated a major reform plan last year that was rejected by the voters. His popularituy took a nose-dive, and people thought he could not recover. But he did, by reaching out to the Legislature to develop bipartisan alliances. Because of his outreach, he was able to bring both parties together to achieve major legislative victories. We hope this action is the start of a sea change in Sacramento.

In less than a full term, Gov. Schwarzenegger has accomplished more than most would have thought possible, including:

- Workers compensation reform
- Creating over 500,000 new jobs
- Major progress in solving the state’s budget and deficit crisis
- Launching efforts to rebuild our infrastructure
- Providing record levels of funding for education
- Pushing legislation that assures the state will grow jobs and the economy through private sector investment
- Developing a statewide strategy on environmental and global warming policies.

This is but the tip of the iceberg in what can be accomplished over the next four years with his re-election. His ability to bring people together from both sides of the aisle, to articulate a vision and to implement it, will usher in a new era for California.

On the other hand, State Treasurer Phil Angelides’ election would guarantee a step backward. His plans to increase taxes will stifle our economy and the growth of business. His propensity to use the power of government to over-regulate, rather than stimulate, will paralyze the state’s economy.

We know that these issues are at the top of Gov. Schwarzenegger’s agenda. Please join us in assuring continued progress toward the California dream by voting to RE-ELECT Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

And that’s The Business Perspective.