



The Official Publication of ACT  
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## Hillary Wins ACT's Mock Iowa Caucus

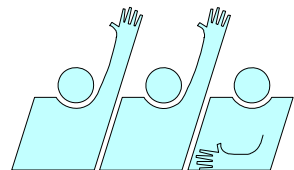


Our second Mock Iowa Caucus was another unqualified success. We gathered at Mijares on Iowa Caucus night (February 1) for an evening of socializing and fun while watching the real Iowa Caucus on CNN and MSNBC. We even had a radio correspondent in attendance. Simon Stefanski from Danish National Radio found our event via John McLean's Internet advertising. Simon recorded it all and did some interviews.

Thanks to everyone who attended and supported us. Special thanks to Jon Fuhrman and Ed Washatka for organizing our Caucus, to our go-to MC John Buchanan for his usual graceful job, to Beth Gertmenian and Betty Krachman for doing the sign-in table, to John McLean for his Internet work, to Inman Moore and Marguerite Cooper who spoke for Hillary Clinton, to Bruce Wright who spoke for Bernie Sanders and to Mijares for the terrific Taco Bar, beverages and excellent service. You did us proud.

And how did we vote?

After the handful of 'undecideds' picked their candidates, the final vote was: **41 for Hillary** and **14 for Bernie**. Will we prove to be closer to the end result than the voters of Iowa?



## Robert Banning

We were sorry to note the death of long time ACT member Bob Banning on Christmas morning. Bob, who was born in Los Angeles in 1924, grew up in San Marino. Following high school he served in WWII with the Army Air Corps weather service. After the war he graduated from UC Berkeley and began a career with L A County Health Services where he held many managerial positions over the years. Upon his retirement, Bob began a second career that he loved, holding leadership positions in several Pasadena and California philanthropic organizations.

We extend heartfelt sympathy to wife Joan, sons Robert, Jr. and Winthrop and their wives, four grandchildren, and Bob's sister Elizabeth Ames. We share in their loss and will remember Bob fondly.



## ACT & ADC Officers Elected for 2016

Welcome to Jeanette Mann, elected February 1 to be an ACT Co-Chair. Jeanette will serve for 2016-2017. She replaces astute and hard-working Linda Centell who has just completed her two years as Co-Chair. (Thank you, Linda!)

In addition ACT members re-elected Barbara Paul - Recording Secretary, Beth Gertmenian - Corresponding Secretary, and Ed Washatka - Treasurer. (They serve the same offices for ADC.) ACT Co-Chairs John McLean and Jeanne Register will continue for 2016. Thanks to these folks for agreeing to continue at important, but pretty thankless jobs. Their work is essential to our success.

Arroyo Democratic Club (ADC) members re-elected Bill Hackett, President and Tim Wendler, Vice President. Thanks, guys for being willing to continue. We are all grateful.

## Research Committee Meeting Scheduled

ACT's Research Committee will meet on Saturday and Sunday, March 12 and 13 at the home of Marilee Marshall and Bruce Wright, 654 S. Madison Avenue, Pasadena to interview candidates for local races on the June 2016 Primary Election ballot.

Contact Research Committee Chair Marilee Marshall at 626 564-1136 (office) or Email [mmlegal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mmlegal@sbcglobal.net) for details.



## Democratic Party Caucus Endorses Portantino for State Senate

On Saturday, January 30th, the first step of the Democratic Party's endorsement process took place at the Altadena Library. Some 165 delegates from across the 25th State Senate District came together to hear the candidates speak and to make their choice for the Democratic nomination. After a spirited contest Anthony Portantino, our former State Assembly Member, was the overwhelming choice.

Because he received more than 70% of the vote (70.3%, to be exact), Anthony's nomination will be placed on the consent calendar at the Democratic State Convention in late February. If the convention ratifies the local vote, Anthony will be the party's officially endorsed candidate in the June primary election. The winner is expected to face Republican Mike Antonovich in November.



## Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Bonnie Armstrong, Pasadena  
Brice & Carolyn Harris, Los Angeles  
Jimmy Wittrock, Glendale  
Alex Zucco, Monrovia

## Wonderings and Wanderings

By Inman Moore



### Obama's Presidency

In the midst of the 2016 presidential race, I recently sat down to contemplate the Obama Presidency. Has it been perfect? No! We have never had a perfect president. George Washington owned slaves. In fact twelve of our early presidents owned slaves. Thomas Jefferson had some unfortunate sexual affairs. Franklin Roosevelt presided over the detention of all Japanese on the West Coast. President Eisenhower had an affair with his Jeep driver while a general in World War II. Ronald Reagan illegally sent arms to Iran. Richard Nixon presided over the illegal Watergate break-in. I could go on but the above mentioned were some of our most prominent presidents. You get the drift. There never has been a perfect president. To judge a president, one needs to look at the total picture.

One of the things I like about Obama is his ability to handle outlandish criticism. And he has had a lot. WND, an ultra-conservative blog, has carried on a relentless campaign claiming Obama is not an American citizen and is also a Muslim. In addition Obama's enemies have carried on a continuing campaign about his school credits, claiming he never went to Occidental College, Columbia University, or Harvard. I talked to a man from Glendale who was a classmate of Obama at Occidental. How could you be editor of the Harvard Law Review and not be a student there? How could Columbia give a scholastic degree to someone who never attended? Jon Stewart, longtime former host of the Daily Show once had a guest who detailed all the charges against Obama. Jon slyly entered into the conversation, "And don't forget he is black." For some people it has been impossible for them to believe that we have twice elected

a black man as President of the United States. In spite of all the criticism Obama's continued inclusion of all races, creed, and color is phenomenal.

Another thing I like is his ability as a speaker. I just watched his recent speech at the Muslim Mosque in Baltimore. It was a moving experience as he brilliantly laid out America at its best in accepting on an equal basis people of all religious faiths as well as people of no religious faith. He reminded us that, while most of our citizens are Christians, we are not officially a Christian nation. While he mentioned that he is a Christian, he pled for the acceptance of all religious faiths.

Also, Obama is not a hawk. There are those who say that we should not be trying to make other countries love us, but rather to make them fear us. Some in America never saw a military expenditure they didn't like. Plenty of money for bombs and planes, but no money for education! While we have a huge military budget we can't find money to provide for the education of our citizens through the college level. On the world level we are no longer at the top of the list of the educated countries. Nor are we at the top in providing medical care. This is a shame and disgrace. Obama has been a champion of better schools and better medical care. For that I applaud him.

Obama is a family man. His love of his wife and children is phenomenal. And for that I applaud him. Obama is a visionary. Rather than finding ways to kill all our enemies, Obama has been searching for ways to make friends of enemies and bystanders. For example, he seems to have an innate sense of realizing that Israel, along with other countries in the Middle East, can only continue to exist by ultimately finding ways to live in peace with their neighbors.

So, again, is Obama perfect? No! But viva his courageous heart in the attempt to make America and the World a better place to live!

## Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Tuesday, Feb. 9

We thought that after Iowa and New Hampshire, we'd have some clarity in this crazy year. Well, we have some clarity, but we also have more confusion.

On the Democratic side, Sen. Bernie Sanders had an excellent night, with a 21-point margin over Secretary Clinton. That equals, or slightly exceeds, the final polling predictions. It was a solid win, across nearly all age, racial, economic and ideological groups. It establishes unequivocally that Bernie's folks will indeed come out and vote, and that he has a broad appeal across the heart of the party. On the other hand, there is scarcely another state demographically as well suited to his appeal than New Hampshire. Further, the turnout was actually not that great. New Hampshire officials had predicted around 270,000 votes would be cast; in 2008, 287,000 votes were cast; but this year, only about 245,000 votes

were cast. It would appear many independents chose to vote on the Republican side, perhaps propelling Trump or Kasich. Would they otherwise have voted for Hillary? That's impossible to know.

There has been much talk about the Clinton campaign's failure to communicate, to inspire, to "campaign in poetry." That may be a bit unfair, but it captures a central dilemma she faces. Sen. Sanders has a vision, an overarching theme of opposition to the rigged system, to the greed and oppression of the oligarchy, to the inherent unfairness of the income inequality that defines our society. It evokes revolutionary ardor, passionate commitment, a belief that supporting him will bring truth, justice, fairness and righteousness back to America. That's a tough vision to compete against. Sen. Clinton offers commitment to further progress, to further reform, to incremental enhancement, to rationally calculated and achievable improvements. Yes, that may lack poetry, but it has the advantage of being actually doable and being acceptable to a broad majority of voters. It's not yet clear if Sen. Sander's vision is achievable or even palatable to most voters. And therein lies the essential dilemma between Democratic hearts and minds.

Thinking back to the George McGovern days, I have little doubt that McGovern carried the 18 – 29 year old vote by margins equivalent to those that Sanders won. Yet we all remember what happened to McGovern. However, by we I mostly mean folks of my generation; the new millennials really have no recollection of those political fights (nor, apparently, much of an emotional appreciation of the struggles their mothers and grandmothers endured in fighting for respect and equality in the workplace and in breaking so many of the glass ceilings past which they are ascending). So will electability – or at least our perception of electability – come into play at some point soon?

The Democrats next proceed to Nevada, for caucuses on Saturday, Feb. 20, and then to South Carolina, for a primary on Saturday, Feb. 27 (with the next debate scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 11 in Milwaukee). Both states are far more favorable for Sen. Clinton, given the diversity and smaller number of college students in the mix of Democratic voters. Further, Clinton had \$38 million in cash on hand at the end of December, compared to only \$28 million for Sanders. Sanders, however, probably did out-raise Clinton in January, but may also have outspent her. More critically, three days after the South Carolina primary is Super Tuesday, with 9 primaries (7 in the South, one in Massachusetts and one in Vermont) and two caucuses (Colorado and Minnesota). No one has time to organize real ground efforts in nine separate states, so they will depend, essentially, on national media and momentum. Clinton will have a large advantage given the high level of African-American participation in Democratic primaries in the South; that will be the real test for Sanders, as dele-

gate counts start to amass significantly. Endorsements will also matter more than they have, and a likely endorsement of Sec. Clinton by Congressman James Clyburn, the former head of the Black Caucus in Congress and a major leader in South Carolina, may be a key factor.

My guess is that, despite the passion of Sen. Sanders supporters and his tremendous grassroots fundraising success, Sec. Clinton will carry Nevada by a narrow margin and South Carolina by a larger margin, and go on to win modestly convincing victories in most Super Tuesday states (with Sanders winning his home state of Vermont and next-door Massachusetts, and probably winning the Minnesota

caucuses). So I think Clinton will be the nominee, but along the way she has to thread the needle, competing against and criticizing Sanders while not alienating most of his supporters. That's a fine line to tread, and the stronger Sanders performs the tougher it becomes to call him out on the unrealistic nature of his proposals while not forswearing the idealism he represents. The next two months will indeed be something to watch.

On the Republican side, the Donald has finally, dramatically, indisputably proven that he is for real, that his supporters are for real, and that he is indeed the dominant player in the



GOP right now. He polled well over twice as many votes as his nearest competitor, even though he was only at 36% of the overall vote total. Further, if you add the Trump, Cruz and Carson votes, they are a narrow majority of the party – further evidence that the “establishment” wing of the party is losing the race, even if a single candidate could emerge from that group.

For the Republicans, the next stop is the South Carolina primary on Saturday, Feb. 20 (with their next debate the prior Saturday in Greenville, SC.), another setting ideal for Trump. Although South Carolina supposedly allots delegates proportionally, they selected a geographic option; the winner in each Congressional district gets all the delegates from that district, and the winner statewide gets all the at-large delegates. This means that if the South Carolina results mirror the New Hampshire results, Trump will win all 50 delegates, a huge media coup for him even if it has only limited practical effect.

The other reason that South Carolina is an ideal next battleground for Trump is that his runner-up in New Hampshire, Gov. John

Kasich, is utterly unsuited to South Carolina; I would be surprised if he exceeds 10% of the vote there. Kasich expanded Medicaid in Ohio under Obamacare, making him “complicit” with President Obama in the eyes of many GOP voters. He flatly opposed Trump on the deportation of 11 million undocumented individuals, and talked very openly about a path to legalization. His moderation, which could be a huge general election asset, is lethal in a GOP primary in a conservative state. Kasich would be well advised simply to skip South Carolina and head directly to Nevada, where the GOP will have their caucuses on Tuesday, Feb. 23. Kasich’s main aim is at the Michigan primary on March 8, and then the Ohio winner-take-all primary on March 15. If he can win those, he solidifies his credentials as the establishment alternative to Trump.

But that’s a tough road to travel. Jeb Bush, who achieved a narrow 4<sup>th</sup> place, is particularly well-positioned to challenge Trump in South Carolina, or at least vie for a strong second place. With home-state Sen. Lindsay Graham’s endorsement, and his brother actively campaigning for him, it is really his last hurrah. But should Bush achieve second place, then the field remains truly scattered. Sen. Ted Cruz won Iowa, but under a considerable cloud for sleazy campaign tactics. Sen. Rubio achieved an unexpected third place in Iowa, but utterly wilted in the last debate and scored a somewhat pathetic fifth place in New Hampshire. Gov. Kasich has a strong second in New Hampshire, but will wilt in the more conservative southern states. Gov. Christie has essentially ended his campaign, and since he has no operation or staff or major endorsers in other states, his endorsement would be of limited utility.

So the “establishment” lane of the GOP remains utterly fragmented, with no candidate having a substantial shot at outperforming the others or of forcing them out of the campaign.

As of December 31, Rubio had the most cash on hand, with just over \$10 million, and Bush had a little under \$8 million. There is lots of money in various super-PACs, but that can’t be used to pay for staff, for travel, for organizing events. It can be used for advertising, but that advertising can’t be coordinated with the campaigns. Thus, at this juncture in the primary, all that super-PAC money just really isn’t very useful to the candidates.

My guess is that Trump will win South Carolina decisively, sweeping all the delegates, with Jeb Bush coming in second (ahead of Cruz). That should be enough to propel Trump to win the Nevada caucuses (a natural state for him) and then sweep the Super Tuesday states, and on to the nomination, to the utter astonishment of most of the political establishment. However, I believe Sec. Clinton will be well positioned to start picking away at his grandiose statements, his barbaric policy positions, his evasion of any detailed plans to implement his visions.

Stuart Stevens, who was Mitt Romney’s key strategist in the general election, wondered aloud why other Republicans weren’t aiming their fire at Trump. Trump, he noted, is

“a man who has changed parties five times, been married three, had businesses go bankrupt four times and has openly speculated about dating his own daughter. For policy prep he [Trump] says he watches all the shows, perhaps mostly cartoons, as he is unaware of even a high school level of public policy. Nuclear triad? What’s that, a Chinese gang with really good weapons?”

So even traditional Republicans are acutely aware of Trump’s vulnerabilities; will the public see them as such, or be beguiled by preeminent marketing genius?

One final word on some United States Senate races. Some ACT members have asked how they could perhaps maximize the impact of

their contributions. I would point to three key Senate races: each has a Democratic woman candidate with state-wide recognition, in a small state where modest contributions actually make a substantial impact, and each will be critical to the Democrats' chances to taking back the Senate. In New Hampshire, incumbent Gov. Maggie Hassan is running against incumbent GOP Sen. Kelly Ayotte. In Nevada, State Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto will be running for the open seat left by retiring Sen. Harry Reid; her opponent is Joe Heck, a conservative Congressman. In Arizona, Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick will be running against Sen. John McCain, or whoever beats him in the contested GOP primary.

If the Democrats win two of those three races, we are nearly guaranteed to take back the Senate. Hassan and Masto have stronger chances; Kirkpatrick is well known in Arizona, but running against Sen. McCain would be tough. In any case, all three deserve strong support, and with small states with small media budgets, modest contributions will have greater impact than they would for candidates in California, Illinois, or Pennsylvania.

— Jon Fuhrman



## Special Thanks to Our Patrons

Louise Brinsley, Pasadena  
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 Rhodes & Liz Trussell, Pasadena

## Livable Wage Progress

Pasadena low wage workers scored an impressive victory on Monday, February 1 when the City Council voted 7-0 to raise the minimum wage starting July 1 from \$10 to \$10.50 followed by increases to \$12.00 on July 1, 2017 and \$13.25 on July 1, 2018.

In addition to raising the minimum wage, the City staff asked the Council for direction on seven additional items to be incorporated into the ordinance.

The Council voted 7-0 in favor of a deferral for small businesses and non-profits of 25 employees or less and also for non-profits with more than 25 employees as long as the non-profit meets one or more of four specific criteria. There had been much concern over whether there should have been exemptions for small business and non-profits. At the urging of Pasadenans For A Livable wage a coalition of faith based, labor, and activist organizations including ACT, the council chose to reject demands for exceptions in favor of mimicking what LA City and County passed.

During the four Economic Development and Technology Committee (EDTech Committee) hearings that preceded the Council vote, the Chamber of Commerce had pressed for "total wage compensation" language that would exempt businesses from the minimum wage requirement so long as the employer's overall wage including tips exceeded the minimum wage. The Council rejected the Chamber's appeal 7-0.

The City Attorney had provided counsel in a memo asserting any such exemption would be against state labor law which specifically states that tips are the property of employees and cannot be counted toward the minimum wage. Council member Andy Wilson had been pushing for such an exemption on behalf of businesses even though this would require the City to challenge the state labor code.

In the end, Wilson voted with the other Council members noting that no other municipality has been willing to test the State code in this area and that it probably wasn't worth the risk given that "pioneers often wind up with arrows in their backs."

The Council voted 5-2 for a "learners" exemption for young workers with no experience aged 14-17. Such workers would get a starting wage of 85% of the minimum wage for the first 160 hours. The Council's motion favoring the learners wage for youth mirrors what was done in the City of Los Angeles.

Council members Tyron Hampton and Andy Wilson had pressed for a learner wage for the first 480 hours regardless of age even though the State law specifies the learners wage only for the first 160 hours. They argued it would provide more employment opportunities if businesses could pay the lower wage to first time workers for a longer period of time.

The Council members rejected the higher hours limit because they felt it might create enforcement problems since employers by state law would have to raise the wage to the state minimum after 160 hours even though the local ordinance provided a maximum of 480 hours. Additionally, the 480 hour ceiling might encourage employers to terminate learners or any worker in favor of hiring new employees just to take advantage of the lower wage.

Pasadenans For A Livable Wage had been calling for a path to \$15 an hour by 2020. Council member Steve Madison supported the coalition and repeatedly called on his fellow council members to vote for all five wage step increases without a break.

But, in a major concession to the Chamber of Commerce, the Council voted to pause the stepped increases after 2018 in favor of a report assessing the impact of the increased

minimum wage on the local economy. The staff is required to provide an analysis by February 15, 2019 before the Council could "confirm" through another vote to continue the increase in the minimum wage to \$14.25 on July 1, 2019 and finally \$15 on July 1, 2020. At the same time, the Council would vote to confirm cost of living increases beginning July 1, 2022.

Throughout the EDTech hearing process, the Council members heard repeated testimony often tearful and heart rending from workers, labor lawyers, and UCLA Labor Center staff regarding wage theft.

The Council was moved by the testimony and directed EDTech to meet again and develop specific plans to deal with enforcement and wage theft. Pasadenans For A Livable Wage has been pushing for dedicated staff with an office to handle the crimes of wage theft which result in millions of dollars stolen from workers annually.

Lastly, Madison urged the Council to vote against the staff recommendation to exempt the City from its own minimum wage ordinance with respect to paying its employees. Madison said the City needed to model behavior by paying the minimum wage specified in the ordinance. The Council voted 7-0 in favor of his argument to reject the staff's recommendation

Make plans to attend the next EDTech meeting and make public comment in support of the City hiring dedicated staff to support wage enforcement and curb wage theft.

In the interim, please email Mayor Tornek and the City Council members in support of hiring dedicated staff to support wage enforcement and stop wage theft.

Mayor Terry Tornek:  
[ttornek@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:ttornek@cityofpasadena.net)



District 1 (Tyron Hampton): EDTech Committee Member [cbell@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:cbell@cityofpasadena.net)

District 2 (Margaret McAustin): [mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net)

District 3 (John Kennedy): [ChristianCruz@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:ChristianCruz@cityofpasadena.net)

District 4 (Gene Masuda): [nsullivan@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:nsullivan@cityofpasadena.net)

District 5 (Victor Gordo): EDTech Committee Chair [vdelacuba@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:vdelacuba@cityofpasadena.net)

District 6 (Steve Madison): EDTech Committee Member [smadison@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:smadison@cityofpasadena.net)

District 7 (Andy Wilson): EDTech Committee Member [awilson@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:awilson@cityofpasadena.net)

-- Ed Washatka



## Special Thanks to Our Sustaining Members

Sally Beer, Altadena  
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## Help Run the United Democratic Headquarters!



Whether you're "feeling the Bern," or looking to shatter the glass ceiling with Hillary, if this is the year for YOU to get personally involved in the campaign for President, here's an opportunity you won't want to miss: represent the Arroyo Democratic Club\ACT on the UDH Steering Committee.

UDH stands for the United Democratic Headquarters, which will open in Pasadena this summer with a staff of volunteers and professional organizers. The UDH will be the latest in a long line of local headquarters, going back at least 70 years. As always, it will be the local and regional hub for L.A. County efforts to get out the vote for the whole Democratic ticket -- from President and U.S. Senator to our local members of the state legislature.

Nearly a dozen Local Democratic clubs and organizations work together to plan and operate the UDH. Each participating club has one representative on the UDH Steering Committee for every 100 members, so ADC\ACT has three representatives. Our representatives will be appointed at the March Steering Committee meeting. So if you are interested in serving please plan to attend.

The UDH Steering Committee meets once a month. Club representatives are expected not only to act as liaisons for other members who want to get involved, but to actively volunteer at the headquarters. It is a great way to be at the center of the action in this exciting and important election year.

--Fred Register

**From  
41<sup>st</sup> District  
Assemblymember  
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

**T**he 2016 legislative session has begun. Legislators are addressing bills left on the table from last year and introducing others. Governor Jerry Brown gave his State of the State and proposed a fiscally prudent budget. With the progress we've made in the past few years on so many issues, California continues to be in good shape, but more work remains. As always, I look forward to improving the lives and communities in the 41<sup>st</sup> Assembly District and the state at large.

My first bill for the 2016 legislative session would increase access to tobacco cessation services and treatment. Unfortunately, smoking continues to be the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. In California, tens of thousands die each year. The habit also exacts an enormous economic burden on the state – \$18.1 billion according to one UC San Francisco study. In a recent American Lung Association report, California received an “F” on access to tobacco cessation services. Medi-Cal patients have some of the highest smoking rates in the State and need cessation services the most. That's why I introduced AB 1696 which requires tobacco cessation medications, counseling, and assessments to be covered for Medi-Cal patients.

Higher education, transportation infrastructure, and sustainability of the Medi-Cal program remain top priorities in the proposed FY 2016-2017 budget. I'm excited to see the 4.4% increase in funding for California's Community Colleges which means more high school students can immediately access college level

courses provided for by my concurrent enrollment bill, AB 288. I applaud the Governor's proposed reforms to provide additional sustainability for the Medi-Cal program and ensure developmental disabilities funding. The fastest way to provide this funding would be though an increase in the Managed Care Organization (MCO) tax.

In addition to state-wide priorities, I'm currently working to secure funding from the state budget for two local items – the Pasadena Playhouse and the South Pasadena Arroyo Seco bike path. In just one year, the landmark Pasadena Playhouse – the official playhouse for the State of California– will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I am requesting \$1 million from Governor Brown for necessary retrofits and restoration for the celebration. I'm also requesting \$1.8 million for the South Pasadena Arroyo-Seco bike trail. The trail will connect the San Gabriel Valley to the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles River providing residents active transportation that also curbs carbon emissions.

None of these will come easy, but I look forward to working with my colleagues, community groups, and advocates to see these priorities funded.

*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](http://www.asm.ca.gov/holden) and fill out the contact form.*

*Holden can be reached at: [www.asm.ca.gov/holden](http://www.asm.ca.gov/holden)*



### ***Demo. Party State Convention***

This year the State Convention will be on Friday, February 26 – Sunday, February 28 at the San Jose Convention Center. Guest Speakers include Senator Barbara Boxer and Robert Reich. See [www.cadem.org/convention](http://www.cadem.org/convention) for more information.

## From 43<sup>rd</sup> District Assemblymember Mike Gatto

### Easy Estate-Planning Deeds Available Now



As you know, whenever the 1st of January arrives, new laws take effect in California. This year my AB 139, a measure that established a new estate-planning tool, finally went into effect, giving homeowners the ability to transfer their home with a simple form. Reformers had tried to pass this historic legislation for ten years, failing until my AB 139.

Before now, middle-class Californians had two costly options to transfer the title of their home upon death: hire an attorney to draft a trust (which typically costs homeowners between \$2,000 and \$6,000) or force surviving loved ones to weather the lengthy, delay-filled probate process (with an average cost of \$26,000).

I've always felt that one of the primary roles of the legislature should be to simplify life for Californians. AB 139 will do that, by helping homeowners avoid costly probate and attorneys' fees and unintended burdens on family members. It's also important for us to operate under the rules we propose, so I wanted to show everyone how easy and secure this process is by signing deeds for my own homes this month.

Supporters of my bill, including the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, expressed their enthusiasm for the availability of the new tool, noting that these new "Easy Estate Planning" deeds will grant all Californians the opportunity to use an inexpensive tool to pass their home to a loved one.

Most counties were quick to make the forms available on their websites. After notarization

of the form, Californians can simply mail the deed to their local County Recorder's office, pay a small fee, and file the form. The average fee, of \$25, pales in comparison to the lawyers' fees involved for previous methods.

To easily download a Revocable Transfer on Death deed form, see: [Tinyurl.com/SimpleDeed](http://Tinyurl.com/SimpleDeed).

*Mike Gatto is the Chairman of the Utilities & Commerce Committee and the longest-serving current member of the State Assembly. He represents California's 43rd Assembly District, which includes Los Angeles, Glendale and Burbank.*

Email [www.asm.ca.gov/gatto](http://www.asm.ca.gov/gatto).



### Voter Turnout Focus Groups

Low voter turnout in municipal elections is a problem. According to Pasadena Neighborhood Leadership Institute (PNLI) fewer than one in five registered voters actually voted in the 2015 election. PNLI is conducting focus groups to assess why this problem persists and what can be done to improve this situation. If you live in Pasadena, please join a small group of other residents to explore why voter turnout is so low, and discuss ideas about ways to get Pasadenans more engaged in voting in the future. Focus groups will take place between February 8 and March 31 in multiple locations all over town, including the Jackie Robinson Center, Flintridge Center, and Pasadena Public Library branches. To find out more and reserve your place at a focus group near you, e-mail your interest to [Pasadenavotes@gmail.com](mailto:Pasadenavotes@gmail.com). A representative of PNLI will respond with more information about scheduling options and how you can participate.

--Monica Hubbard



## From 25<sup>th</sup> District State Senator Carol Liu...



### Sacramento Update

**I** am sharing the Democrats highlights from our accomplishments of 2015 to remind everyone how important it is to elect Democrats to office.

**From the first day of session,** Senate Democrats pledged to build on our state's progress and give more Californians — especially middle-class families and underserved communities — greater access to the California Dream. And that's exactly what they have done.

**Giving Every California Kid a Fair Shot: A Budget that Made Historic Investments in K-14 Education.** This year's budget prioritized education funding — the best investment in California's future. It invests more than \$68 billion, the highest level of funding in the history of California. That means more than \$10,000 per K-12 pupil — an increase of 15% in just two years.

**More Opportunity to Attend College.** Senate Democrats ensured targeted investments in UC and CSU to allow 15,000 more California students to attend our universities. The \$216 million increase to the CSU is the largest investment in over a decade. It also restores Cal Grant eligibility at private non-profit schools and provides more than 3,000 additional competitive Cal Grant awards.

**A Commitment to Early Care and Education.** A centerpiece of the Senate Democratic agenda this year was child care and early childhood education. This year's budget includes over 13,000 new preschool and child care slots. Access to quality, affordable child care for working families and their children ensures a strong foundation for future success.

**Protecting Foster Youth from Overprescribed Psychotropic Drugs.** In response to reports that children in foster care are being prescribed psychotropic medications at alarmingly high rates, the Legislature passed a package of bills that would reform the system, enhance oversight, and improve care and access to services for these vulnerable children. This legislation is already being hailed as a national model.

**California Climate Leadership: Powering the New Economy.** By setting aggressive standards for energy efficiency and renewable resources and divesting from coal — California continues to lead the world in the fight against climate change and building a clean energy economy.

**Responding to California's Fourth Year of Drought.** Through this year's budget, Senate Democrats fought for more than \$3 billion to reduce the impacts of the state's drought, including investments in water conservation, recycled water, storm water capture, and money for food and housing assistance in the most affected regions.

**Strengthening Working Families: The California Fair Pay Act.** The strongest equal pay law in the country would help ensure that women are paid equally to their male colleagues for the same work, and protect them from retaliation if they discuss or ask about the wages of their male colleagues.

**Combating Wage Theft.** Stealing the pay of low wage employees is unconscionable. The Fair Day's Pay Act empowers the labor commission to crackdown on unscrupulous employers.

**Strengthened California's family leave laws.** To better reflect the caregiving responsibilities of California's diverse and multi-generational families, the Legislature passed a bill to strengthen the California Family Rights

Act to ensure that when accessing the Paid Family Leave Program to care for seriously ill grandparents, grandchildren, siblings, in-laws, or children, regardless of age, Californians do not risk losing their jobs and can take job-protected leave.

**Countering Poverty.** The state's Earned Income Tax Credit will assist California's lowest-income workers. This new credit will provide an estimated \$380 million in tax relief to 2 million Californians.

**Consumer and Privacy Protections.** Reforms to California's wage garnishment and debt collection laws would help families struggling to have a fair chance and get back on their feet. Additionally, this year's legislation to strengthen privacy laws will protect against warrantless government access to personal electronic information.

*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](http://www.senate.ca.gov/LIU).



## Update on Police Oversight in Pasadena

The Pasadena City Council is moving toward implementing increased civilian oversight over our Police Department. They have engaged a well-respected consulting firm to report back to the City Council, at the end of March, on alternative structures and approaches that might work for Pasadena.

One of the critical issues is whether the "auditor" would have independent investigative authority. That would mean that the Auditor could independently investigate an incident if the Police Department was not

asking the right questions or collecting relevant evidence. That independent investigation could include questioning both civilian witnesses and police officers involved in the incident.

Some advocates believe that, without that independent authority, the Auditor would be unable to help the community find the truth behind incidents where police conduct is questioned. Others don't believe the Pasadena community as a whole, and the City Council in particular, is ready to create a second, internal police authority outside the control of the Police Chief. They believe the Auditor should do just that – audit and review the conduct of the police, reporting to the Chief, the City Manager, the City Council and ultimately to the citizens when the Auditor finds police conduct outside of established policy or when they believe Departmental policies or procedures need to be changed.

Look for public hearings on this important issue to be held by the City Council in late March or early April.



## Really special thanks to Our Benefactors

Laurence Eggers, Pasadena  
 Dale & Temetra Gronemeier, Sierra M.  
 Fred & Jeanne Register, Altadena  
 Ed Washatka & Linda Centell, Pasadena  
 Bruce Wright & Marilee Marshall, Pasa.

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

Louise Brinsley, Pasadena  
 Michael Cornwell, Pasadena  
 Ray & Jackie Fisher, Sierra Madre  
 John & Virginia Kimball, Pasadena  
 Anita Pemstein, Pasadena

## Schedule of Upcoming Presidential Primaries and Caucuses:

Needed for nomination:

- Republicans – 1237 delegates
- Democrats – 2242 delegates

Saturday, Feb. 20

- Nevada Democratic Caucus: 39 delegates
- S. Carolina Republican primary: 50 delegates

Tuesday, Feb. 23

- Nevada Republican Caucus: 30 delegates

Saturday, Feb. 27

- S. Carolina Democratic primary: 57 delegates

Tuesday, March 1 – Primary elections for both parties

- Alabama: Rep. 50 delegates; Dem. 58 delegates
- Arkansas: Rep. 40 delegates; Dem. 37 delegates
- Georgia: Rep. 76 delegates; Dem. 112 delegates
- Massachusetts: Rep. 42 delegates; Dem. 121 delegates
- Oklahoma: Rep. 43 delegates; Dem. 42 delegates
- Tennessee: Rep. 58 delegates; Dem. 77 delegates
- Texas: Rep. 155 delegates; Dem. 237 delegates
- Vermont: Rep. 16 delegates; Dem. 23 delegates
- Virginia: Rep. 49 delegates; Dem. 112 delegates

Tuesday, March 1 – Caucuses for both parties

- Colorado: Rep. 37 delegates; Dem. 77 delegates
- Minnesota: Rep. 38 delegates; Dem. 94 delegates

Saturday, March 5

- Kansas Caucus: Rep. 40 delegates; Dem. 37 delegates
- Kentucky Republican caucus: 45 delegates
- Louisiana Primary: Rep. 46 delegates; Dem. 61 delegates

Sunday, March 6

- Maine Caucus: Rep. 23 delegates; Dem. 30 delegates

Tuesday, March 8

- Hawaii Republican Primary: 19 delegates
- Idaho Caucus: Rep. 32 delegates; Dem. 24 delegates
- Michigan Primary: Rep. 59 delegates; Dem. 152 delegates
- Mississippi Primary: Rep. 39 delegates; Dem. 41 delegates

Tuesday, March 15

- Florida Primary: Rep. 99 delegates; Dem. 238 delegates
- Illinois Primary: Rep. 69 delegates; Dem. 190 delegates
- Missouri Caucus: Rep. 52 delegates; Dem. 88 delegates
- Ohio Primary: Rep. 66 delegates; Dem. 165 delegates
- North Carolina Primary: Rep. 72 delegates; Dem. 120 delegates

## And Thanks to Members for Additional Contributions to ACT's Political Account

Bobbie & Henry Moon, Altadena

Mary Naff, La Canada

Anita Pemstein, Pasadena

Frieda Stahl, Pasadena

Marta Stern, Altadena

Roger & Anne Wolf, Pasadena

Bruce Wright & Marilee Marshall, Pasa.



## Progressive Discussion Group

Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group meets on every first and third Friday of the month, 9 a.m. at Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena.

Come and join the discussion. Everyone is welcome. Order breakfast, coffee, etc., or not. Check with Inman Moore at 626-795-2201 or [inmanmoore3@gmail.com](mailto:inmanmoore3@gmail.com) for additional information.

## Membership Renewal Time for ACT and ADC

Please respond to your membership renewal letter as soon as you are able or use the form below and mail your check c/o ACT/ADC, P. O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074. You may renew online at [www.ACTpasadena.org](http://www.ACTpasadena.org) if you choose. ACT and ADC dues are still a bargain, especially if you join both organizations.

If you have any questions about your membership contact Executive Director Jon Fuhrman at 626 795-5255 or [jon\\_fuhrman@charter.net](mailto:jon_fuhrman@charter.net).

P.S. Thanks to everyone who has already renewed. We are grateful for your prompt support!



### 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**

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Name

Home Phone

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Address

Office Phone

---

City

ZIP

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Email address

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



## Calendar

- February 19 Progressive Discussion Group  
Friday at Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S.  
9 a.m. Lake Ave., Pasa. Contact  
Inman Moore at 626 795-2201.
- February 23 Coalition Building & Outreach  
Tuesday Committee meeting at Grone-  
7:30 p.m. meier & Associates office, 1490  
Colorado Blvd, Eagle Rock.
- Feb. 26-28 2016 California Democratic  
Fri.-Sunday State Convention, San Jose  
Convention Center.



March 3 ACT Steering Committee and  
Thursday Arroyo Democratic Club Meet-  
7 p.m. ing at the home of Wendy  
Gordon and Michael Gottlieb,  
1535 Ontario Ave., Pasadena.  
Socializing at 7 p.m.; meeting at  
7:30 p.m.

Mar. 4 & 18 Progressive Discussion Group.  
Fridays Details same as 2/19.

March 12-13 Research Committee interviews  
Saturday for June 2016 ballot races at  
& Sunday 654 S. Madison Ave., Pasa. Con-  
tact Marilee Marshall, 626- 564-  
1136 or mmlegal@sbcglobal.net.

### *March Phoenix Deadline*

The March *Phoenix* deadline will be Sun-  
day, March 6. Please send items to Chuck  
Hains at [hains27@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hains27@sbcglobal.net) on or before  
that date. Mailing preparation will be Thurs-  
day, March 10 at 7 p.m. (Mailers will receive  
a telephone reminder.)



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