

Tech titan for governor?

These four wealthy Silicon Valley technology moguls are all generating buzz as potential candidates for governor in 2010. Could they withstand the scrutiny? Time will tell. But they can probably afford the advertising.



CARLY FIORINA



STEVE POIZNER



STEVE WESTLY



MEG WHITMAN

Date of birth (age)	Sept. 6, 1954 (53)	Jan. 4, 1957 (51)	Aug. 27, 1956 (51)	Aug. 4, 1956 (51)
Party	Republican	Republican	Democrat	Republican (switched from "decline to state" in September)
Hometown	Los Altos Hills	Los Gatos	Atherton	Atherton
Family	Husband, Frank Fiorina; two stepchildren	Wife, Carol Poizner; one child	Wife, Anita Yu; two children	Husband, Griffith R. Harsh IV; two children
Education	Bachelor's in philosophy and medieval history, Stanford; MBA, University of Maryland; master of science, MIT's Sloan School	Bachelor's in electrical engineering, University of Texas; MBA, Stanford University	Bachelor's in history, Stanford; MBA, Stanford	Bachelor's in economics, Princeton University; MBA, Harvard Business School
Tech claim to fame	President and chief executive of Hewlett-Packard from 1999 to 2005; chairman of the board from 2000 to 2005	His former company, SnapTrack, invented GPS chips for cell phones.	Former senior vice president of eBay	Soon-to-depart, longtime CEO of eBay
Wealth	Received almost \$28 million in severance payments, according to HP.	Won't disclose net worth, but sold his cell phone chip company for \$1 billion in 2000.	Earned \$225.8 million from 1995 to 2004, mostly by selling eBay stock	Forbes recently estimated her net worth at \$1.3 billion.
Ties to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger	Member of his transition team after 2003 recall election	Teamed up unsuccessfully in 2005 on redistricting reform plan.	Working together this year on redistricting initiative.	\$10,000 donation to his 2006 re-election campaign
Role in 2008 election	Top John McCain surrogate, leading Republican get-out-the-vote efforts	Co-chair of McCain's campaign in California	Co-chair of Barack Obama's campaign in California	Co-chair of McCain's national campaign; formerly a fundraiser for Mitt Romney
Experience in elective office	None	Serving first term as state insurance commissioner.	Former one-term state controller	None
Management style	High-energy risk-taker, once described as "a whirling dervish of motivational speeches, e-mails and voice mails"	Hands-on, thorough, detail-oriented	An outwardly confident salesman type; taught public management at Stanford.	Described alternately as "matronly" and "a lot tougher and shrewder than people might assume."
Charisma factor	A dynamic personality, but high charm factor didn't stop HP from showing her the door.	What he lacks in presence he makes up for in brains.	Earnest but somewhat robotic on the stump	Blue-blooded background makes her better at speaking to a crowd than mixing with one.
Notable political donations	\$2,000 to Bush 2004 re-election	\$14.8 million to his campaign for insurance commissioner	\$35 million to his failed 2006 bid for governor	Most of her \$200,000-plus in donations has gone to Republicans, but she also gave \$4,000 to Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer.
Little-known fact	Before college, she considered becoming a classical pianist.	Black belt in Shotokan karate	Lived in Ujamaa, Stanford's African-American-theme dorm, his senior year	Once used eBay to buy Beanie babies and Pokémon cards.