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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

'School Integration Revisited' Event Scheduled



**Thursday, June 7, 7:00 p.m.
Altadena Baptist Church**



“School Integration Revisited” will be the theme of a public meeting, developed and sponsored by ACT, on Thursday, June 7, beginning at 7 pm, hosted by Altadena Baptist Church, 791E. Calaveras Street, Altadena. The program will begin with the first West Coast showing of a documentary film entitled *The Memphis 13*, in which the handful of first graders, who were used for a token integration of the Memphis School District in 1961, are interviewed 50 years later.

After the showing of the film, there will be a conversation about the integration of Pasadena's schools a decade later (1970), comparing the two experiences and their results. The panelists will include:

Daniel Kiel, a professor at University of Memphis Law School and the producer of the film;

Al Lowe, prominent businessman who was President of the PUSD when integration began;

Ray Cortines, Superintendent of PUSD schools at the time superintendent in San Francisco, New York and Los Angeles;

Cameron Turner, one of the earliest PUSD students bused when integration began, and now a columnist and broadcast commentator, focusing on social issues.

The panelists will be asked what lessons were learned in school integration struggles that might help us shape public education for our day.

For ACT members who may be too young to have personal memories of the crucial events, here's how integration battles in Memphis and Pasadena fit into the overall flow of the Civil Rights Movement:

1954 “Brown vs. Board of Education” ruled that school districts cannot set up separate schools for children of different races, and that racially segregated schools are inherently unequal.

- 1955 “Brown II” added that school districts must act to desegregate their schools “with all deliberate speed.”
- 1957 “Little Rock Nine”- High school students attempted to register at Central High; AK Gov. Orval Faubus turned them away; President Eisenhower called out National Guard.
- 1961 “Memphis Thirteen”- Memphis schools symbolically “integrated,” using 13 black first graders in a district of over 50,000 students, no more than one per class.
- 1962 James Meredith enrolled as the first black at the University of Mississippi, showing that the 1954 “Brown” decision applied to publicly supported colleges as well.
- 1964 “Civil Rights Act” made racial segregation illegal in public schools and other public accommodations; also affirmed equal protection under the law and free expression of voting rights, regardless of race.
- 1970 “Spangler vs. PUSD” found that PUSD schools were intentionally segregated and this must be remedied. “Pasadena Plan” ordered by Judge Manuel Real, in which no school in the PUSD could have a majority of any minority group. First court-ordered desegregation outside the South.
- 1973 Backlash to “Pasadena Plan” resulted in the election of an ultra-conservative Board majority. This prompted the beginning of ACT's involvement in school politics.
- 1979 Board majority finally returned to progressives, largely due to activity by ACT and its allies in minority communities.

Please help promote this event, as it will remind Pasadenans of the idealism that has always motivated ACT and its members.

-- George Van Alstine

Where Are We Now?

2012 Conference on California & National Health Care

Saturday, May 12, 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Harbeson Hall, Pasadena City College
1570 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena

Keynote Speakers:

Anthony Wright “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), What It Is and What It Isn’t”

Don McCanne, MD “The Pluses and Minuses of the ACA Compared to Medicare for All”

Also:

“Medicare/Medicaid Funding”

“Federal Waiver Requirements for California to Pass Universal Healthcare (SB810)”

“Why Do We Need SB810?”

“How Do We Get SB810?”

Registration Deadline is 5/9/12 to the Pasadena LWV office, 626-798-0965.

Parking at Staff Lot on Hill, \$2, or free street parking.

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters (Pasadena Area, Los Angeles, Burbank/Glendale, Claremont Area, Santa Monica and San Bernardino) Health Care for All (San Gabriel Valley and Los Angeles) and others.



Please Send Your Email Address to Jon

We are collecting Email addresses for all ACT and ADC members. Please send yours to Jon Fuhrman at jon_fuhrman@charter.net.

Wonderings and Wanderings

By Inman Moore



Trying to live as a true child of God is a first priority for me. A close second is allegiance to my family, followed by a progressive outlook on politics in America, and the pursuit of a peaceful world. But ranking right up there is the love Nellie and I have for baseball and the Dodgers. We live and die with them year in and year out. We were at the stadium the night Kirk Gibson hit the shot heard round the world in the 1988 World Series Game between the Dodgers and the Oakland Athletics, and the Dodgers went on to win the series to become world champs. We have been to hundreds of games over the years. To put it mildly, we have a love affair with the Dodgers.

On April 5, the 2012 baseball season began. Vin Scully's dulcet tones sounded out over the land, "It's time for Dodger baseball!!" It is about time. There has been no baseball since last October! That long wait is pure hell for us baseball fanatics, especially since the Dodgers did so badly last season. Dr. Thomas Trotter, the retired President of Alaska University, is a good friend and a baseball nut like Nellie and me. In a newspaper column he wrote sometime ago about baseball he said, "Shakespeare's phrase 'the winter of our discontent' was meant to describe the time just prior to King Richard III's ascent to the throne. In fact, it is the precise description of the long months of feeling sorry for the previous season, a problem for many players and managers." The Dodgers certainly had a lot to be sorry about!

But now the long wait is over. Fall fell, winter has come and gone; and now spring has sprung and the new baseball season is upon

us. As I write these words the Dodgers have won their first three games from the Padres. And the Dodgers have new owners!! Life is good!!!

So, as spring and summer unfold, Nellie and I will be found at church, enjoying family affairs, and involved in the political races. But, you can bet your bottom dollar we will either be seated before the TV or seated at Dodger Stadium cheering on our boys in blue!



Upcoming San Gabriel Valley Democratic Women's Club Meetings

At the May 11 meeting of the San Gabriel Valley Democratic Women's Club **Congresswoman Judy Chu** will provide a re-election update. The meeting will be at 10 a.m. in the Community Room of the Altadena Public Library, 600 E. Mariposa Street, Altadena. Everyone is welcome and urged to attend. (Men, too!)

The SGVDW's Club meets on the second Friday of each month, September through June. A speaker or program follows a brief business meeting. The June 8 meeting will feature a post-primary election results summary courtesy of campaign consultant **Fred Register**.



Phoenix Deadline

The deadline for the May *Phoenix* will be Sunday, May 6. Please send items to Chuck Hains at Hains27@SBCGlobal.net. *ThePhoenix* will be prepared for mailing on Thursday, May 10 at 7 p.m. at Chuck's house, 1391 La Solana Drive, Altadena and mailed the next morning. (Volunteer mailers please call Ellen Coles at 626-798-2402 to verify date and time.)



Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Monday, April 9.

It finally appears to be over; **Mitt Romney** looks to have, if not actually 1144 delegates, at least the overwhelming consensus in the party that he will be the GOP nominee. **Rick Santorum** will continue to run, and he may take a few more states like Pennsylvania and Texas. But Romney's wins in Wisconsin, along with Maryland and Washington D.C., have won him support from increasing numbers of unpledged delegates, party leaders, media commentators and major donors. Most party leaders desperately want the process to be over and to move on to challenging the President.

Interestingly, Romney still seems not to have closed the deal with party faithful. He has yet to win over 50% of the vote in any strongly contested primary. Large numbers of Republicans, according to some polls, even now are

not happy with the party's set of contenders. Worse, some pundits are already commenting that the White House is lost, and the GOP should focus on keeping control of the House and gaining control of the Senate.

If the election were held this month, **President Obama** would likely coast to an impressive victory. He appears to be leading with comfortable margins in battleground states like Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Colorado. That's pretty much a death knell for Romney. Further, the latest campaign finance reports, which cover the month of February, show Romney still spending more than he is raising, with only \$7 million cash on hand. The President, by contrast, has \$84 million cash on hand, after raising \$21 million and spending \$12 million in February. Romney is continuing to spend in March and April, so his financial disadvantage has likely only gotten bigger.

What is the President's campaign spending money on? One example is the campaign training camp the Dems will be running here in Los Angeles this month. For 20 hours a week, over two weeks, participants will learn the ropes of campaigning and the organizational approach the Obama For America (OFA) campaign has adopted. The camp is reserved for participants willing to relocate to a battleground state for the summer and fall campaigns. So while the Republicans continue to attack each other, OFA is building the infrastructure for the fall.

Still, much can happen between now and November. One of the GOP's key lines of attack will target "Obamacare", but no one really knows how the Supreme Court will rule. Many Court observers focused on the skeptical questioning from conservative justices, including Justice Kennedy, who could be the swing vote. Yet the Wall Street Journal also noted Justice Kennedy's sharp questions about

where the "bright line" was between selecting a health insurance policy and choosing no policy. Without a "bright line", the argument about regulating "action" versus regulating "inaction" fails and the law would stand. In a different arena, most states require that every employer have workers' compensation insurance, but they allow employers either to buy commercial insurance, or to self-insure; the catch is that self-insurers must provide quite rigorous proof of financial ability to cover those costs, often including bonding by independent agencies. Might the Court decide that Congress must give individuals the "freedom" to self-insure, but may then set demanding criteria to ensure the individual really can fully pay for any catastrophic medical care that might be required? Or might they recognize that this theoretical framework would not work on a national scale, or that individuals can never really "self-insure" against catastrophic medical costs, so the individual mandate, enforced by a tax penalty, is a reasonable alternative?

From an economics perspective, the health insurance issue presents the classic "free rider" problem; no insurance system can ever be economically sound if users can opt out of the system when they don't need help, but then opt in only when they do need help. It is a good thing that we require insurance providers to enroll people regardless of pre-existing conditions; but if we don't require everyone to buy insurance, that would be like allowing fire victims to buy fire insurance only after they have had a house fire, and then requiring the insurance company, despite the "pre-existing condition" of fire damage, to pay for that damage. Needless to say, those fire insurance firms wouldn't stay in business very long.



While the economics of "Obamacare" seem undeniable, the question still remains as to whether Congress has the Constitutional authority to impose such a scheme. The alternative would be state by state legislation; no one, even the new Mitt Romney, challenges the authority of states to impose such rules. Curiously, though, the insurance industry overwhelmingly would prefer Federal regulation, with one set of rules and expectations, rather than have 50 different jurisdictions with different rates, rules and procedures.

From a campaign perspective, the Reps really should hope the Court upholds the law, preserving Obamacare as a central focus of their campaign against the President. No one quite knows what will happen if the Court invalidates all, or part, of the reform. It does seem clear that the voters still have only a glimmer of an understanding of what the reform legislation does, or does not, do. While a majority of voters seem opposed to the law, strong majorities support each of the key components -- like disregarding pre-existing conditions,

or allowing young adults up to age 26 to be covered by the parents' policies, or eliminating annual or life-time caps on coverage amounts. Should the Court invalidate the entire law, and those new provisions disappear, voters might well become more energized over the entire issue, probably to the benefit of Democrats.

That leads us to the other half of the November election: what happens in Congress. In the Senate, 10 Republican seats are up, compared to 23 Democratic seats. Further, quite a number of those Democratic seats were Republican seats won in the 2006 "change" election, when Democrats regained control of both Houses. Add to that the retirement of a few

key Democratic incumbents in traditionally strong Republican states, like Nebraska and North Dakota, and pundits were predicting a strong potential for the GOP to retake the Senate, as well as keeping the House.

But conditions have changed, and I'm guessing that Democrats will actually gain at least a seat or two. Republican Senator Olympia Snowe, from Maine, is retiring, and the overwhelming favorite to replace her is former Gov. Angus King -- an independent who will likely caucus with the Democrats. In Massachusetts, incumbent Scott Brown is being challenged by Elizabeth Warren, in what will likely be the most costly Senatorial campaign ever. Warren is developing a comfortable lead in the polls and will likely oust Brown. In North Dakota, Heidi Heitkamp, the former state Attorney-General, is roughly even in a state the GOP had taken for granted. In Nebraska, former Senator Bob Kerrey is running for his old seat; while he trails substantially in the first polls, he is probably the Democrat's best candidate in a state that's generally hostile territory. In Nevada, Democratic Congresswoman Shelly Berkley, from the Las Vegas area, is neck and neck with the appointed Republican incumbent, Dean Heller.

In other swing states -- Montana, Virginia, Wisconsin, New Mexico, Missouri -- Democratic candidates are generally holding their own. In other states that might normally be challenging, like Ohio and Florida, incumbent Democrats seem to have comfortable double-digit leads. As the economic outlook continues to improve, and the Obama campaign kicks into gear on a national level, prospects for Democrats in all these states are likely only to improve.

So my guess is Democrats will pick up at least three seats, but might lose between one and two others. In two other states -- Utah and

Indiana -- long-time Republican incumbents are facing serious Tea Party challengers. Should those challengers win, those states might also become competitive.

In the House, Democrats need to pick up 25 seats to regain control. Democrats are quite likely to win at least 10 - 15 new seats, but their ability to win 25 or more depends less upon individual races than upon the overall flow of the election. If unemployment continues downward, and the Dow upward, and there are no unexpected catastrophes in the European financial market or with Iran or elsewhere in the Middle East, then I think the President's coattails will sweep Democrats back into control in the House. It's still a bit dicey, though, so I'll wait till August to make my predictions on the House.

One interesting ramification of Mitt Romney's success is that, suddenly, California's June primary is much less interesting. For a while, it seemed that California might well choose the Republican nominee, which could lead to vastly disproportionate turnout. Further, with our new "top two" primary system for all the down-ballot races, that could have led to all sorts of unanticipated consequences.

Now, however, it looks like, once again, the California Presidential primary will be meaningless, so it is unlikely that turnout will be much different that it has traditionally been -- modestly more Reps than Dems. Hence the results in legislative primaries are unlikely to be startling.

In fact, most political interest and commentary is centered around the dueling initiatives aimed at the November ballot: **Governor Brown's** initiative, and the "Our Children Our Future" initiative sponsored by ACT member **Molly Munger**. Both raise taxes to provide additional funds for education. But the Governor's plan focuses more on the budget as a whole, with substantial language

guaranteeing local governments funding to cope with prisoners transferred from state penitentiaries to local county jails (which, on its own, is entirely necessary and appropriate). As a result, the new revenue is barely enough to allow schools to tread water. The "Our Children Our Future" initiative focuses exclusively on K-12 schools and early childhood education, although in the first four years 30% of new revenues would go to paying off interest on school bonds, thereby substantially assisting the non-school half of the state's General Fund. Even with that concession, the Munger initiative would bring upwards of \$1,000 per student in extra funding to school districts, which would go a long way to recovering from the cuts of the last few years.

Most commentators concede that Munger's initiative is the better of the two, but that the Governor's initiative polls far better. The Governor's proposal increases income taxes only on the very rich, though it also includes a sales tax increase that hits everyone. Munger's initiative, in contrast, has no sales tax increase but spreads the income tax hike over a much broader segment of the population; a two-earner family with two dependents could start paying a small extra tax on income in excess of \$45,000. The broad base of the Munger proposal makes the extra revenue more predictable and far less susceptible to the wild fluctuations we see at the very upper end of the income scale. Not surprisingly, much of the polling so far, relying just on the ballot measure titles and summaries, finds that most people, when given a choice, want someone else to pay for saving their schools. But when voters are given more information, attitudes quickly change, and the Munger initiative begins to poll much more positively.

The challenge for Munger, of course, is how to communicate that additional level of detail to an electorate that often reacts just to surface

impressions. The biggest fear is that, with two competing initiatives on the ballot, the voters will simply say it's all too confusing and vote no on both, leaving the schools and the state's General Fund high and dry. (If both pass, then the measure with more votes prevails in any area where they conflict. Thus, if Munger's measure wins more votes, the Governor's guarantees for local government funding to pay for prisoner "realignment" could take effect, but Munger's proposals on tax increases and school funding would prevail over the Governor's proposals.)

But before we get to November, the two initiatives have to qualify for the ballot. The Governor's measure faces a particularly challenging path. He amended his original proposal to incorporate some of the characteristics of a rival "Millionaire's Tax" measure sponsored by the California Federation of Teachers. So he got a late start, and his constitutional amendment needs over 1.2 million signatures, roughly by early May, to qualify for November. The Governor is pulling out all the stops -- paying at least \$3 per signature, and perhaps more, to commercial signature gatherers (which really ups the possibility of fraud by signature gatherers); using web site with a downloadable petition; mass mailings to Democrats state-wide; and leaning on the Democratic Party and legislators to generate signatures. This could turn out to be by far the most expensive signature gathering effort in the state's history.

The Munger initiative has been on the streets since mid-February, and, as an initiative statute, needs only about 750,000 signatures. The California State PTA is a co-sponsor, and the PTA is actively collecting signatures along with a commercial firm. Thus Munger's task, while still daunting, is more manageable than the Governor's. Munger is also using web-based tools (ourchildrenourfuture2012.com), including an app that shows exactly how much

extra funding will go to any given school or school district in California, and a series of TV ads to raise awareness.

There is no question that legislating by initiative is not an optimal approach to government. But there is also no question that the Legislature's 2/3 requirement for revenue increases, along with the plunge in state income from our four-year recession, has absolutely left our schools, and the state government generally, in a totally untenable position. That leaves ballot initiatives as the only tool left by which the majority of the state's voters can restore some measure of sanity and reason to our state finances. So November's ballot could turn out to be one of the most far-reaching and critical decision points in California's recent history.

-- Jon Fuhrman

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Kimberly Kenne, Pasadena
Kharin Mishan, South Pasadena
Charles Nelson, Pasadena
Sara Brady Shatford, Pasadena

Special Thanks to Patrons

Susan & John Caldwell, San Marino

Special Thanks to Sustaining Members

Gregory Harrison &
Nichole Mihara, Pasadena
Kimberly Kenne, Pasadena
Juan & Joanne Lara, Pasadena
Marge Leighton, Pasadena
Dorothy Matthiessen, Pasadena
John & Brooke McLean, Pasadena
Nancy Warner &
Christine Reynolds, Pasadena

Endorsement Results – from last month's ballot

	ACT		ADC	
President of the United States:				

Barack Obama	93	99%	62	100%
No Endorsement	1	1%	0	0%

United States Senate:

Dianne Feinstein	88	98%	57	98%
No Endorsement	2	2%	1	2%

U.S. House: 27th CD:

Judy Chu	89	97%	62	100%
No Endorsement	2	2%	0	0%
Bob Duran	1	1%	0	0%

U.S. House: 28th CD:

Adam Schiff	92	100%	61	100%
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Calif. State Senate 25th SD:

Carol Liu	91	99%	60	100%
No Endorsement	1	1%	0	0%

Calif. State Assembly 41st AD:

Chris Holden	80	89%	54	90%
Michael Cacciotte	5	6%	3	5%
Victoria Rusnak	1	1%	0	0%
No Endorsement	4	4%	3	5%

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

New Time for the Friday Morning Discussion Group

The Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group meets on first and third Fridays at Conrad's Restaurant, NW corner Lake Avenue and Walnut Street, Pasadena, now at a **new time: 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.**

Everyone is welcome. You may order breakfast, coffee, etc. or not. For more information call Inman Moore at 626-795-2201.

ACT ENDORSEMENT BALLOT 2

For the June 5th Primary



Endorsement Ballot Instructions

The membership of ACT recognizes that ACT is a democratic organization dependent on the goodwill of its members. Towards this end, the following rules shall govern the election procedures for ACT endorsements. The purpose of these rules is to prevent the manipulation of the endorsement process, to safeguard the voting privileges of members, and to further the democratic principles and procedures of ACT.

Who can vote? Year 2011 and 2012 members who are 18 years of age or older can vote. Each member on your address label is entitled to one vote and only one vote (if there is one name on the label, you have one vote; two names, two votes. If a person casts more votes than authorized, those votes are voided.

How do I vote? Mark and return your ballot in the enclosed envelope with the label attached. Or, if you desire a secret ballot, you may enclose it in an additional unmarked envelope. Each completed ballot sent by mail shall be submitted in the ACT envelope. Each voting member must sign the outside of the ACT ballot envelope. If there is no enclosed envelope, please send the ballot in an envelope with your name and return address to: ACT, Attn: Endorsement Election Committee, P. O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074.

Ballot rules - No proxies or duplicated ballots may be used in voting in ACT endorsement elections. If your ballot is damaged, write "void" on it and send it along with a note indicating how you voted.

Ballot Deadline Ballots must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 1st. Further endorsement election information can be found on page eleven in this *Phoenix*.

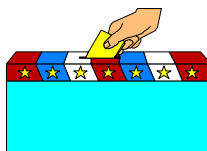
Why do we vote? ACT's endorsement can mean access to donor files, computer data, and such financial contributions as are voted by the Steering Committee.

Endorsement Requirements

1. A 60% majority of ballots cast is required to endorse a candidate or either the "Yes" or "No" side of a proposition. Abstentions will not be counted, i.e. only ballots cast in each race will be counted as part of the percentage.
2. No quorum is required.

Example: (family has 3 ACT members qualified to vote), Member #1 supports Candidate X; Member #2 supports Candidate Y; Member #3 decides to vote "No endorsement":

Vote for one	Voter: #1	#2	#3
Candidate X.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate Y.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No Endorsement.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Arroyo Democratic Club

ENDORSEMENT BALLOT 2

For the June 5th Primary

Endorsement Ballot Instructions

The ADC guidelines are identical to ACT with the exception that only Democratic candidates are listed.

ACT & ADC Endorsement Ballots, (Continuing) for the June 5th Primary

Please see the Research Committee report starting on page eleven in this Phoenix.

This is actually TWO ballots. The ACT ballot is on the left, and the ADC ballot is on the right.

Los Angeles County District Attorney:

Vote for one	ACT Voter:	#1	#2	#3	Vote for one	ADC Voter:	#1	#2	#3
Alan Jackson		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Breault		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carmen Trutanich		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Danette Meyers		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jackie Lacey.....		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bobby Grace		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No Endorsement.....		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Research Committee recommends Danette Meyers (6 - 0 - 0)

Steering Committee recommends Danette Meyers (13 - 0 - 0)

Pasadena Unified School District -- Measure A:

Shall the PUSD Board be elected by geographic sub-districts (rather than by individual seats elected at-large)?

Vote for one	ACT Voter:	#1	#2	#3	Vote for one	ADC Voter:	#1	#2	#3
Support Measure A		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose Measure A.....		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No Endorsement.....		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Research Committee did not consider this measure.

The Steering Committee recommends endorsing Measure A by a vote of 7 to 4, with 2 abstentions.

And Thanks to Members for Additional Contributions to ACT's Operating Account

- Renatta Cooper, Pasadena
- Marge Leighton, Pasadena
- Dorothy Matthiessen, Pasadena

And to ACT's Political Account

- Marge Leighton, Pasadena



Measure A – Sub-District Elections for the School District

Measure A would change the Pasadena Unified School District's elections from at-large to "sub-district" elections. Now, Board members are elected to specific "seats", but they run district-wide vote for each seat. Measure A would create seven sub-districts; Board members would live in a given district, and only voters in that district would elect those members.

A citizens task force, with representation from Altadena, Pasadena, and Sierra Madre has drawn proposed districts (see their web site at www.districting-task-force.pasadenausd.org) based on significant public input received via 35 public meetings and outreach events. They believe their proposed map has support from a wide range of community, civic and business leaders

Proponents argue that Board members elected by "sub-district" will be closer to neighborhoods, giving residents greater access to Board members and making Board members more responsive. It would be substantially less expensive to run for office in smaller districts, thereby expanding the pool of potential candidates and giving more people the chance to serve. The District could save up to \$200K per election cycle, because district elections will be less expensive to conduct. Under the current system minorities, particularly Latino, have had limited representation on the school board. This change might avoid a costly lawsuit that might challenge the current at-large election system.

Signers of the ballot argument supporting Measure A include Mayor Bill Bogaard; Sandra Thomas of the Altadena Town Council; Bart Doyle, former Mayor of Sierra Madre; Roberta H. Martínez, of the Pasadena Latino Coalition; and William Podley, former Chair of the Chamber of Commerce.

Opponents fear that sub-district elections will divide and polarize the community. They argue that current Board members have an incentive to focus on PUSD in its entirety, on students wherever they live. Sub-districts could lead Board members to focus on their own small districts, demanding resources and facilities regardless of the needs of the District as a whole. With PUSD enrollment coming very heavily from the Northwest, most of the Board will be elected from sub-districts with relatively few students. The areas with the largest student population will be represented by a distinct minority of Board members. Further, our open-enrollment policies mean students living in one sub-district will likely attend schools in other sub-districts; this undermines any logical connection between local neighborhoods and schools their students attend.

Our current system has functioned reasonably well over the years. We have had consistent minority representation on the Board, and we have remained focused on the good of the district overall. Opponents fear that changing our system could well threaten that success. They note that PUSD voters considered this same option twelve years ago and turned it down. Bill Bibbiani, a former PUSD administrator and Board Member, signed the argument against Measure A.



Los Angeles County District Attorney Research Committee Report

Danette Meyers is a Senior Deputy DA with 26 years of experience in justice, the juvenile justice system, and schools. In her response to the ACT pre-questionnaire, she identified herself as progressive, particularly focusing on Proposition 8-related issues.

Ms. Meyers is anti-death penalty and not supportive necessarily of 3 strikes (she thinks

there should be more discretion, believes that undocumented immigrants should have driver's licenses for practical purposes, and does not want to spend money prosecuting medical marijuana clinics and would like to reduce the sentencing disparity between meth and cocaine. Additionally, she would like to increase opportunities for rehab and reduce the terrible impact of felonies on people's lives.

Overall, Ms. Meyers was a very impressive candidate. One ACT member stated that "she is not only well qualified but is the most progressive DA we could hope for." Her answers were concise, direct, and informed. She showed a familiarity with the issues as well as several views that are consistent with ACT's positions and views. Her significant endorsers include Gil Garcetti, Quincy Jones, the Beverly Hills Police Officers Association, several LA County mayors, and several Democratic clubs.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

**From
43th District
Assemblymember
Mike Gatto**



**Are Corporations
People? I Don't Think So.**

To me, the difference between a corporation and a human being is apparent. Although Mitt Romney might tell you that "corporations are people too," the fact remains that only natural persons can die, vote, or go to jail for breaking the law. Thus, I believe that only natural persons are endowed with human rights. But most people know that the distinction between people and corporations has been eroded recently by a controversial U.S. Supreme Court decision.

In *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, a deeply divided Supreme Court held

that corporations are due the same free-speech rights enjoyed by natural persons. That decision spawned "Super PACs," which have flooded unlimited corporate money into federal elections, and has provided fodder for both pundits and comedians. The serious by-product of the decision is the concept that money is speech, and therefore, entities with unlimited money can drown out the speech rights of ordinary citizens.

Along with two of my colleagues, I have introduced Assembly Joint Resolution (AJR) 32, a measure that begins the process to amend the United States Constitution to nullify the *Citizens United* decision. AJR 32 features a rarely used process for amending the federal Constitution. Typically, amendments must start in Congress and then be ratified by the states. AJR 32 however, takes advantage of a procedure, outlined in Article V of the Constitution, whereby the states may demand that Congress act. If just 2/3 of the states make such a demand, Congress must call a constitutional convention on the topic.

Although several state and municipal legislatures have passed informal resolutions condemning the *Citizens United* decision, I wanted to go beyond just a symbolic gesture. Voters are fed up with the massive contributions from often obscured or hidden sources propping up candidates like Newt Gingrich.

I doubt our Founding Fathers had corporations in mind when they drafted the First Amendment. In fact, they would have scoffed at the notion that a corporation is entitled to the same rights as a natural person. The process I use in AJR 32 allows the various state legislatures to demand that a do-nothing Congress act, on an issue of critical importance. It is appropriate, I think, that California leads this charge.

Mike Gatto is the Assistant Speaker Pro Tempore of the California State Assembly. His web site is www.asm.ca.gov/gatto. Email or call (818) 558-3043.

**From
44th District
Assemblymember
Anthony
Portantino**



Dear Act Members,

I hope everyone had a very happy spring holiday. I spent the week back East with my mom, with a side trip to see my mother-in-law in Pennsylvania. I took Bella with me, giving Ellen a relaxing week without us. Both Grandmas appreciated seeing Bella over the holiday and, of course, put up with me.

The Assembly goes back into session on April 9th. Several things are gearing up this week, including the first hearing for my bill that forces SCEdison and other utilities to meet and confer with the cities and counties in their respective jurisdictions. I've asked the Public Utilities Commission to set strict emergency preparedness standards and guidelines for the utilities to follow during these public meetings. It makes sense to me to have a periodic and public review of emergency plans in coordination with County and City Public Works Departments. The recent internal report released by Edison confirms that there is a need for improvement. Let's use the time now, before our next disaster, to better prepare.

I'm also authoring a bill with the support of Aging Services of California that will help senior facilities. I'm hopeful that this bill continues to move through the process. Thinking about my mom in a long-term care facility back in New Jersey and my good friends at Villa Gardens helps me to continue the fight for accommodations for our seniors.

Each year, politicians and other public officials must complete a Statement of Economic Interest Form 700. This form shows our in-

come and any other forms of compensation for public review purposes. It's a way for watchdog groups and the general public to keep tabs on our financial interests to ensure that we avoid conflicts. The problem with the current form is that it contains income ranges of such wide dollar amounts that it's almost impossible for the public to decipher our actual income. I have a proposal that would narrow the reporting ranges to create a more accurate reflection of the facts.

I am maintaining my commitment to good government issues by reintroducing the Whistle Blower protection bill. Previously, the legislature had exempted legislative employees from Whistle Blower protection and I'm looking to fix that. I've also introduced a bill that repeals a particular legislative perk that bothers me. If you've ever seen cars with legislative vanity plates, you might never guess that legislators don't pay for them. Our proud veterans have to pay for veteran plates, but legislators receive an initial subsidy from the California Highway Patrol and have no annual fee. There are 750 legislative vanity plates in circulation that, if paid for like the rest of the plates in California, could fund several Cal Grants or other priorities far more necessary than giving legislators free vanity plates. The bill simply states that if a legislator wants a vanity plate, they should pay the same as everyone else. I don't take a vanity plate, because the last thing I want anyone to know is how I'm driving.

I was very pleased to see my good friend, and former Pasadena Police Chief, Barney Melikian in Sacramento recently. He was there to install the new president of the California Police Chiefs' Association. He's doing great in Washington as the head of the federal COPS program.

Assemblymember Anthony Portantino represents the 44th Assembly district. He can be reached by Email at: democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a44/

From State Senator Carol Liu...



Sacramento Update

The Legislature returned from a one week Spring break on Monday, April 9th. Policy Committee hearings have begun in earnest to consider bills introduced this year. State budget hearings are also continuing. As tax receipts flow in, the state will have a better view of where we are headed with the 2012/2013 budget, what the deficit looks like, and whether there is any hope of rolling back some of the cuts the Governor has proposed. Assembly budget subcommittees have already rejected some of the Governor's cuts. The Senate budget committee will wait to take action until the Governor submits a May Revise.

I have convened a childcare stakeholder roundtable with the hope of developing some alternatives to further cuts in childcare services. Recent data show that women and their families are falling even farther behind economically and facing more hurdles because of the lingering recession and state budget crisis. I intend to bring even more attention to this issue in the coming months through activities of the Senate Human Services Committee, which I chair, and my Pathways to Wellbeing and Economic Prosperity program here in the District. Meanwhile, we continue our efforts to connect people in need to the services and resources that are available. I was pleased to learn that two recent Earned Income Tax Credit events that I co-hosted in the district were very successful in helping the working poor take advantage of the federal tax rebate program.

California celebrates the 42nd anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 2012. Earth Day was founded by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson after he witnessed the devastating effects of a 1969 oil spill off the Santa Barbara coast. Nelson conceived of Earth Day as a way to raise awareness of the effects humans have on the environment and our planet. Nelson asked California Congressman Pete McCloskey to serve as co-chair of his effort and together they created a national "teach-in" to raise awareness of environmentalism and environmental stewardship. The need for awareness is greater than ever today.

There will be a number of opportunities to celebrate Earth Day throughout April including at the Pasadena Earth & Arts Festival on Saturday, April 14 at Memorial Park and the Armory Center for the Arts in Old Pasadena. It is free and open to the public with activities and entertainment that will appeal to all ages. Many green living products, organic foods, solar power, electric and hybrid vehicles, and green building products will be on display and available for purchase. You can learn about water and energy conservation, waste reduction, recycling and other Green City initiatives. On April 28th, you can join Friends of the River, to help clean up the LA River.

Register at: <http://folar.org/>

Campaign News. Now that the filing date has passed, I have two opponents in the 25th District State Senate race: Gilbert Gonzales, a Republican from Pasadena and Ameenah Fuller, a Democrat from Upland. You can learn more about my campaign at www.carolliu.com where you can click on links to follow me on Twitter and Facebook.

Senator Carol Liu represents nearly 850,000 people of the 21st District, which includes Altadena, Burbank, Glendale, Pasadena, La Cañada Flintridge, San Gabriel, Temple City, and portions of cities and communities stretching West to Reseda. Visit www.senate.ca.gov/LIU.

From Congressman Adam B. Schiff...

End the War in Afghanistan



When a U.S. Army staff sergeant allegedly walked off his base in southern Afghanistan and murdered 17 civilians, his solitary act recast the debate over the war in Afghanistan. The shooting spree occurred just weeks after copies of the Quran were accidentally burned by American troops at a different base. These two unrelated incidents are a stark reminder that after years of combat, diplomacy and aid, American goodwill can be undone in a matter of minutes.

For most of the last decade, the war in Afghanistan has been a tale of two missions. The American military and its coalition partners, acting in concert with Afghan police and armed forces, have routed al Qaeda and engaged in a protracted fight with Taliban insurgents throughout the country. This military mission has been costly and painful, but increasingly successful with the number and quality of Afghan army troops improving, and the territories controlled by the Taliban receding.

The problem has been in holding these cleared areas, rebuilding them and re-establishing accountable governance. That is primarily the mission of the civilian Afghan government, and much of the blame for the inability to stabilize the country must be laid at the feet of the country's leaders who have failed their own people. While Afghanistan's ethnic make-up and the legacy of decades of war and civil

conflict would be daunting challenges to any government, the regime of Hamid Karzai has squandered the goodwill and largess of the international community. Endemic corruption has resulted in the diversion of hundreds of millions of dollars of assistance, has undermined, perhaps fatally, public confidence in the central government and has fueled support for the Taliban.

But it is Pakistan, our putative ally, and its leaders' strategic decision to give sanctuary to the most deadly insurgents of the Haqqani Network that is the biggest impediment to progress in Afghanistan. As long as Pakistan's intelligence service and elements of the military continue to offer aid and sanctuary to the Taliban, there can be no conclusive military end to either the Taliban or the conflict there.

After 10 long years, it is time to recognize three painful truths of the Afghan conflict - Pakistan will continue to give sanctuary to our enemies, reform of the Afghan government will take decades, not years, and as long as we have large numbers of American troops in Afghanistan, the constant drumbeat of civilian casualties will continue to poison Afghan sentiment against the United States and the Afghan government. The murder of 17 Afghans was a horrible aberration, but the inadvertent death of civilians is an unavoidable consequence of insurgent warfare.

It is time, too, to face squarely the increasing toll the war is having on our own troops, the most magnificent group of men and women ever assembled. Twin wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, multiple deployments, strained family and financial pressures upon troops' return and some of the most serious medical and emotional challenges among our veterans compel us to see that the true impact of our anti-insurgency strategy has not been to avoid injury to America, but to concentrate that injury on our service members and their families.

When President Obama announced in late 2009 that he would be increasing American troop strength, he did so in order to create conditions for Afghan national leaders, provincial officials and tribal elders to engage in the political dialogue and peacemaking that are the necessary preconditions to a power-sharing agreement that might have ended the fighting. Instead, Karzai and other Afghans have spent the last 16 months jockeying for position, dividing the spoils and preparing for the day they will turn on each other.

With Osama bin Laden and most of his leadership cadre dead and gone, the best policy now would be to accelerate the transition of our Afghan mission to one focused on training, support and a limited special-operations capability to prevent the re-emergence of a sustained al Qaeda presence. Our goal is not to prevent an attack on America from that country alone - we are engaged in a global struggle with al Qaeda - but to protect ourselves from an attack emanating from any territory. The all-consuming needs of our large military presence in Afghanistan exact a price too high to bear, too improbable of achieving its goals and too diverting from growing threats elsewhere.

Congressman Adam Schiff represents the 29th Congressional District of California, including Alhambra, Altadena, Burbank, East Pasadena, East San Gabriel, Glendale, Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel, South Pasadena, and Temple City.

*He can be reached at
(626) 304-2727 or
by Email at:
www.house.gov/schiff.*



Reality, insanity, and Iran



Waging a pre-emptive war against Iran over its nuclear program is a really bad idea

By John Grula, Reprinted from the Pasadena Weekly with permission

Just as they did 10 years ago before our invasion of Iraq, warmongers are fanning the flames of hysteria and insisting we have to bomb another Middle Eastern nation into submission.

The nation this time around? Iran. Its alleged crime? Same as Iraq — possessing or otherwise trying to obtain weapons of mass destruction. In the case of Iran, specifically a nuclear weapon.

The historical record on Iraq is now clear. It had no weapons of mass destruction, and the claims that it did turned out to be bogus nonsense. But after the expenditure of more than \$1 trillion, the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis and more than 4,000 American troops, only the most foolhardy and gullible would now argue that it would be smart for us and/or the Israelis to shoot first at Iran and ask questions later.

How true is the warmongers' assertion that Iran is trying to build a nuclear weapon? If one looks beyond mainstream media propaganda, apparently it ranks right up there with the false claim that Saddam Hussein was trying to get yellowcake uranium from Niger.

If you haven't already done so, please check out the Feb. 24 Los Angeles Times news report, "US does not believe Iran is trying to build nuclear bomb." This is a shockingly underreported story, which has received little, if any, discussion by TV's talking heads. The

Times article highlights the fact that two separate National Intelligence Estimates (NIE) issued in 2007 and 2011 concluded that Iran stopped its efforts to develop and build a nuclear warhead in 2003.

These NIEs should not be taken lightly or dismissed; they represent a consensus of all 16 US intelligence agencies. After getting burned by the faulty and/or faked intelligence that led to the disastrous Iraq War, this time around our intelligence community is apparently trying to stay reality-based and working hard to get its facts straight.

And, we don't have to just take the word of our 16 intelligence agencies on the question of Iran's bomb (or lack thereof). During an appearance on the Jan. 8 broadcast of CBS's "Face the Nation," Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta (who is also a former director of the Central Intelligence Agency) said the following about Iran: "Are they trying to develop a nuclear weapon? No. But we know they are trying to develop a nuclear capability." Sure, trying to develop a "nuclear capability," but NOT a nuclear weapon.

Is Iran enriching uranium? Yes. But as a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Iran has every right, according to the terms of this treaty, to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes. This is what Iran says it is doing, and so far inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have not found any evidence that Iran has enriched uranium beyond 20 percent. Such lowly enriched uranium can be used for generating nuclear power and creating medically useful isotopes. To build a nuclear weapon, uranium must be enriched to at least 90 percent.

By the way, and to put this all into proper context, it is the case that Iran's primary nemesis, Israel, has never signed the NPT and over the last several decades has secretly amassed a nuclear arsenal of 50 to 100 war-

heads. No IAEA inspector has ever been allowed to examine an Israeli nuclear facility. In sharp contrast, IAEA inspections of Iranian nuclear facilities are commonplace.

How insane would it be for Israel and/or the US to launch a war against Iran? Answer: Totally insane. First of all, Iran has vowed major retaliation against any such attack, and its formidable conventional arsenal has the potential to inflict major casualties on Israeli citizens and US personnel in the region. In addition, the LA Times has reported that Israeli intelligence estimates that Iran and its proxies, Hezbollah in Southern Lebanon and Hamas in the Gaza Strip, have as many as 200,000 missiles aimed at Israel. Both Lebanon and Gaza share a border with Israel. Hezbollah and Hamas missile attacks in support of their sponsor, Iran, would be catastrophic for Israeli civilians.

Throw in the distinct possibility that an attack against Iran could start a major Middle East war that might also drag in Arab nations such as Saudi Arabia and Syria, and the very high probability of huge oil disruptions that could collapse the still-struggling world economy, and you start to get the picture.

Waging a pre-emptive war against Iran over its nuclear program is a really, really bad idea. So bad that we the people should fervently hope cooler heads prevail and engage in political action to prevent yet another Middle East war. The long-term solution to this situation is for all Middle East nations to sign the NPT and then work toward eliminating all of their nuclear weapons. The same applies to the rest of the world. Comprehensive nuclear disarmament remains as urgent as ever.

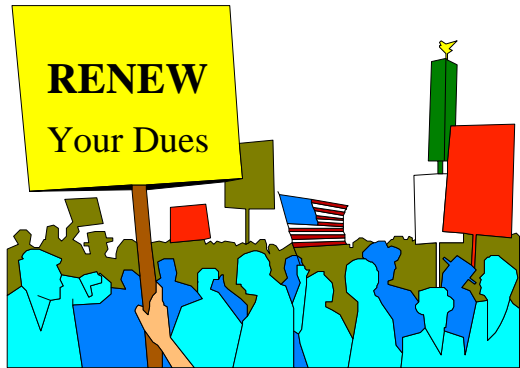
John Grula, PhD, is affiliated with the Southern California Federation of Scientists.



The Red Check Means It's Time to Renew

A red check () on your address label on this *Phoenix* reminds you that we haven't yet received your renewal check for ACT and/or ADC for 2012! Please take the time to renew right now. Remember you can renew online at www.actpasadena.org/ - or - mail your check to ACT and/or ADC, P. O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074.

Our grateful thanks go to all the ACT and ADC members who have already renewed or joined for 2012. Your support is vital to both organizations.



I'd like to join both groups for one low price! (Checks payable to ACT/ADC)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Single | <input type="checkbox"/> \$70 Single Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Each additional member per household | <input type="checkbox"/> \$90 Double Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student or limited income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Patron |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$275 Benefactor |

I'd like to join ACT (Checks payable to ACT)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Single | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Single Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Each additional member per household | <input type="checkbox"/> \$85 Double Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student or limited income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Gift Membership (NEW!) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$275 Benefactor |

I'd like to join the Arroyo Democratic Club (Checks payable to ADC)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Single | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Single Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Each additional member per household | <input type="checkbox"/> \$85 Double Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student or limited income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Patron |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$275 Benefactor |

Extra Contribution

- \$ _____ Political Account (for endorsed candidates and issues)
- \$ _____ Operating Account (for organizational costs) \$ _____ **Total enclosed**

 Name

Home Phone

 Address

Office Phone

 City

ZIP

 Email address

Mail to ACT, P. O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074



Calendar

- April 20
Friday
8:30 a.m. to
9:30 a.m. Friday Morning Progressive
Discussion Group at Conrad's
Restaurant, NW corner Lake &
Walnut, Pasa. Call Inman
Moore for info at 626-795-2201.
We meet on 1st & 3rd Fridays.
NOTE NEW TIME.
- May 3
Thursday
7 p.m. ACT Steering Committee and
ADC Meeting at the home of
Marilee Marshall and Bruce
Wright, 654 S. Madison Avenue,
Pasadena. Socializing at 7 p.m.;
meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- May 4
Friday
Friday Morning Discussion
Group. (Details same as 4/20.)

- May 11
Friday
10 a.m. San Gabriel Valley Democratic
Women's Club at Altadena
Library, 600 E. Mariposa Street,
Altadena. Congresswoman Judy
Chu to speak.
- May 18
Friday
Friday Morning Discussion
Group. (Details same as 4/20.)
- June 5
Tuesday
California Primary. Polls open
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- June 7
Thursday
7 p.m. "Revisiting School Integration"
and showing of *The Memphis 13*
film at Altadena Baptist
Church, 791 E. Calaveras St.,
Altadena. Everyone welcome.



P. O. Box 40074
Pasadena, California
91114-7074