

# THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

## Mickadeit: Galloway will run against Tait

By [FRANK MICKADEIT](#)

2013-10-31 18:04:46



Former Anaheim Councilwoman **Lorri Galloway** tells me she is running for mayor next year, challenging longtime political ally Mayor **Tom Tait** because she believes he has become powerless and presides over a City Council beset with “acrimony and dissension.”

There was speculation Galloway might run, but she has refused to comment until now. Her definitive statement to me this week, however, leaves no doubt that she’s in and that Anaheim City Hall is set for another tumultuous year. Councilwoman **Lucille Kring** is expected to run as well, creating at least a three-way race for the leadership of

O.C.’s largest city.

Kring’s entry wouldn’t be a surprise; she has been opposing Tait for months. Galloway’s is a shock, however, given their political relationship. Even though she is a Democrat and he is a Republican, they found a lot of common ground.

When Galloway left the council last year because of term limits, Tait lost the only person who had stood with him on two contentious issues: 1) they have a mutual opposition to a \$158 million tax break for a hotel developer and 2) they both believe that only a City Council in which members are elected by voters solely within their districts would remedy underrepresentation of west and central Anaheim at City Hall. More recently, they both opposed extending the lease opt-out clause **Arte Moreno** has on the city-owned Angel Stadium, saying it gave him too much leverage.

On all three issues, Tait has been opposed by the other four members of the City Council, including Kring.

**I’ve always had** a good relationship with Galloway, but I’ve also always liked Tait a great deal. I cringe when I see what has happened to his mayoralty. To the extent that I’m writing about Galloway’s entry into the race, it might appear I’m supporting her. I’m not supporting anyone, which I’ve told her. If a viable candidate tells me she’s challenging the sitting mayor, I’m going to write it.

**How much the** break with Tait pains Galloway was evident during a three-hour interview at her home in Anaheim Hills. She cried at one point, describing how Tait had provided the vote that allowed her to open the then-controversial Eli Home for abused women and children – her entry point into politics.

“I have deep love and respect for him,” she said. “I can’t tell you how much that means to me. But the truth is the truth is the truth.” Her “truth,” Galloway says, is that “the city staff is negatively affected by the lack of power of the mayor, the community is negatively affected by the lack of power of the mayor, (and) the super majority leaves an isolated mayor.”

**The obvious questions:** If she holds the same views as Tait on the controversial issues, what would her election do to heal the rift? How would *she* have any more power than Tait?

She says it comes down to style. Tait, she says, didn’t reach out and try to broker compromises. “I did that with my colleagues on the council for eight years. ... In the past year, I’ve seen times when this could have been done and was not.”

As to the city staff, she said, Tait's emphasis on cutting public employee pensions – including a proposal to rollback existing contracts – unnecessarily alienated him from the staff. “I believe there has to be pension reform, but you have to be careful with it because you are (affecting the) staff. There's a delicate balance. They are the ones running the city, so you had better have a good, solid relationship with them.”

“I don't believe I have all the answers; that I'm going to ride in on a white horse. Nobody is that. But the city screams for someone who can reverse the imbalance. By virtue of who I am, I believe I can change the dynamic on the City Council.”

Galloway, of course, doesn't want to make the race all about Tait's performance. She'll emphasize her commitment to the working-class neighborhoods, including those that were the ignition point of last year's riots. “I do relate to the people who live there. I know them personally. I don't just talk the talk. I walk the walk.”

Those areas may be a political base, but they aren't wealthy. My guess is that her biggest financial supporters will be the unions, while Kring gets Disney and other tourist-industry help. Tait would be expected to have the traditional GOP base of support, but to the extent Curt Pringle can influence those donors away from Tait, that may erode.

Mickadeit writes Mon.-Fri.

**Contact the writer:** 714-796-4994 or [fmickadeit@ocregister.com](mailto:fmickadeit@ocregister.com)

© Copyright 2013 Freedom Communications. All Rights Reserved.

[Privacy Policy](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Site Map](#)