



The Official Publication of ACT
P. O. Box 40074, (626) 795-2798

the phoenix
On-Line

Volume 43
Number 4
April, 2015

Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

ACT/ADC Endorse Calvin Wells

ACT and the Arroyo Democratic Club (ADC) have endorsed Calvin Wells in the District 1 City Council race by an overwhelming 90% margin, and the Steering Committee approved a \$2500.00 contribution to Wells' campaign based on that endorsement.

City Council District 1:

	ACT	ADC
Calvin Wells	48 90.6%	39 92.9%
Tyron Hampton	4 7.6%	
No Endorsement	1 1.9%	3 7.1%



Calvin Wells now joins Mayoral candidate **Terry Tornek** as ACT's endorsed candidates in the April 21 run-off election.

Only Pasadena City residents will vote in the run-off election, since all the PUSD candidates won outright in the primary. Absentee ballots began arriving on April 4, so don't forget to vote!

Run-off Election – Pasadena City only – April 21

Revised Livable Wage Proposal

Given the ground swell of support that continues to build for minimum wage increases in cities throughout California, the Outreach Committee is submitting a motion to the ACT Steering Committee at the May meeting to endorse the following resolution: ACT supports expanding the existing Pasadena Living Wage Ordinance to apply to **ALL** employers doing business in Pasadena.

Previously, the General Membership was asked to vote Yes on a proposal to amend the City's Livable

Wage Ordinance which currently only applies to contractors doing work for the City Government. That proposal would have required employers to pay the minimum wage of \$12.60 as specified in the Ordinance by July 1, 2015. The initial proposal to ACT members also called for the minimum wage to be raised in increments to \$15 by 2017. The new resolution removes the deadline dates and the higher minimum wage.

Members are encouraged to attend the May Steering Committee and join the discussion.

2015 ACT Steering Committee

Co-Chairs – Linda Centell, John McLean,
Jeanne Register

Recording Secretary – Barbara Paul

Corresponding Secretary – Beth Gertmenian

Treasurer – Ed Washatka

Committees:

Communications – open

Computer/Web Page – Fred Register, Bruce
Wright, Jon Fuhrman, Bobbie Moon,
Henry Moon, Elliot Cuite, Ross Mitchell

Election Procedures –
Ann Hunnewell, Jon Fuhrman

Fundraising – Wendy Soltes, Fred Register,
Jeanne Register, Anne Wolf, Linda
Centell, Bill Hackett, Teresa Lamb Simp-
son, Jim Heringer, Anthony Portantino

Issues – open

Membership – Connie O'Donnell, Sally Beer,
Jeanne Register, Anne Wolf, Jon Fuhr-
man, Susan Kane, Chuck Hains

Mailing – Sally Beer, Ellen Coles, Tom Hub-
bard, Jon Fuhrman, Joe Pardee, Jim
Heringer, Nellie Moore, Inman Moore,
Ray Fisher, Barbara Paul

Coalition Building and Outreach – Dale Gro-
nemeier, Skip Hickambottom, John Mc-
Lean, Jon Fuhrman, Barbara Paul, Ed
Washatka, Mark Maier, Michelle White,
Yuny Parada

ThePhoenix – Chuck Hains, Sally Beer

Program – Monica Hubbard, Dolores Hickam-
bottom, John Buchanan

Research – Marilee Marshall, John McLean,
Susan Kane, George VanAlstine, Bruce
Wright, Jeanette Mann, Jon Fuhrman,
Jim Heringer, Dolores Hickambottom,
Inman Moore, Bill Creim, Tim Wendler,

Joanne Wendler, Geoff Baum, Jackie
Cannon-Jones, Anthony Portantino,
Monica Hubbard, Emily Stork, Michael
Cornwell, Allan Eisenman, Betty Krach-
man, Vickere Murphy, Taylor Dark, Beth
Gertmenian, Adam Murray,
Tarek Shawky, Ed Washatka,
Felicia Williams, Marguerite Cooper,
Ray Fisher, Lacreata Scott

Executive Director – Jon Fuhrman

NOTE: All former ACT Co-Chairs are Steer-
ing Committee members. Some of them
are not listed here.

2015 Arroyo Demo. Club Officers

President – Bill Hackett

Vice-President – open

Secretaries and Treasurer – Same as ACT

As you can see, our list has grown very long
over the years. Please tell us about any mis-
takes or omissions you see. If you would like
to serve on an ACT Committee (and thus be-
come a Steering Committee member) please
let us know. We need more new people. Con-
tact Jon Fuhrman at 626-795-5255 or
jon_fuhrman@charter.net.



Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Dora Arrieta, Pasadena
Jennifer Unger & Jeffrey Hamilton,
Sierra Madre

Special Thanks to Our Sustaining Members

Betsy & John Blue, Pasadena
Bruce & Elizabeth Jansson, Pasa.
John & Brooke McLean, Pasadena
Melba Macneil, Pasadena
Nichole Mihara & Greg Harrison, Pasa.

Wonderings and Wanderings

By Inman Moore



A Religionist

I am unabashedly a religionist, and I know I am going to get into trouble with this column. I can just smell it. For one thing I may well be criticized for using the word "religionist." For I know the word "religionist" can be construed as meaning a zealot, who, when he or she speaks, let no dog bark. However, I use the term to denote someone who has an active religious faith which welcomes constructive criticism as well as allowing a free play of thoughts and ideas with people who are of other faiths, or who are atheists. So, even though I know I am in trouble, I am constrained to write this column because of its importance. For about 85% of our population are religionists. That is, they are people who practice a religious faith in one way or another, either alone or with groups and congregations.

No matter what political party you belong to you will certainly find religionists. Will Rogers once said "I am not a member of any organized party. I am a Democrat." Well, I belong to the Democratic Party and Rogers is right. Democrats come in all colors, races, and religious creeds. The Republican Party is also largely made up of religionists, and neither do all Republicans think alike.

Also, not all religionists think alike. Some religious practices are very harmful. Ardent fundamentalism has caused many tragic problems here in America and throughout the world as so vividly seen in the Middle East today. In the name of their God humans have sent their men and women onto battlefields to slaughter or be needlessly slaughtered. Fundamentalists here in America have made it difficult for Gays and Lesbians. Earlier on Fundamentalists supported slavery and segre-

gation by a misunderstanding of the Bible.

However, never forget that the leader of the integration movement in America was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a Baptist Minister. And religionists have also brought freedom and justice to the forefront. The first major centers of learning in America were established by religionists. The first hospitals and first orphanages were founded by religionists.

Let me give you just an inkling of what happened in one city by religionists. In Pasadena, the Ecumenical Council of Churches, now called "Friends In Deed," founded a food bank where people could come and receive free food. They founded a bad weather shelter for the homeless, and a women's room where homeless women could find a place to take a bath, read a newspaper, watch TV, and communicate with one another. All Saints Church founded "Union Station" to aid the homeless. Union Station is now a large separate agency, as is the Pasadena Aids Center, also founded by All Saints. All Saints has more recently founded a strong foster care program. While I am not a member of All Saints, I am certainly impressed.

Now all these programs were sponsored by religionists who also happened to be both Democrats and Republicans. They were also supported by atheists. Yes, churches, synagogues, mosques, temples and atheists all have both Democrats and Republicans among their ranks.

What I am trying to say is that religionists and non-religionists play a part in the makeup of our society and we would do well to tolerate one another and march down the road together for a caring and loving society that finds ways to work for the betterment of all humanity both here at home and abroad. Viva the human race! Long may it thrive!!

-- Inman Moore

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Sunday, April 5.

Only a little over two weeks until Pasadena's run-off election, yet only yesterday did we receive our Absentee Ballots. Usually they arrive about 4 weeks before the election, instead of barely two weeks. This is symptomatic of the compressed nature of the run-off campaign. Candidates hardly had time to breathe after the primary before diving again into the grueling grind of fundraising, walking, attending forums, recruiting volunteers, distributing lawn signs and rushing to accomplish all this within six weeks.

The fundraising is particularly challenging, condensing what candidates did over 4 to 6 months – or even a year and a half – into essentially 4 weeks, since candidates need the money to send their literature in the last two weeks of the campaign. Councilmember Tornek had raised \$40,000 in 2014, and then another \$70,000 this year up through Feb. 21,

the closing date of the last financial report. The next reporting period ended last night, with the reports due by this coming Thursday (April 9). But candidates are required separately to report within 24 hours any contributions in excess of \$1,000, so we can get a bit of a preview into their financial resources. Tornek reported raising an additional \$8,500 in the closing weeks of the primary. Since the primary election, he has raised an additional \$44,000 in contributions in excess of \$1,000 each. He has probably raised additional funds in contributions under \$1,000, but that likely totals to a modest amount.

In the primary, Tornek spent \$63,000 between Jan. 1 and Feb. 21, and probably another \$20,000 to \$30,000 beyond that, after the close of the last reporting period but before the primary election. So he likely spent \$80K - \$90K on the primary, yet has raised only \$44,000 with just two weeks to go before the run-off. This starkly highlights the challenges candidates face in funding a full-throttle campaign with such a short period in which to raise funds for it.

Councilwoman Robinson raised only about \$54,000 in the period up to the last pre-primary financial report, and then another \$9K in large contributions before the primary. Thus, she probably spent a little over \$60,000 in the primary, about 2/3 as much as Tornek. However, since the primary, she has raised almost \$36,000, putting her pretty close to Tornek. This is another suggestion that the race is likely to be neck and neck down to Election Day.

Robinson has won the endorsement of both the police and firefighters unions. This is politically powerful, but also a tad problematic. The power comes from the popular appeal of their support, the direct financial contributions that will come with their endorsements, and the manpower that the firefighters, in particular, can supply as precinct walkers.

But it's also problematic, in that many of the crucial issues facing City Hall deal with public sector unions – directly on compensation and retirement costs, indirectly on quality of service and staffing levels, and very directly on employee misconduct. Can Robinson be seen as a leader in the Northwest while simultaneously being supported by the police officers' union that seeks to conceal the McDade Report and details within the Veritas police audit? Tornek will undoubtedly attack Robinson for accepting so much money and formal support from public sector unions, but can he afford to be seen as attacking the police and firefighters directly? He too has a thin line to

walk, particularly in Districts 6 and 7 where there is less concern over the McDade Report and more concern about having more aggressive, rather than less aggressive, enforcement activity in an area where burglaries are seen as spiking.

The short timeline for the primary probably neutralizes many of the advantages Tornek had in the primary – more money, longer lead time with the voters,

longer lead time for organizing volunteers. It does not, however, negate the likely advantage he gained by having identified, over his many weeks of walking, a larger number of core supporters. That may be the key difference, because the run-off is likely to be determined simply by who does a better job of getting out their supporters. Tornek's core strength in high-turnout Districts 6 and 7 is likely balanced by run-off in Council District 1, which was Robinson's strongest district, her strong endorsement by Councilmember Madison in District 6, the police and firefighters support, and her strong performance in the Star-News debate last week, where she probably surpassed expectations.



On balance, then, things are pretty even. Turnout typically falls in a run-off, compared to the primary. Whose voters are more likely to stay home? Will voters who cast votes for other candidates also stay home, or switch to one or another of the candidates? Can Councilwoman Robinson make history as the first African-American woman elected city-wide? Is that a statement voters want to make? There's a certain momentum she can ride, but the hill is steep. There is also a deep undercurrent of concern in Pasadena about overdevelopment, excessive density downtown, too much traffic, change coming too quickly, and Tornek is seen by many as a strong and effective

defender of neighborhoods and our cultural heritage – a theme that traditionally has played very well in Pasadena elections.

So I think it's neck and neck, and will be decided by who works more effectively and efficiently to get out their vote on Election Day and among absentee voters. All the more reason, if you have a favorite, to get out and help your candidate walk or phone voters;

GOTV is the whole ballgame.

April is also a big month for the State of California. It's tax month, the state's biggest revenue month and one that's sort of a make or break month for the state. The February revenue results came out about \$600 million higher than budget. But that budget had been reset in January to match the Governor's new budget, showing nearly \$2.5 billion more in revenues than had been anticipated last summer. So compared to the original budget numbers for this year, we're nearly \$3 billion ahead. The March numbers seem likely also to be strong, but it's April that will really determine our fiscal fate for the next year. In prior years, the Controller's Office posted a

daily revenue tracker on its web site for the true finance wonks. That site doesn't seem to be up yet, but it's still early in the month.

Based on the steadily increasing income from personal income tax withholding, which is a lagging indicator consistent with the steady job growth and reduced unemployment rate reported by the Feds each month, my guess is that we'll see revenues substantially ahead of budget. That would mean more money for schools and more for the state's Budget Stabilization Fund. This is the first year we're operating under Gov. Brown's proposal that was approved by voters last November, so it's not entirely clear how things will work. But it appears that if we have a surplus, a significant chunk will go to schools and community colleges, per Prop. 98, and the remainder gets sequestered in the Budget Stabilization Fund. A side effect may be that the minimum Prop. 98 support level for K-12 gets increased by at least part of the budget overage, which would significantly help our educational system.

So keep an eye open for press releases about money, and you can even check the Controller's site (www.sco.ca.gov) for daily updates – and keep your fingers crossed for healthy results. Each billion can mean up to \$1 – 2 million in additional funding for PUSD.

-- Jon Fuhrman



Next Meeting - Progressive Discussion Group

Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group next meets on Friday, Apr. 17 at Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena. (Though the location has changed, we still meet every first and third Friday of the month at 9 a.m.)

Join the discussion. Everyone is welcome. Order breakfast, coffee, etc., or not. Check with Inman Moore at 626-795-2201 for info.

Next ACT Meeting – May 7

The next ACT Steering Committee meeting is Thursday, May 7 at Anne and Roger Wolf's again, 1249 Canedo Pl., Pasadena. The program for next meeting is a presentation by Sarah Holyhead of the Marijuana Policy Project (MPP). Also we will consider a Revised Living Wage Proposal brought to us by ACT's Coalition Building & Outreach Committee.

MPP is the nation's largest organization dedicated solely to ending marijuana prohibition.

Sarah Holyhead is a fundraiser for MPP, working primarily with donors in Southern California and Arizona. Her passion is inspiring others to join MPP in the fight to replace the policy of marijuana prohibition with legally regulated use.



Special Thanks to Our Patrons

Armando Gonzalez & Brenda Berg,
Glendale

Paul Hunt & Gina Frierman-Hunt,
Sierra Madre



Jon Fuhrman & Susan Kane brave the freezing waters of Antarctica recently.

ACT Coalition-Building & Outreach Committee Report

NOTE: The C-B & O Committee voted to request that the Steering Committee agendaize and publicize in the *Phoenix* that resolutions on the following issues will be discussed and voted on (for recommendations to the Membership) at the following meetings:

May Meeting: Expansion of the Pasadena Livable Wage Ordinance to all Employers

June Meeting: Anti-Fracking Resolution

We propose that there be no mailed issues ballot until after the June Meeting. If both resolutions are approved, they would both be voted on one ballot.

Pasadenans for a Livable Wage

Regular Wednesday meetings at 3 pm at All Saints: The PLW meets most Wednesdays at 3 pm at All Saints. You can get yourself added to the PLW network and thereby get notifications by going to PasadenaCFMS@yahoo.com.

Huntington Nurses

ACT member Jen Su, an organizer for the California Nurses Association, has notified us of the following events.

Community Cafeteria Drop-In, Wednesday, April 8th, 11am-2pm at the Huntington Cafeteria:

We invite community supporters and clergy to drop in and eat with Huntington nurses in the cafeteria to offer their support to the nurses. The nurses are going through heavy union busting right now, including mandatory meetings with “neutral labor experts” who disseminate false negative information about unions. Drop in to eat some lunch with us!

PRE-ELECTION RALLY, Tuesday, April 14th, 11am:

We plan to turn out 150-200 people to this rally, to offer nurses an extra dose of support and encouragement before the first election day.

McDade OIR Report lawsuit/Veritas Report/CICOPP

The Officers’ appeal of the public records act litigation over the OIR McDade Shooting Report took an unexpected turn when the Officers’ attorneys made a boneheaded mistake by putting in their Reply Brief a page and a half of quotations criticizing the Officers from the Report – *i.e.*, they published a significant part of what they have been litigating to suppress. The Court of Appeal 9 days later signed a sealing-clawback order on their Reply without any opportunity for our side to even know about it, let alone respond. Major national and state media and free press organizations howled “foul” with us, and the Court of Appeal indicated it is considering vacating its sealing-clawback order – giving the Officers’ attorneys a week to file opposition.

The City released an executive summary of the Veritas Report, an audit of the Pasadena PD’s detective operations; it arose from the outcry after Judge Fidler dismissed a murder case because of detective misconduct. The report was devastatingly damning to the Pasadena PD; a number of ACT members spoke to the City Council about the report and the need for police reform.

Gronemeier & Associates’ motion for \$123,000 in attorney’s fees and costs against the City is set for hearing next Tuesday April 7. If any award is made, it will first pay off costs (including ACT’s \$500 contribution to those costs) and then be distributed to the parties who brought the suit (including ACT) as well as other organizations and activities in the local progressive coalition.

The Coalition for Increased Civilian Oversight of Pasadena Police (CICOPP) will be meeting at All Saints on April 23 from 9 am - 11 to discuss and strategize on the Veritas Report.

Environmental issues

The Coalition against Fracking is a state-wide organization of more than a hundred environmental groups who handed in a petition to Governor Brown seeking a moratorium on some of the worst kinds of extractive activities in California. Barbara Paul will have a resolution ready for consideration at the May Steering Committee and publication in the May *Phoenix* if the Steering Committee approves it.



**From
41st District
Assemblymember
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

Now that Governor Brown has ordered the first mandatory water cutbacks in California history, the Legislature will be working hard to ensure water conservation and efficiency in every part of the state. Recently, we approved and the Governor signed, a package of emergency drought relief bills that would provide over \$1 billion in funds to alleviate problems caused by the drought and reinforce local water infrastructure. Now it's up to all of us to do our part to help get through this drought – cut out those water-thirsty lawns, get out of the shower a little faster, and replace old water-guzzling appliances and toilets with low-flow technology.

Now that the deadline for introducing legislation has passed, the Assembly is moving rapidly hearing scores of bills as they go through various committees until the May 29 deadline.

Again this year I have a strong legislative package with policy issues ranging from improving pathways to college, establishing a funding source for new construction and modernization of our public schools, regulations to provide better protection for small business franchisees, elderly homeowner property tax relief and extending time limits for filing human rights claims.

The legislative process is lengthy and involves discussion and possible amendment to any bill. I have several measures that will be heard this month and if approved will begin the process all over again later this year in the state Senate. I will keep you informed and hope to have more good news as the session progresses.

Next month we will be dealing with the budget for the upcoming year. If you'd like to know more, why not join me for the Budget Challenge, May 7 at the University of La Verne? For details go to my website, at www.asm.ca.gov/holden and check out details under upcoming events. This interactive event is free and open to the public.

-- 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.



**From
43rd District
Assemblymember
Mike Gatto**



Greetings from
Sacramento!

Future Generations will Look to UC-Tech

Each year, Berkeley and UCLA reject thousands of students with GPAs over 4.0, many of whom are valedictorians. It's a situation that is difficult for parents to explain. It's surely hard on the students themselves, who have to pay significantly higher tuition to attend a comparably ranked private or out-of-state school. And it's hard on California in the long run, since inevitably some of these brilliant students settle out-of-state, in the locales where they attended college. Meanwhile, in politics, a divisive debate about affirmative action rages on, with students of all colors believing that qualified members of their group are not getting into our flagship state universities.

That's why I've introduced Assembly Bill 1483, which would build a new UC campus focusing on the "STEAM" subjects (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics). You might describe my proposal as a "public Caltech," where California can educate some of its best and brightest students at a price that is more affordable and accessible than some of the other elite institutions in our state.

California's educational superiority has depended upon the political courage of audacious visionaries. Between 1954 and 1965, California wrestled with many of the same weighty issues we face today. There were state budgetary crises. There were divisive issues, like segregated housing laws, to address. And

there were those who worried California had no capacity for growth left. Yet, during these eleven years, California opened an incredible five new UC campuses. Somehow, policy makers found the funds necessary to plan for the long-term higher-education needs of the state. They did so by recognizing that demographic realities necessitated additional higher-education infrastructure, if California was to preserve its educated population and its high standard of living.

Moreover, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the U.S. will need 26% more biomedical engineers, 36% more information-security analysts, and 30% more cardiovascular technicians by 2022. The average computer programmer in California makes \$89,450 per year. The average animator makes \$88,140.

California must consider how our educational systems should be configured to serve our population a generation from now. Let's not forget that the California of 2050 is expected to have almost 50 million residents, approximately 13.6 million more than in 2005, when the last UC was created.

Mike Gatto is the Chairman of the Consumer Protection and Privacy Committee, and the longest-serving current member of the State Assembly. 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



ACT's Web Page

Check out www.ACTpasadena.org, our updated web page. It includes the online ***Phoenix*** in color and sometimes has items that we couldn't include in the print version due to space limitations. We also provide photos, links and other items. Contact Bruce with suggestions at brucewright@sbcglobal.net.

**From 25th District
State Senator
Carol Liu...**



SACRAMENTO – These are busy, busy times in the Legislature. Public hearings have geared up in both houses to move bills through the legislative process and meet the policy committee deadline of May 1st. The halls are crowded with advocates and constituents who have travelled to Sacramento to represent professional associations and advocacy organizations for “Lobby Days” or to present testimony in Committee hearings.

Though fewer bills were introduced this year in the Senate than in years past, some of those introduced have proven quite controversial. My own SB 608, “The Right to Rest Act,” which seeks to decriminalize being homeless – not exempt the homeless from the law as some opponents have argued – was the subject of a two-hour hearing in the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee. I agreed to hold the bill and have further discussions with the Committee Members to address some of their concerns. The Senate Health Committee hearing on Senator Pan’s SB 277 eliminating the religious and personal beliefs exemption to the vaccination requirements for children in public school also consumed several hours. That bill passed out of Committee but has been triple referred, so still has a ways to go.

Meanwhile, SB 15, the bill I co-authored with Senator Marty Block and Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León to improve access, affordability and undergraduate degree completion in four years was approved in the Senate Education Committee on a unanimous, bipartisan vote.

SB 15 addresses needs across all three higher education systems and California’s challenge

to produce another one million adults with four year degrees by 2025. The measure:

- Establishes the Graduation Incentive Grant (GIG) program for CSU to encourage undergraduate students to complete 30 units a year, putting them on a track to complete their degree in four years;
- Adds 7,500 Cal Grant Competitive Awards that serve older and non-traditional students;
- Repeals the scheduled 11% Cal Grant Award reduction for students attending private, non-profit universities thereby maintaining the maximum grant award at \$9,084; and
- Creates a student CIG Grant Award provided over three years as follows:
 - \$1,000 for completing 30 units by the end of year one.
 - \$1,500 for completing 60 units by the end of year two.
 - \$2,000 for completing 90 units by the end of year three.

SB 15 also states the Legislature’s intent to provide funding to eliminate the UC’s proposed five percent fee increase and provide both the CSU and CSU with additional funding to create more course offerings and additional support services to students.

So far, so good. I’ll catch you up on the progress of my other 29 bills in the May Newsletter.

Sen. Liu represents about 930,000 people in the 25th Senate District, which includes Burbank, Glendale, Atwater Village, Sunland-Tujunga, Pasadena, La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Montrose, Altadena, San Marino, South Pasadena, Sierra Madre, Monrovia, Bradbury, Duarte, Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, Claremont, and Upland. Visit www.senate.ca.gov/LIU.



Letter to the Editor

Why is Mike Gatto supporting a conservative Republican?

Pasadena friends:

A friend of mine in Monrovia called me recently concerned about a rumor she'd heard that Assemblyman Mike Gatto, a Democrat, is supporting some conservative Republicans for local offices, including Tom Adams, who is running for Mayor of Monrovia against the incumbent Mayor Maryann Lutz, a proud Democrat who is one of only two elected women mayors in LA County and who has been endorsed by the local Democratic Club and the Democratic Party.

I told her I'd try to find out if the rumor was accurate. I made a few phone calls and searched the internet to check into this and discovered that my friend was correct. I learned from a first-hand source that Gatto, who claims to be a liberal Democrat, contacted a local business lobby group to encourage them to support Adams and to consider working with a so-called "independent expenditure committee" to support Adams.

It appears that Gatto is working closely with Monrovia Republicans and has been rewarded with the endorsement of former Monrovia Mayor Rob Hammond. Hammond is the Republican that ran against and defeated Lara Blakely when she was Monrovia's mayor. In other words, Gatto is working to unseat Maryann Lutz by helping Tom Adams and then garnering the support of the last Republican to defeat another Democratic woman Mayor in Monrovia.

In looking into this Monrovia matter I unwittingly came across some other troublesome aspects of Gatto's track record.

This *Glendale News-Press* article¹ by Ron Kaye suggests that although Gatto has been

critical of the Citizens United ruling about the role of big money in politics, he is also involved with quite a few PACS, including some that have ties with some pretty disreputable folks like the mis-named super-PAC Students First — founded by private charter school lobbyist Michelle Rhee. Kaye's article² in *City Watch* also raises questions about Gatto's hypocrisy around campaign finance reform.

Gatto is apparently considering running for Carol Liu's State Senate seat that includes Pasadena and Monrovia. (He's also thinking of running for Lieutenant Governor, according to press reports). I'd like to make sure that our Senate seat remains in the Democratic column, but also that we elect a liberal Democrat who will actually fight for public schools, workers' rights, women's and gay rights, and environmental justice, and support others who share those values.

Just thought you might want to know...

-- Peter Drier

1 <http://www.glendalenewspress.com/opinion/tn-gnp-0303-ron-kaye-wishing-pacs-would-pack-it-in,0,5643230.story>.

2 <http://www.citywatchla.com/archive/7333-mike-gatto-s-campaign-to-overturn-the-citizen-s-united-case-is-a-scam-plain-and-simple>.



The Phoenix Editorial Policy: Signed articles and letters appearing in the Phoenix represent the opinions of the individual writers and not of ACT. Their appearance does not imply endorsement by ACT or agreement with the opinions expressed. The accuracy of facts is not guaranteed. We welcome articles of interest and encourage members to write.



2015 ACT and ADC Membership Renewal

A red check on your address label on this *Phoenix* tells you that we haven't yet received your 2015 membership dues. We need you! Please use the form below and mail your check c/o ACT/ADC, P. O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074 or renew online at www.ACTpasadena.org. ACT and ADC dues are still a bargain, especially if you join both organizations.



Thanks to everyone who has already renewed. Your generous response is heartwarming!

P.S. If you have any questions about your membership contact Executive Director 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



Calendar

- April 17
Friday
9 a.m. Progressive Discussion Group at Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena. Contact Inman Moore at 626 795-2201 for details.
- April 21
Tuesday
8 to 8 Local Run-off Election for Pasadena Mayor and District 1. **VOTE!**
- April 28
Tuesday
7:30 p.m. ACT C-B & Outreach Committee Meeting at Yuny Parada's office, 1015 N. Lake Ave., Suite 104, Pasadena. Parking available in the back.
- May 7
Thursday
7 p.m. ACT Steering Committee/ADC Meeting at the home of Anne & Roger Wolf, 1249 Canedo Pl., Pasadena. Carpooling advised. Coffee at 7 p.m.; meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.
- May 1 & 15
Fridays Progressive Discussion Group. Details same as 4/17.
- May 10
Sunday eve ThePhoenix deadline. Send items to hains27@sbcglobal.net.

May Phoenix Deadline

The deadline for the May *Phoenix* will be Sunday night, May 10. Please send items to Chuck Hains at hains27@sbcglobal.net. Mailing preparation will Thursday, May 14 at 7 p.m. at a location to be determined. (Mailers will receive a reminder via phone.)



Wanted: A Photo of you in a Special Place

Where have you been recently? Please send your high-resolution photo to Chuck Hains at hains27@sbcglobal.net.



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