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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

## Research Committee Schedule and Plans for the June Election Endorsement Process

The Research Committee Co-Chairs (Ralph Hurtado, John McLean, Susan Kane, George Van Alstine, Brian Walsh and Roberta Martinez) would like to announce the endorsement schedule and process for the June Primary.

All candidates will be sent the following questions as a prerequisite to being interviewed. They are: Do you consider yourself a progressive? If so, in what ways would you describe yourself as progressive? Can you name specific issues on which you have taken a stand that you consider progressive? Who are your campaign manager, treasurer and staff? Please name your significant endorsers. What have been your recent political activities, other than running for this office?

On Saturday, February 25, 2012, the Committee, and any member interested in attending, will interview both Congressional District candidates and Assembly and State Senate Candidates that have filed and responded to our questionnaire. Call Ralph at (626) 799-7626 or email him at [rhurtado799@charter.net](mailto:rhurtado799@charter.net) for additional information or if you have questions to submit to the group that we should ask candidates. The tentative time for the meeting is 10:00 AM, at the home of Beth Gertmenian, 1521 Oakdale, Pasadena. After this meeting the recommendations will be presented at the Tuesday, March 6, Steering Committee meeting.

At the March 6 Steering Committee meeting - in addition to the aforementioned candidate reports - there will be a presentation on the PUSD District Election proposition. The meeting will be a joint meeting of the Research Committee and the Steering Committee. Both will take separate votes regarding endorsement of the District Election Proposition. At the conclusion of the votes all the endorsement recommendations will be put to a vote by the General Membership.

In the March Phoenix the Research Committee will announce a meeting date to interview and make recommendations on the LA County District Attorney race, State propositions on the June Ballot, and recommendations for the Senate and Presidential primary races.

## Next PUSD Districting Task Force Meeting

The PUSD Districting Task Force invites you to attend and participate in a series of meetings to develop new sub-regional districts for electing School Board members. The task force and technical team will provide information about the districting process, mapping methods, and how you can participate.

The next meeting is February 21 at 6 p.m. at the Al-Kebulan Cultural Center, 1435 N. Raymond Avenue, Pasadena. For more information contact [pusdtaskforce@gmail.com](mailto:pusdtaskforce@gmail.com) or 323-349-0661, ext. 18.

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## Next San Gabriel Valley Democratic Women's Club Meeting

Dr. Irma Strantz will provide State and Federal health care updates at the San Gabriel Valley Democratic Women's Club meeting on Friday, March 9, 10 a.m. at the Altadena 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, usually at the Altadena Public Library at 10 a.m. An informative speaker or program follows a brief business meeting.

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## Phoenix Deadline

*The Phoenix* deadline is normally the Sunday after the monthly ACT meeting.

The deadline for the March *Phoenix* will be Sunday, March 11. Please send items to Chuck Hains at [Hains27@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:Hains27@SBCGlobal.net). *The Phoenix* will be prepared for mailing on Thursday, March 15 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.)

## New Time for Friday Morning Group

The Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group continues to meet 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.

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## Website Committee News

Thanks to Bruce Wright who has stepped up to Chair the Website Committee and keep it up to date.

Bruce asks for member's suggestions for items to be included on the site - events, articles, columns, links... Please contact him at

[BruceWright@sbcglobal.net](mailto:BruceWright@sbcglobal.net).

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At the **February 2<sup>nd</sup>, ACT meeting**, John Gundry, Superintendent of Pasadena Unified School District spoke about a variety of topics in which it was clear that impending budget cuts would have a significant impact on the coming years.

He felt that having a strategic plan in place was a good first step but that implementing the plan, a more challenging effort, will be what needs to be done consistently and continually. He also feels that there needs to be a review of programs in place to see how they contribute to student success.

He felt that over the past few years there has been notable strengthening of programs in the elementary and high school levels. He hired Dr. Brian McDonald as Chief Academic Officer because of his middle school expertise.

In the future Superintendent Gundry would also like to see social studies more integrated with language arts, greater facility with technology, more of an emphasis on critical thinking and project based learning, and wants to see science taught in all elementary classes.

## Wonderings and Wanderings

By Inman Moore



February is Black History Month. Not long ago I was talking with someone about civil rights in general and racism in particular. He said, "With all our talk and efforts there has been no improvement in race relations in America where blacks and whites are concerned." I can understand his frustration. There is, indeed, a considerable amount of racism in America. But as to his overall statement of "no improvement" I couldn't disagree more. History and the long corridors of time simply do not bear out my friend's pessimistic comment.

For example, until the 19<sup>th</sup> Century slavery was rampant all over the world. America was no exception. Twelve of our earliest presidents owned slaves, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison. Slavery started early in our country. The first African slaves arrived in America in 1609 in a Dutch slave ship. By 1860 there were over four million black slaves in the United States. Most of them were on the huge tobacco and cotton plantations in the South.

Slavery was abolished in 1865, but for 100 years afterwards segregation prevailed in the South and discrimination existed all over the country. For example, Glendale, for a time, would not allow a black to stay overnight in the city. Pasadena, in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century had a huge battle over de facto segregation in the public schools, resulting in the firing of Ray Cortines, one of the finest school superintendents in America.

I grew up in Mississippi and served as a pastor there for fourteen years. During those years the state was totally segregated. Churches and schools were all segregated.

Housing was segregated. Blacks could not eat in the restaurants or stay in the hotels and motels. They had to sit in the back of the bus. And they were not allowed to vote.

Not long ago my wife, Nellie, and I took a tour of Mississippi. The schools were integrated. The churches were integrated. Housing was integrated. There was free access to the restaurants, hotels, and motels. No more sitting in the back of the bus. And Jackson, the capitol, has a black mayor. I call that remarkable progress.

We have not arrived at perfection in the area of race relations in America or anywhere else in the world. But the beat goes on and the standard bearers are those progressives who believe the struggle is worth the effort: those who choose to face the future fearless and unafraid fully believing that the best is yet to come.



### Pundit of the Month Contest --

And the winner is -- Bill Creim! Bill correctly predicted the winner and runner up in both New Hampshire and South Carolina. Other competitors -- Jon Fuhrman, Greg Harrison, and Nicole Mihara -- picked the New Hampshire top two, and one or another of the top candidates in other primaries, but no one else picked the top two in two primaries. (And Bill picked one of the top two in Iowa, and the top two in Florida, but in reverse order.) So Congrats! to Bill -- and on to the Pundit of the Year Contest!



### Please Send Your Current Email Address to Jon

We want current Email addresses for every ACT and/or ADC member. Please send yours to Jon Fuhrman at [jon\\_fuhrman@charter.net](mailto:jon_fuhrman@charter.net).

## Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Monday, February 6.

**W**ith South Carolina, Florida and Nevada behind us, Mitt Romney should have a dominant position in the Republican race. Actually, though, his perch remains precarious. Only handfuls of delegates have actually been awarded. By the time you read this, Colorado and Minnesota will have had their caucuses, Missouri will have had a "beauty contest" primary (with no delegates actually at stake), and Maine will be finishing up their caucuses stretched out over a whole week. Early reports suggest that Ron Paul was running strongly in Maine, where there has been a particularly active Tea Party wing, and late polling suggests Santorum is running well in Minnesota. With all of these early states allocating delegates proportionately, no one candidate can really run up their delegate totals. All the while, poor Newt Gingrich is

left waiting for Super Tuesday, hoping to convert his South Carolina win into a broader Southern strategy.

After this week, there will be a lull of two and a half weeks; the next primaries are in Arizona and Michigan, on February 28. Then, a week later, comes Super Tuesday: 7 primaries, including Ohio, Tennessee, Georgia and Virginia, and 3 caucus states (including North Dakota, Idaho, and Alaska, so be ready to stay up really late that night).

So from now through Super Tuesday, 639 delegates are at stake (while 1148 is the magic 50% needed to clinch the nomination). But winning even the lion's share of those delegates will be difficult. All the caucus states allocate delegates proportionately. Further, several of the primary states are winner-take-all, but only if the winner gets over 50% of the vote; otherwise, delegates are allocated proportionally. With Gingrich, Paul, and Santorum still in the mix, that makes it quite difficult for Romney to crack the 50% mark – perhaps one reason they are all hanging tough.

Thus, Mitt Romney has to rely upon perception more than actual delegate count to dominate the race. While it's true that he's now won 3 state contests, versus one each for Santorum and Gingrich, it's also true that his lead rests on somewhat thin ice.

In Nevada, while Romney won by large margins, the actual participation in the caucuses was quite disappointing. In 2008, about 44K Republicans attended; predictions ranged as high as 70,000 for this year, but the actual count was only 32,500. In Florida, Gingrich notes that the counties he carried showed higher turnouts than in 2008, while the counties that Romney carried all showed lower turnouts than in 2008. This mirrors the pattern seen in Iowa and New Hampshire, calling into question the supposed enthusiasm edge upon which the Republicans were counting.

It also raises the question of whether a prolonged primary battle will help or hurt the nominee. In 2008, as President Obama and Sec. Clinton fought it out, registration and turnouts soared in key states like Pennsylvania, Ohio, and North Carolina. Obama and Clinton had tough debates and strong policy disagreements, but the tone of the primary was utterly different from this year -- there were no Super-PAC's denigrating one candidate or the other, no personal attacks, no testimonials from Congressional colleagues about candidates' inadequacies, or ethical lapses, or unsteady character, or personal flaws. The 2008 primary clearly made Obama's fall campaign stronger.

In contrast, this year's primary is burning cash at astronomical rates, failing to mobilize new voters and making all the candidates weaker.

Perhaps the most damning evidence are the President's increasing margins over Romney in head-to-head polls, as well as the increase in Pres. Obama's approval ratings. The most recent polls put him between 6 and 9 points ahead of Romney, while only months ago he was, at best, dead even. Along with the improving economic data, this undermines Romney's core argument that he is the most electable Republican candidate. If Romney loses that claim, then the delegate selection process could get hopelessly fractured, perhaps even leading to a brokered convention.

The other critical factor in all the national campaigns is the economy, and the President and his team must be reveling in the new data. With job creation at the 250,000 level, and the unemployment rate continuing downward, the entire context of the campaign changes. While the numbers are from just one month, they track closely the weekly numbers

on new unemployment claims; those figures continue at well under 400,000 per week, and they seem to be accurate leading indicators of economic data. With higher employment, of course, comes stronger consumer confidence, more purchasing, thus further stimulating the economy, fewer foreclosures, more tax revenue, lower unemployment benefit costs, lower deficits -- it fixes all the ills about which the Republicans complain. Indeed, were the economy to recover fully, it would become clear that the federal deficit has been due, not to excessive spending, but to the cataclysmic decline in tax revenues due to the Bush recession / depression, from which we are still recovering.



If the job creation data simply hold at this level through the summer, Democrats will be looking at a smashing victory in November. So, while we shouldn't count our chickens before they hatch, my guess is the data is more likely to get even better with time than it is to reverse course toward a double-dip recession, regardless of what happens in Europe. I'm holding to

my prediction of 375 electoral votes for President Obama, with Democrats retaking the House.

Here in California, the political scene is clarifying somewhat as the effects of reapportionment work their way through the system. One of the most prominent victims is Cong. David Dreier, currently Chairman of the House Rules Committee, arguably the third most powerful Representative in the House. He has lost his district, has nowhere to go, has stopped raising money, and apparently is anticipating a graceful, if forced, retirement. Whatever one thinks of the merits of a "citizen"-driven, presumptively non-political, reapportionment, California as a state clearly suffers

from the loss of senior, power-wielding committee chairs like Dreier. To whatever degree pork is still distributed, California's share will be a bit less with Dreier gone, even if the Democrats recapture the House.

Those same reapportionment decisions threw our local politics into a tizzy for several months. Assemblyman Anthony Portantino, who is finishing his last term in the Assembly, had drawn broad and enthusiastic support for a run against Cong. Dreier. However, when Dreier's district went up in smoke, so did Portantino's best-laid plans. With all the local Congressional seats taken by Democratic incumbents, he considered challenging Sen. Carol Liu in the new 25th State Senate District. Fortunately, wisdom and discretion prevailed, and also family circumstances that would have made it difficult for Portantino to wage a full-out campaign. So Sen. Liu is now the overwhelming favorite on the Democratic side for the Senate seat, though she does have a challenger from the eastern portions of the district that she has never represented before.

In the local Assembly race, Pasadena's Councilmember Chris Holden seems to have a significant edge, demonstrated by the overwhelming majority he won among Democratic Party activists in the contest for the party's formal endorsement. He is opposed by Michael Cacciotti, who has served on South Pasadena's City Council for a number of years, has been active in the League of Cities, and serves as an area representative on the Air Quality Management District Board. Holden, though, over the last 25 years has developed name recognition among a much larger portion of the new Assembly District, which should give him a substantial edge. Neither candidate, however, is well known in the new eastern edges of the District -- San Dimas, La Verne, Claremont, Upland and Rancho Cucamonga (how these distant cities ever ended up on our Assembly District will remain one of

the great mysteries of the universe).

It will be fascinating to see if the new "open primary" rules -- whereby the top two vote-getters, regardless of party, go on to the November general election -- lead to any races where both candidates are from the same party. Locally, we're likely to have traditional Democratic / Republican races. Perhaps the hottest primary in the state will be on the west side, where Cong. Howard Berman and Brad Sherman are in a fight to the death. It's possible they could be the top two vote getters, and therefore have the same fight all over again on the November ballot (spending nearly infinite amounts of money in the process). Current polling shows Berman trailing both Sherman and the Republican, but he'll have enough money and endorsements perhaps to eke out a second place finish and get in the November race. My guess, though, is that both parties dislike the new system so much that there'll be a constitutional amendment on the ballot in 2014 to go back to the old closed primary system.

The June ballot will have only two state-wide propositions: one that would vastly improve the current term limits rules, allowing legislators to spend up to 12 years in a single house, and thus gain some real expertise and maturity before taking on leadership positions; and one that would substantially (perhaps excessively) increase taxes on cigarettes. Also in June, local voters will get to decide on the PUSD's governance -- should we abandon at-large elections for specific seats and go to sub-district elections? More on that next month, as the PUSD Task Force comes closer to deciding on specific sub-district boundaries. (The Task Force would welcome public input, and is holding a series of public meetings this month; see [www.districting-task-force.pasadenausd.org](http://www.districting-task-force.pasadenausd.org) for their schedule.)

The November ballot, however, may be re-

markably crowded. Three separate measures hope to rescue school funding, with each now gathering, or about to gather, signatures to qualify for the ballot. The Governor's proposal includes a 5-year sales tax and income tax hike, aiming to raise about \$7 billion. However, it also addresses significant issues around realignment (the euphemism for sending many state prisoners down to local county jails to relieve state prison overcrowding and cut state spending). Further, as more analysis is done, it appears that the Governor's proposal would not really provide any new funds for schools. Indeed, here at home, the PUSD is planning for an additional \$9 million cut if the Governor's plan passes, and substantially deeper cuts if it doesn't. The Governor recruited the California Teachers Association (CTA) and the SEIU to back his plan, but his coalition may be cracking.

In contrast, Pasadena's own Molly Munger has proposed an initiative that would, over 12 years, raise income tax rates across a broad spectrum in a progressive manner, with wealthier taxpayers both paying more and paying higher additional rates. This proposal aims to raise \$10 billion a year for K-12 and early childhood education, with the money held outside the state's General Fund. For the first four years, 30% of the revenue goes to pay interest on school bonds, providing some relief for the General Fund until the economy recovers. Locally, it would mean about an additional \$20 million for PUSD in its first years and up to \$28 million in later years. Thus it would fully cover the shortfall from the Governor's budget and begin restoring cuts from prior years. The PTA is formally supporting the measure, promising foot soldiers both for the signature-gathering phase and for the campaign later on.

Lastly, the California Federation of Teachers is proposing a "millionaires tax" measure, that would increase income tax rates sharply, but

only for those at the very top of the scale. This proposal has the least certain financial backing and may not make it to the ballot, but the CFT has recruited some labor allies to help with funding.

Both Munger's proposal and the CFT measure are initiative statutes, while the Governor's proposal is a constitutional amendment. That means the Governor needs to gather over 1.2 million signatures by May to have a shot at qualifying; Munger and the CFT need "only" 750,000 signatures (to allow for invalid or duplicate signatures).

Proponents worry what would happen if more than one measure makes it to the November ballot. Will voters simply get confused and vote no on all of them? The conventional wisdom certainly is that having more than one measure spells doom for all of them. Yet, actual experience, as well as recent polling data, seems to dispute that. You may recall that when Prop. 103 passed, creating the independent Insurance Commissioner, there were multiple measures about insurance on the ballot (some perhaps aimed at confusing voters and sinking all the ballot measures). Yet voters understood and chose Prop. 103, while defeating other conflicting measures. Perhaps, then, conventional wisdom is wrong. Right or wrong, we may well test it out this November.

-- Jon Fuhrman



## Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Michael Cacciotti, South Pasadena

## And really special thanks to Benefactors

Susan & John Caldwell, San Marino

Bruce Wright & Marilee Marshall, Pasa.

**From  
44th District  
Assemblymember  
Anthony  
Portantino**



Dear Friends,

I'm writing this from the Denver airport on the way to see my mom. Thanks to everyone who sent notes, e-mails and Facebook posts wishing my mother well and offering kind words about my decision not to run for office in 2012. I am blessed to have so many friends and I've been blessed to represent such a great district for my three terms in the Assembly. Rest assured that my decision not to run is in no way a reflection of my desire to continue in public service. You will see more of me after I'm termed out, as I intend to continue being an active community volunteer and engaged and proud democrat.

I am also pursuing my final legislative year with a very robust policy agenda. Faced with gun activists carrying their rifles, I have been inspired to extend the ban of unloaded handguns to rifles and shotguns. Breast cancer early detection efforts are also moving through the process, as is my proposal to have Edison and other utilities present comprehensive emergency management plans to cities and counties for collaboration and accountability. In addition, I am still hopeful that two of my higher education bills, which are currently in the Senate, can move to the Senate floor. One deals with concurrent enrollment to create more academic partnerships and better coordination between high schools and community colleges and the other sets in place an accountability framework for all three higher education segments. As Jack Scott was the initiator and author of this accountability

bill, and the recent report on Community College success contained many of the points that Jack had originally brought to light, I'm hopeful that it can finally become law.

Another higher education project came to fruition last month. I was joined in Pasadena by the University of California Provost, the Deans of the UC Berkeley and UC San Diego Business Schools, Joe Hopkins (who inspired the idea), Bob Davidson (Morehouse College Board President), Sheryl Orange (Principal of John Muir High School), and local business, clergy and community leaders to launch an historic partnership between Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the University of California. Together, we created a summer fellowship for HBCU students on the UC campuses. The goal is to use this academic partnership to create a stronger pipeline into MBA programs and California businesses. The event took place at the Robinson Memorial across from Pasadena City Hall and was quite a happening. In addition to the launch, entertainment was provided by the award winning ACT-SO Jazz trio. If you know an



**UC-HBCU press conference hosted  
by Assemblymember Portantino**

HBCU undergrad who might want to experience this summer fellowship on his/her way to a business degree, pass along this web link: <http://sieml.universityofcalifornia.edu>.

On the family front, it's been nice to be around the house without the pressure of an imminent campaign. I did try to fix a pipe in the bathroom with a lousy result. We had to call a plumber in to fix the problem that I exacerbated. I guess I do have my limitations. Bella is half-way through fourth grade and I can't believe that Sofia will soon be a senior in college.

A very heartfelt thank you to everyone who has helped me with time, encouragement, suggestions and resources to represent our community. Your trust, faith and support have kept me going these past five years and continue to ignite in me the passion to serve. I will keep you all posted on my mother's progress, as I will learn more this week. On a final note, I'm writing this before the Super Bowl. Go Giants - beat the Pats!!!!

*Assemblymember Anthony Portantino represents the 44th Assembly District of California, including La Canada, Pasadena, Altadena, South Pasadena, Eagle Rock, Highland Park, Glassell Park, Temple City, Duarte and parts of Arcadia and Monrovia.*

*He can be reached by Email at:*

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a44/>

## Pundit of the Year Contest!

It may be early, but get your predictions in now. One simple bottom-line prediction: how many electoral votes will President Barak Obama receive in November, 2012?

The rules are the same -- a \$10 entry fee, going to the Judy Boggs Intern Fund. In case of ties, the prediction submitted earliest wins the accolade. Send your entry to [jon.fuhrman@charter.net](mailto:jon.fuhrman@charter.net); true glory and fame await the bold. We will, on occasion, post the predictions here, so all can share in the anticipation.

## From State Senator Carol Liu...



### Sacramento Update

**L**et the Campaign begin! Here we go. Carol Liu for Senate 2012 has officially launched. Fred Register, Jon Fuhrman, and George and Judy Van Alstine continue to serve as my political consultant, treasurer and accountants, respectively. Wendy Cuite has agreed to again manage my local fundraising efforts. I am pleased to announce that Vickere Murphy, whom you all know, will serve as my Campaign Manager.

The Carol Liu for Senate, 25<sup>th</sup> District website is up and running and thanks to Vickere I'm on Facebook and I can Twitter too. Please visit [www.carolliu.com](http://www.carolliu.com). You can click on the Facebook icon to connect to my Facebook page and the Twitter icon to sign up for tweets. Please visit and "Like" me on Facebook!

Thus far, there is not a Republican Senate candidate in the 25<sup>th</sup> District race. However, a Democrat from Upland, Ameenah Fuller, has declared her candidacy. The first campaign victory came at the Democratic Party Pre-endorsement Conference where I received 81% of the vote. That put my endorsement on the consent calendar for the Democratic Convention.

My individual and organization endorsement list is growing. I am pleased to have endorsements from Assembly Member Anthony Portantino and the Senate Democrats. My list of organization endorsement includes:

- The Women's Political Committee
- Equality Now

- The California League of Conservation Voters
- California Professional Firefighters
- Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley
- Glendale Democratic Club
- CA Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg
- National Women's Political Caucus, CA (NWPC-CA)
- Los Angeles County Firefighters, Local 1014.

Thanks to all for your support!

*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, several City of Los Angeles communities and portions of cities and communities stretching West to Reseda. Visit [www.senate.ca.gov/LIU](http://www.senate.ca.gov/LIU).*

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## From 43rd District Assemblymember Mike Gatto



### The California DISCLOSE Act: Bringing Transparency to Campaign Season

We have all grown accustomed to a barrage of political ads during election years. Spending on such ads seems to rise every year, while transparency seems to decrease. Entities hide behind confusing names, and special-interest groups try to hide the millions they spend on candidates, by creating special-purpose entities to pay for advertisements. Even the savviest and most engaged of voters often find it challenging to determine who is footing the bill, and which entity would benefit if a certain candidate is elected or if a certain proposition passes.

A recent bill in the Legislature attempted to improve things. With Julia Brownley (D- Santa Monica), I co-authored Assembly Bill (AB) 1148, the Cali-

fornia DISCLOSE Act, and I fought hard for its passage. The DISCLOSE Act would require all political advertisements (whether on TV, radio, the Internet, or by mail), to disclose the top three funders. The bill would have also required candidates for statewide offices to verbally express their approval of messages being sent by their campaign, much like the way federal candidates are already required to do when they say, "I approve this message."

Ensuring that voters are well informed before heading to the ballot box is critically important to creating a rational system of governance in our state. For example, a few years ago, out-of-state companies spent millions on an initiative in a crass attempt to overturn California's environmental laws. Had strong disclosure laws existed, voters could have just glanced at who was funding each ad, and knew instantly who would have benefited. Similarly, I think voters have the right to know when a large group of out-of-state donors launch an effort to try to take away rights from Californians.

Unfortunately, AB 1148 narrowly failed on the Assembly floor recently. It required a two-thirds vote, and just over a third of the Assembly voted for the status quo. But I have other proposals pending, and I am committed to pushing for this type of sensible, effective reform to our election system.

I have met with many electoral-finance-reform activists recently, and we have developed a strategy to reach out to try to convince some of the stubborn holdouts in the Legislature to support the reforms our system needs. I'd also like to hear from you: what are your ideas for improving our campaign-finance system?

*Mike Gatto is the Assistant Speaker Pro Tempore of the California State Assembly. He represents the cities of Burbank, Glendale, and parts of Los Angeles, including Los Feliz, North Hollywood, Silver Lake, Toluca Lake, Valley Glen, and Van Nuys. He has served in the Assembly since June 2010. His web site is [asm.ca.gov/gatto](http://asm.ca.gov/gatto). E-mail Mike at: [assemblymember.gatto@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.gatto@assembly.ca.gov), or call (818) 558-3043.*

## Renewing Your ACT and ADC Membership for 2012

Your reminder to renew your ACT and/or ADC membership is coming soon by mail. Please respond as soon as you can. Your continued support is vital to both organizations.

P.S. If you simply can't wait for your renewal letter, you can renew online at <http://www.actpasadena.org/> or mail your check in with this membership coupon.



### 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**

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 Name

Home Phone

---

 Address

Office Phone

---

 City

ZIP

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 Email address

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



## Calendar

- Feb 10-12 State Democratic Convention.  
Friday Endorsing caucuses as necessary;  
- Sunday ratification of endorsements.
- Feb 17 Friday Morning Progressive  
Friday Discussion Group at Conrad's  
8:30 a.m. to Restaurant, NW corner Lake &  
9:30 a.m. Walnut, Pasa. Call Inman  
Moore for info at 626-795-2201.  
We meet on 1st & 3rd Fridays.  
NOTE NEW TIME.
- Feb 25 Research Committee interviews  
Saturday of CD, State SD, and AD candi-  
10 a.m. dates at Beth Gertmenian's  
home, 1521 Oakdale Street, Pasadena. Please  
confirm with Ralph at 626-799-7626.
- March 2 Friday Morning Discussion  
Friday Group. (Details same as 2/17.)
- March 6 ACT Steering Committee and  
Tuesday ADC Meeting at Jeanne & Fred  
7 p.m. Register's home, 2345 Midloth-  
ian Drive, Altadena. Coffee at 7  
p.m.; meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- March 9 San Gabriel Valley Democratic  
Friday Women's Club at Altadena  
10 a.m. Library, 600 E. Mariposa St.,  
Altadena.
- March 16 Friday Morning Discussion  
Friday Group. (Details same as 2/17.)
- June 5 California Primary

## Please Send Your Current Email Address to Jon

We want current Email addresses for every ACT and/or ADC member. Please send yours to Jon Fuhrman at [jon\\_fuhrman@charter.net](mailto:jon_fuhrman@charter.net).

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## 2012 Steering Committee Calendar

The ACT Steering Committee and the Arroyo Democratic Club meet at 7:30 p.m. (socializing begins at 7 p.m.) on the first Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday of the month in rotation. All ACT and ADC members are always welcome and urged to attend.

The full 2012 meeting schedule will be published in *ThePhoenix* when it is finalized.

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