

BALLOT INSIDE



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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters

invites you to

Oktoberfest 2014

at Bob & Linda Angel's Hillmont House
939 North Hill Avenue
Pasadena, California

**Sunday, October 19, 2014
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

Traditional Oktoberfest Food and Drink
Sponsorships available: \$1000, \$500, \$250, \$125
Non-sponsors \$35 at the door
RSVP Elaine at 909 239-7241 or elcartas@gmail.com.

There is still time to be a sponsor. Contact UDH Fundraiser Elaine Cartas at 909 239-7241 or elcartas@gmail.com. These are the dollars that keep our Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters (UDH) going!

November Phoenix Deadline

The deadline for the November Phoenix will be Sunday, November 9. Please send items to Chuck at Hains27@SBCGlobal.net. Mailing preparation will be Thursday, Nov.13, at 7pm.

About Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters



603 N. Lake Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101
P. O. Box 70052, Pasadena, CA 91117-7052
Phone: 626 817-3694

Email: pasadenaudh@gmail.com

Web address: Pasadenademocrats.com

Hours: M-Th 12 – 9 p.m.,
Sat 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sun 1- 7 p.m.

Staff:

Campaign Coordinator: Tom Dallas

Volunteer Coordinator: Ernesto Zumaya

ACT's Judy Boggs Interns: Eleanor Green
and Luis Antezana

Fundraiser: Elaine Cartas 909 239-7241 or
elcartas@gmail.com



UDH Volunteer Needs



UDH needs you. What are the three most pressing UDH volunteer needs? Phoning! Phoning! Phoning! We are phonebanking from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. every night except Friday and we need more phoners. Please come to help out at least one night. Call UDH at 626 817-3694 for more information.



ACT Phonebank Night at UDH – October 22

ACT members are manning the UDH phonebanks on **Wednesday, October 22, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** Please join fellow ACT members in this fun and important work. It would be great if you could stay all 3 hours, but you don't have to. Pick the hours that are best for you. Refreshments will be served. See you there.

UDH is at 603 N. Lake Avenue, Pasadena (next to Kathleen's restaurant, SW corner of Lake Avenue and Earlham Street,) with parking in the adjoining lot.

For more information call 626 817-3694.



Next ACT Steering/ADC Meeting

Our next meeting will be Thursday, November 6, 7 p.m. at the home of Anthony & Ellen Portantino, 4612 LaCanada Blvd., LaCanada (3 houses north of Foothill Blvd.) The program will be an Election Recap or a Latino Heritage program and film brought to us by Steering Committee member Roberta Martinez. Please come and bring a friend. Everyone is welcome. Our social time begins at 7 p.m.; the program and meeting will follow at 7:30 p.m.



ACT Campaign Contributions

ACT Steering Committee members voted to contribute \$1,000 to Alex Padilla's Secretary of State campaign and \$1,000 to Betty Yee's State Controller campaign – at the October 2 ACT meeting.



Progressive Discussion Group

Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group meets on the first and third Fridays of the month at 9 a.m. at CoCo's Restaurant, 77 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena.

Join the discussion. Everyone is welcome. Order breakfast, coffee, etc., or not. Check with Inman Moore at 626-795-2201 or inmanmoore3@gmail.com for additional information.

Wonderings and Wanderings

By Inman Moore



The Drum Beat of War

The loud drum beat of war is being heard loudly throughout the land. The war hawks are vigorously at it on radio, TV, and the press. They are urging us to put “boots on the ground” in a serious way in Syria, to return to Iraq with a large military presence there, and possibly go into Libya as well. Some are even suggesting that we go to war with Iran thus virtually putting “boots on the ground” all over the Middle East.

Before we hastily go to war in a big way there are several things to be considered.

1. When we put “boots on the ground” when do we remove them? In a month, a year, 10 years, or never?
2. If we really believe in putting “boots on the ground” in the Middle East, why not in Africa? There are far more people being killed in Africa than in the Middle East.
3. When you begin a war, when does it end?
4. If we are going to engage in wars, shouldn't we have the courage to make the sacrifices to pay for them? The Kennedy School at Harvard is now saying that the two wars in Afghanistan and Iraq cost us just over four trillion dollars. We paid for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq by using “credit cards” and it eventually wrecked our economy. Can you believe that many of these same advocates of war today were also trying to reduce taxes in America while these past two wars were going on? War is not only “Hell,” It is expensive! On the first day of the recent airstrikes in Syria we released 47 Tomahawk Missiles. One of these missiles costs 1.5 million dollars. If and when we need to go to war we should at least have the courage to pay the bill by rais-

ing taxes and making other necessary sacrifices.

5. Another thing. If we are going to war why not institute a draft like we did in World War II so rich and poor alike are involved.

6. Also, why are so many of the war hawks usually 50 years old or older. I tire of the older generation like myself voting to send our young off to the battlefields of the world. Since the young bear the greatest burden why not limit the “war vote” to the young as they are the ones doing the fighting? This is said somewhat with “tongue in cheek.” For I realize that many senior citizens are among the leaders in advocating peace. They, like myself, have been to war and fully realize the ravages of war. But there is a modicum of truth here in the fact that most of the members of congress who lead the charge for war are 50 years of age or older.

Finally, I would like to see our country work harder for peace than for war in living up to the famous creed of our founders that all men and women throughout the world are created equal regardless of race, creed, or color.

~~ Inman Moore



Welcome New & Returning ACT Members:

Albert Lum, Pasadena

And really special thanks to Our Benefactors

Victor & Janice Laruccia, San Diego



Wanted! A Pic of you in a Special Place

Where have you been recently? Please send your high-resolution picture to Chuck Hains at Hains27@SBCGlobal.net.

Political Notes



Tuesday, October 7

The polls are now thick as molasses, and perhaps clear as mud. Most pundits are predicting that Dems will lose the Senate, but each includes a caveat that they could hold on if this happens or that happens. In trying to make sense of all this, two observations, in particular, have piqued my interest.

First, nearly all the polling organizations report how difficult it has become to complete “traditional” polls. People just aren’t answering their land lines, and finding cell phone numbers for targeted voters is more and more difficult. One group, YouGov, has gone to a totally different model, contacting over 100,000 voters through the internet and then statistically adjusting the results to create an “appropriate” sample.

This may be why we’ve seen such large swings in polling. In Iowa, for example, one day the Quinnipiac polling group reported Republican

Joni Ernst up by 6 points. The next day, Fox reports she is tied with Democrat Bruce Braley. One day later, Rasmussen has them tied. Two days later, Selzer reports Ernst up by 6. Then a day after that, YouGov reports Braley ahead by 1. I just don’t think public opinion swings back and forth that rapidly. Similarly, in New Hampshire, polling one day has Democratic incumbent Jeanne Shaheen tied with Scott Brown; the next day, she’s ahead 10 points.

Unfortunately, then, the message is to take all these polls with huge dollops of salt. Over and above the normal margin of error, there seems this year to be an increased inherent unreliability in the sample pollsters can reach, and perhaps that is increasing the margin of error well beyond the theoretical statistical limits.

The second observation is some detailed information on the Democratic ground game. You’ve probably seen references to this as the Democrat’s Hail Mary play, but for the first time I’ve seen some specific examples. In Alaska, the Democratic Party apparently has 90 paid staffers around the state, while the RNC has 14. In Iowa, the DNC has 200 staffers in 33 offices around the state.

To me, this looks exactly like what I personally saw in Nevada in 2012 and heard about in other states that year. These local offices and paid staffers, working throughout the summer and fall, do make a difference. They get out voters, they generate absentee votes, they boost registration. It was one of the keys to Obama’s success in 2008, and a big factor again in 2012. The Democrats are using the same sort of approach and the same intensity of coverage as in ’08 and ’12, and I think that can generate an extra 2 – 4% of the vote total come election day.

So I still believe Democrats will hold the Senate. Iowa and Colorado are critical – both states we assumed we would hold and we need

to hold. Sen. Kay Hagan in North Carolina seems to be holding a steady, if slim, edge. In Kentucky, Arkansas and Louisiana, the polling vacillates up and down, but I think our ground efforts may pull out a victory in at least one of the states. In Georgia and Alaska, I think there is a strong chance the combination of strong Senate and Gubernatorial campaigns may lead to Democratic sweeps in both states. And finally, in Kansas, independent Greg Orman looks more and more likely to oust the incumbent Republican, with Democrats also likely to oust the ultra-conservative incumbent Governor Sam Brownback. Additionally, I think commentators may be surprised at how many Democrats win Gubernatorial races – in major states, like Pennsylvania, Florida, Wisconsin and Michigan – and lesser states like Georgia, Kansas and Alaska. (And don't forget Texas – although it's a long shot, Wendy Davis is clawing her way up the polls.)

In California, things are much less exciting. Our local United Democratic Headquarters is one of the few ground operations in the entire state. Polling suggests all the Democratic candidates are comfortably ahead, with the exception of Tom Torlakson, who is in a nip and tuck race for Superintendent of Public Education. Democrats seem moderately hopeful that they will retain their 2/3 majorities in both houses of the Legislature. The Republican Gubernatorial candidate, Neel Kashkari, is valiantly trying to carry their flag, but he has essentially been entirely ignored by mainstream media, by all the major papers, and pretty much by the entire electorate. Nothing he says seems to resonate, and he hasn't been able to find any issue to energize the electorate. Further, with a vacuum at the top, the entire Republican ticket pretty



much just falls away. A number of major papers have endorsed some of the non-Democrat candidates for the lesser constitutional offices, but it seems more out of a sense of obligation that they find some Republican they like and not simply endorse the entire Democratic slate.

Locally, attention is focused more on next year's municipal elections than on November. Action in the Mayoral race is on hold until Councilmember Steve Madison decides whether to run for Mayor, to run again for his District 6 seat, or not to run at all. A few candidates are starting to explore PUSD Board races as well, as the District begins to grapple with demographic predictions that point towards a steadily declining enrollment and significant excess classroom capacity.

Interestingly, however, an unexpected issue may play a large role in next year's city elections – Pasadena's Living Wage ordinance. The issue of a minimum wage, or a living wage, has suddenly begun attracting regional attention, particularly with Mayor Garcetti's proposal for Los Angeles. He argues that Los Angeles should take the lead, and other Southland cities would follow. A coalition in Pasadena has brought an even more aggressive proposal to ACT – to move toward \$15 per hour for all employees within the city by 2017, and ACT members have a ballot in this issue to decide whether to endorse that proposal.

I think that proposal is a little too aggressive and too unreasonable for Pasadena to enact on its own. Garcetti is proposing a wage that would grow to \$13.25 by 2017; I think we'd be better served by joining hands with Garcetti and pushing for a regional adoption of that standard. Our support for that proposal would

both help Garcetti win enactment of his proposal in Los Angeles, and stand a more reasonable chance of acceptance by the Pasadena City Council. The essence of the argument against having local governments set minimum wage standards is the unfair competitive disadvantage it might bring to local businesses. Why would Coco's open a restaurant on E. Colorado, when they could locate their restaurant two blocks further east and pay a substantially lower wage. Pasadena already has a significant reputation for being "unfriendly" to businesses; better we should join hands with Los Angeles and work for regional change than head off on our own and aim for an ideal that probably is not reasonably achievable.

-- Jon Fuhrman



"YES on A" Rally - Save Our Altadena Libraries

Saturday, October 18,
Bob Lucas Memorial
Branch of the Altadena
Library. 9 a.m.
2659 N. Lincoln Ave, Alta



Come to help Get Out the Vote these last two weeks before the election!

The Alliance to Save Our Altadena Libraries is doing phone-banking at UDH on Wednesday and Thursday evenings for the YES on A campaign. Callers will also be leaving messages on behalf of Dems running for office. If you can give any time between 4 and 8 p.m. those evenings, please contact Alliance volunteer coordinator Judyth Hermosillo at 323-516-8669 or jhermosi@usc.edu or just show up! For more information about the YES on A campaign, visit www.altadenaalliance.org and "like" the campaign on Facebook at www.facebook.com/altadena.library.alliance.

The ACT Issues Committee submits Livable Wage Proposal

After a spirited debate, the ACT Steering Committee voted 19 yes, 3 no, and 2 abstentions to endorse a proposal from the Issues Committee to amend the Pasadena Living Wage Ordinance. The Proposal calls for the Pasadena City Council to amend the Ordinance to apply to all employers doing business within the city and to raise the minimum wage by 2015.

Please review the proposal and the pro and con arguments presented here and vote your view on the enclosed mail ballot insert.

Currently, the law requires only contractors providing labor or services to the City under contract in excess of \$25,000 to pay employees \$12.60 an hour without benefits, or \$10.75 an hour plus medical benefits of \$1.85. The ACT Steering Committee proposal calls for the City to raise the wage to \$12.60 for **all** employees working within the City by 2015 and take steps to increase the wage to \$15 by 2017.

This proposal must be passed by the ACT general membership before a communication can be made to the Pasadena City Council. Ballots are included with this issue of the Phoenix.

PRO -- Why the ACT general membership should endorse the specific minimum wage proposal.

There is a ground swell of support gathering in cities throughout California and the US for raising the minimum wage. The current hourly wage minimums of \$7.25 an hour at the Federal level and \$9 an hour rising to \$10 an hour in California by 2016 is woefully inadequate and barely provides for subsistence living for a family of four.

These are the arguments in support of the Yes vote in favor of the proposal.

1. Currently, the Pasadena “Livable Wage Ordinance” applies only to workers employed by companies who have a contract with the City of Pasadena to provide services or labor greater than \$25K.

The ordinance needs to be expanded to all workers employed within the city. Over 15% of households in Pasadena earn less than \$20,000 per year, according to American Community Survey published by the US Census Bureau. Each year the true livable wage increases while wage minimums in Pasadena and other cities in LA County fail to keep pace. According to a MIT Study in its Urban Studies Department, the living wage for LA County family should be \$22.95 an hour. The ACT proposal would raise the minimum to \$12.60 in 2015 and \$15 in 2016. This will put Pasadena in a leadership position in closing the gap between the minimum wage and the actual livable wage. The Cost of Living Allowance in the Ordinance would also apply to all workers employed within the City, thereby providing them protection against inflation.

2. Nearly half of national businesses (48%) surveyed in May-June, 2014 by the Harris Poll think a fair minimum wage should be set between \$10 and \$14 per hour. The ACT proposal of \$12.60 for 2015 is just past the half point of those boundaries.

Raising the minimum wage is often accused of destroying jobs precisely for those who need them most. However, a review of 64 studies on minimum wage by the US Department of Labor found "an insignificant employment effect (both practically and statistically) from minimum wage raises." Interestingly, a recent national Harris poll found that employers currently hiring minimum wage workers are more likely to support a minimum wage increase than those who are not by an 11-point margin (70% vs. 59%). That survey revealed

that 62% of employers surveyed, including 58% of senior managers, think the minimum wage in their state should be increased.

3. Wage increases will have a positive impact on local business in Pasadena.

The same employers (74%) in the Harris survey state that improving the standard of living of workers is the main reason for their support. The business respondents claim a higher minimum wage helps the economy (55%), and increased consumer spending spurs economic growth (53%). They say increasing minimum wages leads to more productivity and higher quality work (48%), and affords workers the opportunity to pursue more training or education (33%). There is an economic multiplier effect of rising wages. After the Social Security tax was reduced 2% in 2011, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, consumer spending rose 3.5% in 2012.

4. There is little evidence of across-the-board price increases with increases in minimum wages.

One often hears arguments that raising minimum wages raises prices thereby hurting everyone. While there is little evidence of general price increases by all business because of minimum wage increases, studies have measured restaurant price increases of 0.5% with a 10% wage increase. However, according to the US Department of Labor, even with a recent increase in the California minimum wage, the National Restaurant Association projects California restaurant sales will outpace the U.S. average in 2014.

On behalf of the ACT Steering Committee we urge the **ACT General Membership to Vote Yes** on the proposal to ask the Pasadena City Council to **amend the City’s Livable Wage Ordinance to require all employers doing business within the City to comply with the Livable Wage Ordinance by July 1,**

2015 and amend the Pasadena Livable Wage Ordinance to provide for an increase in hourly wages for all employees in Pasadena to \$12.60 in 2015, and \$15.00 in 2017.

-- Mark Maier and Ed Washatka

CON – Why ACT should NOT endorse this specific minimum wage proposal.

The minimum wage is shamefully low and must be raised. The focus on this issue is heartening and long over-due. ACT should definitely be on record in favor. Nevertheless, it would be a mistake to support this specific proposal. Here's why:

1. Under this proposal Pasadena would make the biggest initial jump in the minimum wage proposed in any city – and would reach the \$15 level one year faster than any other city. The result: Pasadena would have the highest minimum wage in the nation! Higher than Seattle, higher than San Francisco, and much higher than LA and nearby cities.

I don't think this was the intention of the drafters. Nevertheless, Pasadena's minimum wage would be \$12.60 in 2015. San Francisco: \$12.25. Seattle: \$11.L.A.: \$10.50. In 2017, Pasadena would be at \$15. San Francisco: \$14. LA: \$13.25. Seattle (for all but the very largest businesses): \$13.00. Thereafter, because of a COLA (otherwise a good and necessary feature), annual adjustments would ensure that Pasadena remained the most expensive city in the nation in which to do business! Nor does the proposal even have the kinds of exceptions made in Seattle -- for things like providing decent benefits, or industries where tip income is very high.

2. This would be a damaging competitive disadvantage for Pasadena businesses. How damaging we simply don't know. There have been studies suggesting a modest mini-

mum wage difference doesn't cause big losses in jobs and businesses. But no one has ever studied this kind of large, rapid jump combined with a large and permanent disparity versus surrounding areas. It hasn't been studied because it has never happened before. Too risky. And the risk is greater here where competing businesses can be literally across the street, not across a distant state border.

3. Pasadena does not have the economic power of San Francisco or Seattle. Maybe we could afford to be the most expensive place in the nation if we were either of these two cities. Both dominate their metropolitan areas. Both have booming economies based on very high-wage industries. Pasadena is a small city embedded in a huge metropolitan area with a still-struggling economy – an economy which, unfortunately, has much lower average wage-levels (even in good times) than San Francisco or Seattle.

4. It makes more sense for Pasadena to raise its minimum wage in concert with LA. Mayor Garcetti's proposal (\$13.25 an hour in 2017, COLA thereafter), may not be perfect, but it is a big step forward -- and there is no doubt which city will set the standard in the region (hint: it isn't us). Moreover, if both cities move together neither will suffer economic damage from the other, which should be our goal. After all, the reward for doing the right thing should not be needless economic hardship.

Some argue that you always start a negotiation by asking for more than you want. Fair enough. But what we propose should at least be a basis for reasonable discussion. This proposal does not meet that test. **I'm voting no, so ACT can then get behind this worthy goal without being tied to a set of well-intentioned but ill-considered specifics.**

-- Fred Register

Elections Recommendations from Act's Research and Steering Committees

Following is the report from ACT's Research Committee, presented at the October Steering Committee meeting, and the recommendations from both the Research and Steering Committee on ballot measures and judicial offices on the November ballot.

The research committee meeting was attended by Marguerite Cooper, Jon Fuhrman, Dale Gronemeier, Susan Kane, Marilee Marshall, Vickere Murphy, Barbara Paul, George Van Alstine, and Bruce Wright

Proposition 1 is titled the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014. It authorizes \$7.12 billion in general obligation bonds for state water supply infrastructure projects, such as public water system improvements, surface and groundwater storage (including 2 new dams in Central California), drinking water protection, water recycling and advanced water treatment technology, water supply management and conveyance, wastewater treatment, drought relief, emergency water supplies, and ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration. It appropriates money from the General Fund to pay off bonds. It requires local matching funds for some of the projects to qualify for bond funds. It includes \$520 million to improve water quality for "beneficial use," such as reducing and preventing drinking water contaminants, assisting disadvantaged communities, and for the State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund Small Community Grant Fund. \$1.495 billion is allocated for competitive grants for multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects. \$810 million for expenditures on, and competitive grants and loans to, integrated regional water management plan projects. \$2.7 billion is re-

served for water storage projects, dams and reservoirs, with an additional \$725 million for water recycling and advanced water treatment technology projects. \$900 million for competitive grants, and loans for, projects to prevent or clean up the contamination of groundwater that serves as a source of drinking water. \$395 million for statewide flood management projects and activities. The Legislature approved this measure nearly unanimously, and the ballot argument in favor is signed by the Governor, the head of the Farm Bureau, and the head of the Nature Conservancy.

The Research Committee agreed that it was a small but very necessary important step in the right direction and that anything more to our liking, such as less compromise with big agriculture, would not have received sufficient bipartisan support to clear the state legislature.

The Research Committee voted 9 – 0 – 0 to recommend a YES vote.

The Steering Committee voted 20 – 0 – 1 to recommend a YES vote.

Proposition 2 is the Rainy Day Budget Stabilization Fund Act. In 2004, voters passed Proposition 58 to create a new reserve. Currently 58 requires the Governor each year to decide whether to let 3% of General Fund revenues (known as the basic amount, currently just over \$3 billion) to go into the reserve until it equals \$8 billion. However, no contribution to the reserve is mandatory and the state can take out money without limit with a majority vote by the Legislature. Proposition 2 would require a contribution of at least \$800 million except in a year when a budget emergency has been declared and would raise the cap to about \$11 billion. It would also require that 50% of the annual contribution be used to pay down the debt. Prop 2 would also create a reserve for schools.

The Research Committee voted 9 – 0 – 0 to recommend a YES vote.

The Steering Committee voted 21 – 0 – 0 to recommend a YES vote.

Proposition 45, Healthcare Insurance Rate Changes would require the Insurance Commissioner to approve rates for certain types of health insurance. The rate approval would be similar to a process that is currently used for other types of insurance such as car insurance. Currently, PPO organizations are regulated by the California Department of Insurance and HMO plans are regulated by the California Department of Managed Health Care which is run by a director appointed by the governor. The CDI and DMHC may declare proposed rate changes unreasonable but currently have no authority to reject them. Covered California [Obamacare] is authorized to negotiate rates with insurance companies that want to sell their product through the Exchange. The Board is appointed by the Governor and the Legislature. The negotiated rates are subject to review by the DMHC or the CDI but again, currently, there is no authority to reject the negotiated rates.

The Research Committee voted 8 – 1 – 0 to recommend a YES vote.

The Steering Committee voted 15 – 5 – 3 to recommend a YES vote.

Proposition 46 Drug and Alcohol Testing of Doctors. Medical Negligence Lawsuits would: (1) raise the limit on non-economic damages in medical malpractice suits. The present limit of \$250,000 was set in 1977. The proposition would increase that amount to match the changes in the cost of living index, bringing the limit to a bit over \$1,000,000; (2) Require random drug and alcohol testing of all physicians with hospital privileges; (3) Require physicians to consult state wide data base of prescriptions for controlled substances before writing prescriptions for those substances.

The Research Committee all agreed that it

would be appropriate to raise the limits. However, there was great concern that random drug testing, violating basic privacy rights, was too high a price to pay and that a better proposition could be constructed in the future. Also of concern was that the random drug testing portion of the proposition was added by trial lawyers' representatives after they found that focus groups were opposed to raising the limits until the drug testing was added. Some felt that this was an inappropriate manipulation of the initiative process.

The Research Committee voted 6 – 3 – 0 to recommend a NO vote.

The Steering Committee voted 12 – 7 – 4 to recommend a NO vote.

Proposition 47, Criminal Sentences, Misdemeanor Penalties, would require that some non-violent, non-serious property and drug offenses be prosecuted as misdemeanors instead of felonies. Specifically it would require misdemeanors instead of felonies for personal possession of most drugs, theft crimes, receiving stolen property, forgery, fraud, and writing a bad check where the value of the stolen property or funds involved does not exceed \$950.00. This more lenient treatment would not be permitted if the defendant has prior convictions for serious or violent crimes. Persons who have previously been punished as felons for these crimes could also seek re-sentencing. However, prior to re-sentencing, the person would be assessed to ensure that they do not present a risk to public safety.

The Research Committee concluded that the proposition would result in the reduction of sentencing inequality for different ethnic and socio-economic groups, as well as avoiding or even providing an avenue of relief from the stigma of "felon" for such individuals. Other arguments we considered in our support are, of course, fiscal savings and reduction, as

mandated by the courts, of the state prison population.

The Research Committee voted 9 – 0 – 0 to recommend a YES vote.

The Steering Committee voted 23 – 0 – 0 to recommend a YES vote.

Proposition 48, Indian Gaming Compacts Referendum. In 2012, Governor Brown negotiated an agreement with the North Fork Rancheria of the Mono Tribe. The state Legislature approved, and the federal government accepted, this compact, allowing the tribe to acquire tribal land in Madera County. Federal law usually prohibits tribes from building casinos on tribal land acquired after 1988; however, an exception can be approved if the acquisition of new land can be shown to be in the tribe's best interest and not harmful to the surrounding community. The Bureau of Indian Affairs affirmed that this was the case for the North Fork casino plan, as the tribe's preexisting holdings are not sufficiently large to allow for a casino and hotel, and they are located in a remote area in the Sierra National Forest. The compact with the Wiyot Tribe, also covered by this statute, prohibits the tribe from opening a casino on tribal lands in Humboldt County, instead providing them a share of the North Fork casino's profits. If passed, Prop. 48, in allowing the gaming compacts to go into effect, would be the first time a California tribe is allowed to open a casino on lands that were not part of its reservation as of October 1988. The North Fork's reservation is located in a remote area and is primarily residential. The location of the proposed casino, in contrast, is off a major highway in the Central Valley, in an area where there are other Indian gaming facilities

The Research Committee voted 8 – 1 – 0 to recommend a YES vote.

The Steering Committee voted 16 – 4 – 2 to recommend a YES vote.

Judicial Races

Several Supreme Court and Second District Court of Appeal Justices appear on the ballot for the voters to either confirm or oppose.

The Research Committee voted 9 – 0 – 0 to recommend a YES vote for all three Supreme Court Justices and all 11 Appellate Court Justices. The Steering Committee similarly voted 23 – 0 – 0 to recommend a YES vote for all these justices.

The Contested Superior Court Races

There are two Superior Court run-off elections in Los Angeles County; in both elections, the Steering Committee made recommendations last May which carry forward to the run-off election. Those recommended candidates are:

Office 61: Jacqueline Lewis earned her law degree in 1990 from Boalt Hall. She then served six years as an attorney representing the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) in juvenile dependency proceedings. She has had 17 years of experience on the Los Angeles Superior Court bench mostly in Juvenile Dependency Court. Throughout her tenure, she has performed the work of a judge, and her decisions have had the same effect as those of a judge. Jacqueline has an expertise in domestic violence commencing with a law school internship in 1988. For the entirety of her professional life, she has been committed to raising awareness regarding domestic violence and lessening its impact on children. She was the only candidate rated Exceptionally Well Qualified by the Bar Association.

Office 87: Andrew Stein is a veteran criminal defense attorney with over 30 years of experience. He has tried over 200 cases in the courts and is well respected by judges and other attorneys. Stein received the most votes in June. He is running against a prosecutor, Tom Griego. In June the judicial elections

were almost a total sweep by prosecutors. Governors have not, over the last two decades, tended to appoint judges from the public defender's office or from the private criminal defense bar. They typically have appointed district attorneys. Stein's election would be a small step toward a more balanced bench.

In the June Primary, the Steering Committee recommended supporting both of these candidates. These recommendations extend to the General Election. Both candidates are endorsed by the LA Times and the L A County Democratic Party.

Candidates endorsed by ACT and the Arroyo Democratic Club

Governor: **Jerry Brown**

Lt. Governor: **Gavin Newsome**

Secretary of State: **Alex Padilla**

Controller: **Betty Yee**

Treasurer: **John Chiang**

Attorney General: **Kamala Harris**

Insurance Commissioner: **Dave Jones**

Members of Congress:

27th District: **Judy Chu**

28th District: **Adam Schiff**

State Assembly, 41st District: **Chris Holden**

Superintendent of Public Education: **Tom Torlakson**

Los Angeles County Sheriff: **Jim McDonnell**

Altadena Library Tax Override: **YES**

County Assessor: Although ACT made no formal endorsement in the County Assessor race, the Steering Committee did recommend **Jeffrey Prang** in the primary, and that recommendation carries forward to the general election.



Anthony Portantino is an ACT Co-Chair, Visiting Fellow at the Unruh Institute of Politics at USC and the host of the Question is with Anthony Portantino, airing Tuesday and Thursday nights at

8:00 PM and Saturday and Sunday nights at 7:30 on Charter Chanel 182

A Message from

Anthony Portantino



Dear Act Members,

It's been a while since we've had an Act meeting in La Canada. Ellen and I are looking forward to hosting the November meeting at our home. If you haven't been to a Steering Committee meeting in a while join us and continue to keep progressive activism strong in the San Gabriel Valley.

It has been eventful and productive since I termed out of the Assembly. I've been busy hosting a public policy talk show on Charter Channel 182 and teaching a leadership class at USC. Stay tuned for an upcoming show featuring Mayor Bogaard. I was honored to spend time with Bill and capture his life and legacy. I'm also loving my time in the classroom. The students are amazing and quite engaged. We've covered a lot of ground as we head into midterms. I'm sure you will find the results of our internal Presidential Election fascinating – Bill Clinton was elected president over Ronald Regan.

The students also came up with the following definition of "leadership." I love their use of the word "radical." Perhaps they had our own Ralph Hurtado in mind as they developed this:

"Great leaders are humble and devout altruists who have earned their position by merit, example and inspiration. They possess real experience, strength of character, a healer's heart with the drive, introspection and confidence to build bridges and to persuade their team to achieve an open, radical vision, direction or goal for the common good and/or betterment of society."

USC Poli-Sci 323 ~ Values Based Leadership

Continued on page fourteen

**From
41st District
Assemblymember
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

The Legislature has concluded its two-year session, and, barring some unforeseen emergency, will not reconvene until after the New Year. We got a lot done in the previous session including passing a balanced budget for the fourth year in a row and establishing a Rainy Day fund for future downturns in the economy.

After years of cutbacks, we were able to contribute some \$5 billion more to the K-12 school system. And, we increased funding for community colleges by \$600 million.

We passed a bill to phase-out plastic bags and help protect our beaches and waterways. And, we moved to further protect our parklands and wild spaces by increasing penalties for dumping and defacing in the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. This is legislation I authored so that our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy these parks for generations to come.

You may have seen the stories about a bill that I wrote with my colleagues Jimmy Gomez and Susan Bonilla to give our local communities more control over massage parlors. AB 1147 restores community control making it harder for massage parlors to operate as fronts for prostitution. It's something I've been working on with South Pasadena and other cities to give them options in dealing with the proliferation of massage establishments.

We now are in the final weeks of the mid-term election cycle and Vote-by-Mail ballots will

soon be sent out across the state.

I urge you to do whatever you can in these final weeks before the November election to get our statewide and local Democratic candidates elected. Make phone calls, knock on doors, put out yard signs and write checks. You can make a difference!

I want to thank all my ACT friends for your ongoing support and encouragement. I am very proud to represent you.

Assemblymember Chris Holden

Assemblyman Holden represents some 420,000 people in the foothills communities of Altadena, Pasadena, South Pasadena, Sierra Madre, Monrovia, San Dimas, La Verne, Claremont, and Upland. He can be reached via his website at: www.asm.ca.gov/holden and fill out the contact form.



**League of Women Voters
Pasadena Area League Day**

November 6, 10 a.m.

"Mentally Ill? Go Directly to Jail, Do Not Pass Go"

What happens to the mentally ill in jail, and what does the DA want to do to keep them out? Peter Eliasberg, Legal Director of the ACLU So. Cal. will talk about the treatment and lack of treatment for mentally ill inmates in the LA County jail. Brittney Weissman, CEO of NAMI LA County, will talk about the findings of a taskforce put together by DA Jackie Lacey. Also, a person with mental illness, who has been through the jails, will give a first-hand account of his experience. Come learn about this inefficient and inhumane situation and what needs to be done about it. Program is free. Lunch is \$25. Call the LWV-PA office for reservations. info@lwv-pa.org or 626-798-0965.

**From
43rd District
Assemblymember
Mike Gatto**



Greetings from Sacramento!

Water Conservation Must Be More than a Pipe Dream

Conserving water has long been a goal of California policymakers, but with the state in the midst of a disastrous drought, conserving precious water resources has never been more important. For the first time in history, water exports to Central Valley farms and Southern California homes have fallen to zero. Crops are dying, cities are running out of drinking water, and streams are running dry.

Despite the drought, many homeowners also want cheaper water bills. If provided the infrastructure, they'd gladly use clean recycled water to wash cars and irrigate lawns if it saved them money. Many cities have vast reservoirs of recycled water. If offered a market, they'd gladly allow the water to be used for more than just landscaping medians. In drought-scorched California, finding a sensible marriage of these interests, and using our limited-water resources efficiently is essential.

The technology exists to save or recycle millions of gallons of water, but the infrastructure of our homes and businesses needs to be updated. That's why, as the joint-author the 2014 water bond, I've worked tirelessly to ensure that water projects receive the funding they demand and am proud to share with you that Governor Brown has signed two key pieces of legislation that I authored to address our historic water-crisis.

AB 2282 requires the state to adopt building standards for recycled water in newly constructed commercial and residential buildings, increasing water-use efficiency and bringing California's infrastructure into the future.

While AB 2282 will ensure that new buildings are equipped with water-saving technologies, additional legislation action is needed to help families, businesses, and local governments who are concerned about water conservation to equip their homes with this technology in an affordable and efficient manner.

That's why I introduced AB 2636, which establishes CalConserve, a revolving-loan program to finance water-efficiency projects for home owners and businesses, and help cities and counties reach their water-reduction goals. Homeowners and businesses can then repay the loan to the CalConserve program using the money they save on their water bill. It's a win-win, as Californians upgrade and install the infrastructure to water lawns and wash cars with recycled water, they could save water and money without asking taxpayers to spend a single dime.

With smart policies, modern technology, and a bit of patience, California can conserve its precious water resources for many generations to come.

Mike Gatto is the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee in the California State Assembly and the joint-author the 2014 Water Bond. He represents Burbank, Glendale, La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Montrose, and the Los Angeles neighborhoods of Atwater Village, East Hollywood, Franklin Hills, Hollywood Hills, Los Feliz, and Silver Lake. Follow him on Twitter @MikeGatto or visit www.asm.ca.gov/gatto



Portantino, Continued from page twelve

I also filmed a show on the Water Bond, Prop 1, with Joe Edmiston. I am strongly supporting Prop 1 on the ballot in November. I was very pleased that the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, where I'm an Advisory Board Member, voted to support it as well. Prop 1 is a far more modest bond than past iterations. It promotes significant conservation, ground water clean-up and the opportunity for millions of dollars in competitive grants. Farmers and environmentalists have a lot of which to be proud in its crafting under the leadership of Governor Brown. Unlike past bonds, Governor Brown was determined to make this happen through compromise and not through hanging millions of dollars in ornaments and pork.

On the family front, I am overwhelmed by the excitement of 7th & 8th grade cross country races with my daughter Bella. She came in 16th place out of 83 girls last week. She's amazing. Sofia is working on the Westside but living home. I'm really enjoying having her home after four years away at college. Many of you have asked me if she still works at the Starbucks on Fair Oaks and Orange Grove. Sadly, we've lost our employee discount for the full time job.

Come Join Us at a Cottonwood Canyon Open House

You are cordially invited to join Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy (AFC) at Cottonwood Canyon to see first-hand this hidden jewel that we are working to save. This is an informal gathering, so bring your friends to learn more about this important wildlife corridor and hear about its fascinating history.



Sunday, November 2, 3:00 - 5:00 pm

"Happy Hour!" Hosted by Craftsman Brewing Co! (Lemonade, too)

Look for street parking between 1950 - 2010 Linda Vista Ave, Pasadena 91103 and balloons at the fenced entrance across the street.

Questions: Call AFC at 626.796.0782 or email jennifertaylor@arroyosfoothills.



2014 Membership Bargain – Half Price for the Remainder of 2014

Have you renewed your 2014 ACT and/or ADC membership?

A **Big Red Dot** on this membership coupon tells you we are still eagerly awaiting your 2014 membership dues. Join or renew for the remainder of 2014 at bargain half price rates (half of what you see on the coupon below). How can you resist?? Please use the form and mail your check c/o ACT/ADC, P. O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074. If you have any questions about your membership contact Jon Fuhrman at jon_fuhrman@charter.net or 626-795-5255.

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

\$40	Single	\$70	Single Sustaining
\$25	Each additional member per household	\$90	Double Sustaining
\$15	Student or limited income	\$150	Patron
		\$275	Benefactor

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

\$35	Single	\$60	Single Sustaining
\$20	Each additional member per household	\$85	Double Sustaining
\$15	Student or limited income	\$125	Patron
\$20	Gift Membership (NEW!)	\$275	Benefactor

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

\$35	Single	\$60	Single Sustaining
\$20	Each additional member per household	\$85	Double Sustaining
\$15	Student or limited income	\$125	Patron
		\$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

ACT ISSUE BALLOT

on Pasadena Livable Wage Ordinance



Issues Position Ballot Instructions

Members whose 2014 dues are current may vote. Each member listed on the Phoenix address label may cast a vote. Mark the attached ballot and return it in the enclosed envelope with the address label, so we know how many votes your household is entitled to.

Ballot Deadline Ballots must be received by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5. Further voting information can be found in this *Phoenix*.

If you lose the enclosed return envelope, mail ballots to ACT, PO Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074. A 60% majority of ballots cast is required to endorse an issues proposition. Members may vote for or against the proposal, or may vote not to take a position. There is no minimum quorum required.

Example: (family has 3 ACT members qualified to vote), Member #1 supports Affirmative Position; Member #2 supports Negative Position; Member #3 decides to vote "No Position":

Vote for one	Voter: #1	#2	#3
Affirmative Position	X		
Negative Position		X	
Take No Position			X



ACTpasadena.org

Read *ThePhoenix* online at our web page www.ACTpasadena.org. (Usually available soon after the mailed version arrives.) The online *Phoenix* is in color and often has items that we didn't have room for in the print version.

Web site manager Bruce requests comments and suggestions at brucewright@sbcglobal.net.

ISSUES PROPOSAL:

Should ACT call on the Pasadena City Council to amend the City's Livable Wage Ordinance to require all employers doing business within the City to comply with the Livable Wage Ordinance by July 1, 2015 and amend the Pasadena Livable Wage Ordinance to provide for an increase in hourly wages for all employees in Pasadena to \$12.60 in 2015 to \$15.00 in 2017.

The Steering Committee recommends an Affirmative vote (19 - 3 - 2).

ACT Issues Ballot:

Vote for one **ACT Voter: #1 #2 #3**

- Affirmative policy position
- Negative policy position
- No policy position



Letter to the Editor



The lead article in today's *Wall Street Journal* is "**Job Growth Rebounds, but Wages Lag**" ---- The *Wall Street Journal*, the millionaires and billionaires favorite newspaper, for Pete's sake! It's the domestic issue of our time.

At the October ACT meeting, raising the minimum wage locally was one of the issues discussed and debated. I had read a long article on compensation in the fast-food industry in *The New Yorker*, and I shared a few of the article's findings at the meeting. I want to pass on these nuggets of information to the *Phoenix* readership.

"A recent research study by the University of California Berkeley and the University of Illinois at Champagne Urbana found that fifty-two per cent of fast-food workers are on some kind of public assistance. The public assistance totals almost seven billion dollars. That's a direct taxpayer subsidy, the activists argue, for the fast-food industry. Taxpayers, by that logic, are grossly overpaying the industry's top management. According to the progressive think tank Demos, fast-food executives' compensation packages quadrupled, in constant dollars, between 2000 and 2013. They now take home, on average, twenty-four million dollars a year.

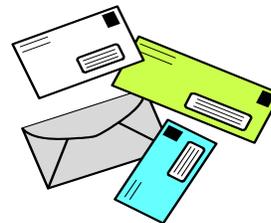
Their front line workers' income has barely risen in that time, and remains among the worst in U. S. industry. The differential between C.E.O and worker pay is higher than in any other domestic economic sector--twelve hundred to one. In construction, the differential is ninety-three to one.

The fast-food chains insist that if they were to pay more, they would have to raise menu prices. But in Denmark, McDonald workers over the age of eighteen earn more than twenty dollars an hour--they are also unionized--and the price of a Big Mac is only thirty cents more than in the United States. There are regional American fast-food chains that take the high road with their employees. The starting wage at In-N-Out Burger, which is based in Southern California and has 295 restaurants in the Southwest, is eleven dollars. Full-time workers receive a complete benefits package, including life insurance--and the burgers are cheap and good.

Sensitive to the beating that their brands are taking in the escalating confrontations with employees, the fast-food giants have been leaving the hardball response to their lobby, the National Restaurant Association. "The other NRA," as it is known, has fought minimum wage legislation at every level of government for decades. It has fought paid sick-leave laws, the Affordable Health Care Act, worker-safety regulations, restrictions on the marketing of junk food to children and a variety of public health measures such as limits on sugar, sodium and trans fats."

I wrote this letter to pass on the information therein. Please consider the findings when voting on the wage issue.

~~ Jeanne G. Register





Calendar

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|---|--|----------------------------------|--|
| October 17
Friday
9 a.m. | Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group at CoCo's Restaurant, 77 N. Lake Ave., Pasa. Call Inman Moore for info at 626-795-2201. | November 4
Tuesday | General Election.
Polls open 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.
GOTV help needed at UDH. |
| October 19
Sunday
1-3 p.m. | UDH OKTOBERFEST 2014 Fundraiser at 939 N. Hill Ave., Pasadena. Food, drink and fun. \$35 per person. RSVP to Elaine at 909 239-7241. | November 6
Thursday
7 p.m. | ACT/ADC Meeting at the home of Anthony & Ellen Portantino, 4612 LaCanada Blvd., La Cañada. Election Recap or a Latino Heritage program. Coffee at 7 p.m.; meeting at 7:30 p.m. Everyone welcome. |
| October 22
Wednesday
5:30-8:30 p.m. | ACT Phone Night at UDH, 603 N. Lake, Pasadena. Refreshments served. | Nov. 7 & 21
Friday | Friday Morning Discussion Group. (Details same as 10/17.) |
| October 28
Tuesday
7:30 p.m. | CB-Outreach Committee meeting at the home of John McLean, 244 E. Howard St., Pasa. | November 9
Sunday eve | ThePhoenix deadline. Send items to hains27@sbcglobal.net . |
| | | Nov. 14
Friday
10 a.m. | San Gabriel Valley Democratic Women's Club meeting at the home of Sara Carnahan, 2525 Highland Ave., Altadena. Anthony Portantino to speak. |



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