

[From Austerity to Abundance: Why I Am Running for California Treasurer](#)

Posted on January 15, 2014 by Ellen Brown

From the comment from one member of the public that public banking is supposed to help:
 . . . On Jan. 29th I just asked some questions by comment, heard my comment was almost trashed, but then three EB responses came to my private email. From these, I extracted Q&A, and interpret what might lie in store for us (all) if this model (this candidate) gets what she wants, and we approach, say, a state-owned bank for some answers, feedback, or help. I asked:

- 1. What was the undergraduate major** (did it have anything to do with accounting, economics, or engage those qualities as part of your work life)?
- 2. Did you extract the figures referenced in this paragraph, or get them from others who did the legwork?**
"Consider the awesome potential for California, with its massive capital and deposit bases. California has over \$200 billion stashed in a variety of funds identified in its 2012 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), including \$58 billion managed by the Treasurer in a PooledMoney Investment Account currently earning a meager 0.264% annually. It also has over \$400 billion in its pension funds (CalPERS and CalSTRS)."
- 3. Also, based on your very unstable track record of staying an active attorney; having been out of the country during critical years when major budgetary and fiscal changes were made affecting Americans who were IN the country (and many who couldn't afford to get out if they had wanted to); and the track record represented by the chosen fiscal agent of the Public Banking Institute (which also hasn't been filing its state charitable trust returns, and — to put it mildly — doesn't even bear routine scrutiny, let alone show much respect for the taxpayers — why should we support you as State Treasurer?**
- 4. Have you ever been in actual need of services** (such as social services, law enforcement, personal protection, or prosecution of criminal activities against yourself) **from the State of California?**
- 5. What exposure do you have to people who need these things to survive?**
- 6. Why won't the Public Banking Institute file as an independent (and more transparent) nonprofit under its own name** [rather] than [under] **Inquiring Systems Inc. ?**
- 7. If you were elected Treasurer** (which, nothing personal, but I hope you aren't) — **how would you handle the inevitable investigations into your past, and your lack of ... almost even mention of things that took place HERE while you were out of the country?**
- 8. Do you have a quantifiable concept of just how much fraud, conflict of interest, etc. occurs already in government?**
- 9. If the answer is, you do not** have a quantifiable concept of just how much, which seems to me a reasonable question — **where would you go to get some?** (searchable terms or links, please).

[....See Next Two Pages for the Answers I Got]:

Some of these are yes/no questions, others have simple one-phrase answers that aren't really hot-button issues. Some of the answers I've deduced, others I could find out, but what I really wanted to and did find out is how would the person promoting Public Banking respond to being asked questions, period? Again, my initial comment took maybe 10 minutes to write. Dealing with the derailing, diversions and evasions took 3 **days** to handle...*I hope this wastes someone else's time...I'm still reeling from years of mine wasted in some of the services that OUGHT to be eliminated, not just cut directed at children and families, as opposed to Food Stamps (which already has been).*

What I have so far, at least from Ellen by email to me (paraphrased, answers bolded):

1. Undergraduate major? -- - **question ignored. Is there a problem? Shouldn't be a big deal.**
2. Who did your legwork ?(that was part rhetorical question, the point being -- do you or do you not "get" what CAFRs are telling Americans?)
 -- **"I did the state of California, and Clint Richardson and Carl Herman (less so Walter Burien -- not sure why) are my friends, plus I have contacts at the Los Angeles Times.** [which is relevant WHY? Make that a "dodge"]
3. Based on (<a>attorney track record, absence from the country for 11 critical years, ¹ and <c>that PBI, the PR vehicle for promoting Public Banking solution is itself registered under a creepily noncompliant nonprofit, *which in my opinion shows complete disregard for the public, particularly wage-earners, and state laws regulating charities*) why should we vote for you as Treasurer? - **Question, except for first part, dodged**, like this:
 <a>**(attorney activity record explained fair enough;** *you have to pay fees to stay active, there are obviously no disciplinary actions, was out of the country etc.. Thanks for at least explaining -- that was really decent).*
 PBI is all volunteer staff (that's an answer HOW?)
 <c>**I'm not really running for State Treasurer, don't worry I won't win, I just want to promote Public Banking** (Ditto, and I get that. However this isn't quite like, say, when Clint Richardson announced he was running for President to make a point. You actually have some political connections and serious backers, i.e., others want this solution too. Moreover, the article sounds pretty serious about it. Perhaps filing PBI under ISI better conceals Green Party donations?)
4. **Have you ever been in actual need of services Question Ignored**
5. **What's your exposure to those who do, to survive? Question Ignored.**
6. My Question a little repetitive, however **for the dodge, see answer to Question 3.**
7. **Ditto**, on both counts.
8. **Do you have a quantifiable concept of just how much fraud, conflict of interest, etc. occurs already in government -- Question Ignored.**
9. **If you do not, where'd you go to find out? Question Ignored.**

¹ during which "welfare as we knew it" was ended, i.e., 1996, major budgetary re-alignment, PRWORA, federal grants under SSA switched over to "Block Grants to the States," TANF started, welfare essentially privatized, and the government gets into the Designer Family business, among other things; in good part from backlash to feminism, to further restructuring the economic AND the court systems, none of which I hear any awareness of through WebOfDebt),



SCORING/ INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS:

At the end of the day (actually 3 days), **here's the score:** out of 9 questions, or if you trim out 6 & 7, make that 7 questions, I got **a quick answer to one, #2 and one-third of an answer to #3.**

<>I have the causes of the unstable her attorney record, and hear tell that Ellen has read a State of California CAFR. Also: <> She wants to assure me that **she's "sincere,"** but not about really running for California State Treasurer -- just about Public Banking as the cure-all to California's increasing poverty, and the rest of the nation's too, probably. But, that contradicts the article, which is sincerely laying out the run for Treasurer under the Green Party.

<>On whether or not she understands social services, or those who use them, even though not cutting them is part of the platform for a state-owned bank, I'm going to take that as a NO.

<>On competence in even admitting fraud exists in government, let alone quantifying it, or even showing an interest, NO. However, she seems very interested in NOT talking about how the PBI fiscal agent ISI has been committing it (and with whom). I gather [not just from PBI, see blogs] this goes with the territory, "New Deal Visionary." Maybe in the collective, a Green Party fund-raising technique, enabling the claim, *we take no corporate money* [we screw the public too, but at least for earth-friendly reasons]. That's why I try to steer clear of visionaries and want them away from the federal treasure trove.

My Reading: No mention whatsoever of NOT taxing the public in future years (starting now). We can expect business as usual in the future from the visionaries, only moreso, if public banking goes through, for which we will have to continue keeping the public UNeducated on CAFRs, distracted and disempowered. If I wanted, though, to **push** the *State dba State Bank* cause, I, too would go for an experienced trial attorney skilled in dodging questions and changing the subject. **But** I'm with Burien on exposing the CAFR, changing legislation for us to receive the current proceeds of government as direct beneficiaries, and to **quit taxing**, which at this point is just for population control, and or working the domesticated flocks. For Your Info:

<http://cafr1.com/StateBanksAndTheft.html> (9/2010)
<http://cafrman.com> (how to read one, still available to read)
<http://wp.me/psBXH-2hX> *

(*my 1-25-2014 post **Who Owns the Basic Asset Infrastructures of the World? Keep It In Mind.** *Has chart of the Bentley 500, references Pennsylvania Economy League. Try it; you might learn something about who's presiding over the municipal so-called bankruptcies. Or, see sidebar links for more.*)