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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

ACT Action on the Calif. Voter Participation Act

Steering Committee Position on Changing Pasadena Local Elections to Conform to General Election Dates



The Research Committee met on November 12 to consider what, if any, position we should recommend that ACT ask the City Council to take on Senate Bill 415, and the Attorney General's opinion with respect to its application to Pasadena elections. The opinion was prepared at the request of Assemblyman Chris Holden. The election date change is said to be necessary for the City to be in Compliance with the California Voter Participation Act, which would eliminate off-year elections in order to increase voter participation. This bill, signed into law on September 1, 2015, provides that effective January 1, 2018, a local political subdivision [which according to the Attorney General includes Charter cities such as Pasadena.] is prohibited from holding an election on a date other than on a statewide election date if it has previously resulted in voter turnout that was at least 25% lower than the average turnout within that political subdivision for the previous four statewide general elections. This bill authorizes a voter who resides in a political subdivision where a violation is alleged to file an action to enforce this prohibition and requires a court to implement specified remedies including a change of election dates. The Research Committee meeting was attended by Marguerite Cooper, Jon Fuhrman, Fred Register, Jeanette Mann, Marilee Marshall, George Van Alstine, Ed Washatka and Bruce Wright.

Most members of the committee were less than enthusiastic - for various reasons - about moving our local elections. However, the majority agreed that a legal challenge would be extremely expensive for Pasadena and almost certainly futile. Further discussion ensued about whether or not to make a recommendation as to when and how the elections should be held. The options are complicated and we took no position at this time.

The Research Committee voted 6-2 to recommend that ACT advise the City Council not to oppose the application of Senate Bill 415 or the Attorney General's Opinion with respect to Pasadena elections.

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Calif. Voter Participation Act, continued

The Steering Committee voted 22-2-2 to advise the City Council not to oppose the application of Senate Bill 415 or the Attorney General's Opinion with respect to Pasadena elections.

If you would like to have a say in this matter, do so before January 8, 2018, at which time the City Council will be considering the issue.

As for the options: The first option would be a Primary and General election format for the offices of Mayor and City Council, in which the odd-year March Primary election lines up with the statewide even-year March Primary election, and the City's odd-year April General election would be moved to line up with the statewide even-year November General election.

In this option, all successful candidates must receive a fifty percent plus one majority in either the Primary election or the statewide November General election, and then current terms for the Mayor and City Council would be extended by as many as 20 months in order to line up the statewide election cycle.

In the second option, the City would decide to have plurality voting for mayoral and City Council district elections — meaning that a successful candidate must simply receive the highest number of votes, regardless of percentages — and then, determine if Mayoral and City Council district elections should consolidate with, and occur on statewide Primary election dates, or on statewide General election dates. As with the first option, current terms for the Mayor and City Council would be extended by as many as 20 months to line up with the statewide election cycle.

In a third option, the primary and general election format for Mayoral elections would require a fifty percent plus one majority to be

elected, but Council elections would be plurality-based. The City's March odd-year primary elections would move to coincide with the statewide March Primary election held in even years. The odd-year City April General election would move to coincide with statewide November General election held in even years.

In this scenario, the Council would need to determine if the City Council District elections should consolidate with, and occur on statewide Primary dates, or on statewide General dates; and then current terms for the Mayor and City Council would also be extended by as many as 20 months to facilitate the one-time transition to the statewide election cycle.

The Research Committee leaned toward recommending November elections, but decided not to make any recommendation at this time, preferring to wait for further input from other organizations, such as the League of Women Voters. The Steering Committee agreed that we should wait for further input and review possible options before the options ultimately go to the voters next year.

Marilee Marshall,
Research Committee Chair



Progressive Discussion Group

Progressive Discussion Group meets every first and third Friday of the month from 9-10 a.m. in the back room of Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena. Parking is available in the big lot behind the restaurant off Shopper's Lane. You can always count on a lively discussion of a current political topic at a PDG meeting.

Come and join in. Everyone is welcome. Order breakfast, coffee, etc., or not. (If you plan to order breakfast, organizers suggest you try to arrive a bit early so the discussion start is not delayed.) For info msg dlg@dgronemeier.com.

Wonderings and Wanderings

By Inman Moore



Sexual Surprise?

I am writing this column on Sunday night, December 10, the deadline for publication in this December issue of the Phoenix. The Alabama special election for the office of Senator was held December 12. So when you read this column you will already have the election results. Unless you live on a deserted island you know who won. I hope it is Doug Jones.

Prior to the election, President Trump loudly proclaimed his support for Roy Moore who is well known as a sexual predator. Some people have expressed surprise at President Trump's support of Moore, since a number of people in Congress have recently resigned due to sexual misadventures. But why should we be surprised at his support of Moore, a known sexual predator? After all Donald Trump is one of the biggest sexual offenders ever to hold public office. He has publicly admitted to "pussy grabbing." He is now living with his third wife. Frankly all of this is not a pretty picture.

Incidentally, years ago, we Democrats did not come off smelling like a rose in dealing with Bill Clinton. For a full year he kept the nation in an uproar over his lying about his affair with Monica Lewinsky. He should have been impeached. This would have allowed Al Gore, the vice-president, to become president and he would, no doubt, have been elected in the next election which would have greatly changed the course of history.

It is high time that men and women seeking public office conduct themselves above reproach in the arenas of sex, money, and telling the truth. And the monkey is actually on all of our backs. In the use of our ballot we should

be conducting ourselves with propriety. We should be voting to support the common good rather than our own selfish interests. In our present situation, we should be voting to impeach Donald Trump. He fits all the criteria for impeachment.

Incidentally, to my knowledge, Roy Moore and I are not related. Years ago (1963) I was one of twenty-eight Mississippi Methodist Ministers who issued a civil rights statement entitled "Born of Conviction." It reverberated all over America. One of my Mississippi cousins, a segregationist, wrote and said, "Inman, you have forever besmirched the good name of "Moore." Well, I am now off the hook. It is Roy Moore who has forever besmirched the good name of "Moore". And Roy, for your information, I feel really bad about it. Could you please change your name, to "Smith, Brown, or Lewinsky?"

– Inman



Help Wanted

ACT (and ADC) wants someone to serve as Co-Recording Secretary, taking minutes at some of our monthly meetings and becoming an officer of ACT and ADC.

Current Recording Secretary, Barbara Paul, needs a back-up person when she is out of town or just can't get to a meeting. The job might be split with her at 6 meetings each per year – or – just when she is away (maybe 3 meetings a year.) It's negotiable.

Please consider taking on this essential task. Contact a Nominating Committee member to say "yes": Jeanette Mann at 626 797-0307 or jeanettemann2014@gmail.com, or Linda Centell at lcentell@charter.net or 626 797-4966, or Sally Beer at 626 710-7710 (call or text), or Jon Fuhrman at jon_fuhrman@charter.net or 626 864-5255.



Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Wednesday, December 13.

Now, we can exhale. It was a tough month, watching Alabama, wondering exactly how low we can go. Would even Alabama be willing to send a pedophile to the United States Senate?

It was pretty close – distressingly close – but Doug Jones ran a model race, focusing on kitchen table economic issues instead of cultural ones (although he didn't shy away from a full-on commitment to reproductive rights), complementing a dominant presence over the air waves with a tremendous ground operation focused on GOTV, and letting Judge Moore keep digging a deeper and deeper hole. Yet even with all that, Jones won by a relatively thin 1.4% margin – enough to avoid an automatic recount, but still relatively thin. I had rashly predicted that Jones would win in my October Political Notes, and the truth is I would likely have been wrong had the Wash-

ington Post not broken the story about Moore's peculiar dating habits. Thankfully, a free and inquisitive press has saved our country from a truly odious candidate. Sen. Kamala Harris' Communications Director, Lily Adams, posted the following comment: "Let this sink in – Jefferson Beauregard Sessions' Senate seat was taken by a civil rights lawyer who convicted Klansmen. Justice is sweet." Amen to that!

Is this a one-off event, due to Moore's especially spectacular baggage, or does this presage something big for the 2018 midterms? There are a few particularly interesting points to note. First, looking at the aggregate turnout, Doug Jones got 92% of the vote that Hillary Clinton received in 2016. That is a stunningly high number. It reinforces the observations from earlier special elections and from the Virginia and New Jersey state elections that Democrats are pumped! That level of turnout is rare in mid-term elections, and virtually unheard of in off-cycle special elections. If Democrats had had that turnout level in 2014, we'd have kept the Senate and several state houses. Turnout near that level in 2018 would turn a wave into a tsunami election. On the other side, Moore received 49% of the votes that President Trump received in 2016. That's a huge difference, and only in a state as Republican as Alabama would the end result be as close as it was. In virtually any other state, that level of difference would wipe out the GOP ticket from top to bottom.

Granted, it is unrealistic to think that both Democratic turnout will soar and GOP turnout will sink. But one doesn't need anywhere near as extreme a difference to endanger numerous GOP incumbents – Senators, Congressmembers and state legislators – in most other states where the party gap is not nearly as pronounced as in Alabama. This difference does align with other indicators; a poll out today showed a 15% gap in generic preference for Democratic versus Republican Congress-

ional candidates, a level that translates into a gain of 50 – 60 seats for Democrats.

So this election clearly validates the continuing observations that Democrats are energized, angry, motivated and determined to make a difference.

Secondly, the Democratic grass-roots are willing to back candidates in a massive fashion. In his last pre-election report, covering the period from October 1 through Nov. 22, Jones reported raising just over \$10 million (compared to the \$1.6 million he had raised prior to October 1). Of that, over \$5.7 million was unitemized contributions from individuals –

contributions that cumulate under \$200. Thus, at a minimum, over 28,000 people sent him money, and that doesn't include the \$4.2 million in itemized contributions (over the \$200 federal disclosure limit). That's a lot of interest in what was generally regarded as a low probability race, and another indicator of the degree to which Democrats nationwide are aroused and committed.

In contrast, Judge Moore raised about \$850K in itemized contributions, and another \$850K in unitemized contributions, over that same period. It's rare that a Democratic candidate would have a 6-to-1 advantage in fundraising, but in most other states one would not need nearly that large an advantage. In fact, in most states and Congressional districts, simply having as much money as the GOP opponent is usually an excellent result.

One last tidbit that I found intriguing. The exit polls were slicing and dicing the electorate, but one finding stood out: among African-American women, 98% voted for Doug Jones. At his best, President Obama received 92 or 93% of the African-American vote. A 98%

majority is simply amazing (although, considering the alternative, I'd like to meet the 2% who actually voted for Roy Moore).

Doug Jones will likely be sworn in early next year; Sen. McConnell is in no particular hurry to give up one more vote. So the Reps will have a chance to push through their tax cut bill next week. The Conference Committee has apparently agreed upon a compromise bill, although they are not yet revealing the details. There remains a strong chance that the whole edifice may yet collapse. Sen. Collins is sending signals that she doesn't believe Sen. McConnell will hold to the deal that won her vote

last month. Other Senators are also grumbling about some of the rumored compromises, such as lowering the marginal rates for the highest income taxpayers. My guess is that, indeed, the Senate will fail to enact the bill, saving some House members from what would be a very tough vote.

– Jon Fuhrman



PCC Ad Hoc Committee Report

Concerns have been expressed publicly about whether minority interests are being adequately addressed by the Pasadena Area Community College (PCC) Board and Administration. At its November Steering Committee, ACT appointed us to investigate this and also to evaluate the implications of the State-mandated move of the PCC Board elections to June of 2018.

We reported the results of our committee work at ACT's December Steering Committee meeting. By working closely with the Pasadena NAACP, we began tracking recent administrative leadership changes to ensure equity, and

this will be continued. We analyzed the politics of Board decisions and how we may be able to impact them on behalf of minority interests. We came up with the following steps:

- Determine if the three incumbents up for reelection in June (Ross Selvidge, Berlinda Brown and Anthony Fellow) intend to run again.
- See if any opposition candidates are planning to announce, and then evaluate their strengths. Try to recruit good candidates where there seems to be a need.
- Communicate to all eventual candidates that minority interests are an important concern of ACT and the community. Emphasize this in ACT Research Committee interviews.

A Search Committee for a new PCC President has been appointed, and we will communicate with them our minority representation concerns.

Susan Kane, Dolores Hickambottom,
Jeanette Mann,
George Van Alstine, Chair



ACT/ADC Nominating Committee

An announcement calling for nominations to serve as an Officer or standing committee Chair or member of ACT/ADC was placed in the November issue of the *Phoenix*. The Nominating Committee (Sally Beer, Linda Centell, Jon Fuhrman, Susan Kane and Jeanette Mann, Chair) met on November 14 and identified potential candidates. Based on this meeting and follow-up phone calls, the Committee presented the following list of nominations at the December General Membership meeting:

Co-chairs: Darla Dyson (Continuing: Ed Washatka and Joanne Wendler)

Treasurer: Ed Washatka

Co Recording Secretary: One vacancy and Barbara Paul (continuing)

Corresponding Secretary: Monica Hubbard and Beth Gertmenian (continuing)

Computer: Web Site: Felicia Rusnak and Bruce Wright (continuing)

Standing Committee Chairs and new members

Mailing: Ron Garber and Karen Breau

Membership: Lynn Appel and Karen Breau

Program: Ron Garber and Susan Kane (Linda Centell, Chair, continuing)

Research: Marilee Marshall, Chair (continuing)

ADC

President: Bill Hackett

Vice President: Tim Wendler

Treasurer: Ed Washatka

Co Recording Secretary: Barbara Paul and one vacancy.

Corresponding Secretary: Monica Hubbard and Beth Gertmenian

Nominations are open until the January General Membership meeting when the officers will be elected. (Nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting.)



January General Membership Meeting

Thursday, January 4, 7 p.m./7:30 p.m.
at the home of

Marilee Marshall and Bruce Wright
654 S. Madison Avenue, Pasadena

Local resident, Hank Guerrero, who served on L A County's Civil Grand Jury, will be our guest speaker. He will tell us how a citizen is picked to participate, what social and justice issues were the focus of his jury, who reads the jury's report, and what happens with the jury's recommendations. This will be a real learning experience for most of us!

The meeting agenda includes the election of officers. Socializing begins at 7 p.m.; the meeting follows at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Democratic Candidates for the 39th District – Part 2

As part of the national “Red to Blue” campaign, the Arroyo Democratic Club (ADC) has adopted Republican Congressman Ed Royce for early retirement. This month we continue our review of the challengers to Royce.

REMINDER: ADC will not be endorsing any candidate in the primary election.

Here are profiles (in alphabetical order) for the three Democratic candidates who have raised the most campaign funds thus far. The remaining candidates will be profiled next month.

Gil Cisneros, 46, is a decorated veteran, an education activist and a philanthropist. He is a graduate of George Washington University and has an MBA degree from Regis University. He and his wife, Jacki (an assignment editor at KNBC News) are the parents of twin boys and long-time residents of Pico Rivera. They are also famous for having won one of the richest payouts in the history of the California Lottery in 2010: \$266 million. Before that extraordinary event, Cisneros had been a shipping and manufacturing manager for Frito-Lay, as well as a supply officer with the U.S. Navy. In the years since, he has focused on philanthropic activities aimed at improving educational opportunity for Hispanic youngsters.

Cisneros is a former Republican who switched parties in 2008 because he no longer supported the ideological direction of the GOP. While his platform lists a wide range of issues, his special focus is on education – and especially on resisting Trump administration initiatives that could weaken educational opportunity. He has never held elective office.

The BOLD PAC of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus has endorsed Cisneros, and so have

individual Hispanic members of Congress – including Linda Sanchez (and her sister, former Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez), Grace Napolitano, Pete Aguilar, Raul Ruiz and Nanette Barragan. Other endorsers include Dolores Huerta, long-time labor activist; Gabby Giffords, gun-control advocate and former Congresswoman; the VOTE VETS PAC; and Congressman Seth Moulton of Massachusetts, whose Serve America PAC also supports candidates who are Democrats and veterans. Several local educational leaders are supporting Cisneros, including Martin Medrano, a former ACT/Judy Boggs Intern, who serves on the School Board of the Hacienda La Puente USD.

Cisneros has raised \$729,979 thus far, and has \$486,180 in cash on hand. Website:

cisnerosforcongress.com

Andy Thorburn, 73, is a businessman and health insurance executive – and also a former class-room teacher and labor activist. Thorburn is a graduate of Wilkes University in Pennsylvania. He and his wife, Karen, have two children and live in Villa Park, which is outside the 39th CD (residency is not required for Congressmembers).

Thorburn was teaching high-school English in New Jersey in 1970 when he got involved with his local union (Amer. Federation of Teachers) and helped lead a strike for better wages. The strike was successful, but Thorburn was sentenced to 30 days in jail for contempt of court. He cites this as a life-changing moment and has made it a central feature in his campaign.

Thorburn later left teaching for insurance and became tremendously successful. He founded and owns Global Benefits Group Inc., an international health insurance company. While interested in many issues, healthcare is key to Thorburn’s campaign, and he would like to see the US move toward single payer healthcare.

It was the election of Donald Trump that moti-

vated Thorburn to run for Congress. Although previously registered as "decline to state," Thorburn changed to Democrat earlier this year. He says he has always voted for Democrats. He has never held elective office.

Thorburn loaned himself \$2-million to start his campaign. He is endorsed by several unions, notably the California Nurses Association; the United Steelworkers; and the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades. He is also endorsed by actor and activist Ed Begley Jr. and by former L.A. City Controller Rick Tuttle.

Thorburn has raised \$2,142,373 thus far, and has \$1,991,150 in cash on hand. Website: thorburnforcongress.com.

Dr. Mai Khanh Tran, 51, is a pediatrician who has practiced in Orange County for more than 25 years. She is a graduate of Harvard and of the Dartmouth/Brown Medical School. Tran lives with her 5-year-old daughter in Fountain Valley, which is outside of the 39th District; again, residency is not required for members of Congress.

Tran has a long history of overcoming heavy odds. She came to the U.S. at the age of 9, one of many refugees fleeing Viet Nam after the fall of Saigon. Her family was separated and widely dispersed before reuniting in Oregon. Tran worked as a farm laborer, excelled in school and used a combination of scholarships and janitorial work to pay her way through college and med school. She is a two-time cancer survivor and also had to endure a long and difficult IVF procedure to give birth in her 40's.

In addition to her work as a pediatrician, Tran has participated in and led more than a hundred medical missions abroad to provide post-disaster relief, medical care to underserved areas, and treatment for lepers in remote parts of the world.

Though concerned with many issues, Tran's special focus is on health care and women's rights – and on resisting Trump administration policies in both areas. She has never held elective office.

Tran was a volunteer for Hillary Clinton for President in 2016. She is endorsed by Emily's List.

Tran has raised \$609,280 thus far, and has \$493,691 in cash on hand. Website: doctran2018.com

– Fred Register



Letter to the Editor

Today [Wednesday] I witnessed Congressional hearings with Assistant Attorney General Rod Rosenstein as the witness and the questioning by every single Republican was hostile to Special Council Bob Mueller alleging bias. Over the last few weeks FOX News has taken on a similar tone with what I am certain is a pretext to discounting or even ignoring any report that comes out of the investigation for the purpose of denying the country a Trump impeachment. While I don't know (and they don't either) what the Special Council does and it's impossible at this point to know if it would warrant impeachment they are setting things up to not vote for it no matter what the investigation shows.

This is why it is important to hold all Congressional candidates, both parties, incumbent and challengers, feet to the fire in regards to their position on impeachment. At this point it is not important that they should be able to answer the question with a yes or no but rather that they have a thoughtful response to the question. At a later date a yes or no can be forced from each depending on what comes out of the investigation.

– Ron Garber

**From
25th District
State Senator
Anthony
Portantino**



Dear ACT Members,

This weekend, Governor Brown made a very bold and stark statement, *the fires devastating parts of California are the new normal*. This came at a time when the POTUS is undermining and reversing decades of progressive climate policy and world efforts to combat climate change. A sad statement from a man with stature to make it. I'm also writing this just before the Alabama Senate race in shock that people are voting for someone for the US Senate that the same people wouldn't allow to babysit their children. Sacramento is also grappling with changing a culture that needs to shift from one that protected the members to one that protects the staff. We need to get this right and I am pleased that the Senate is going outside our institution for advice and for investigative expertise to help us through this process. I will endeavor to keep you posted as these important changes come to fruition.

I'm really enjoying chairing the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Education and I'm looking forward to going to back to Sacramento in the New Year. I will continue to work on education funding priorities for our public-school students. Early indications are leading me to believe our budget issues will be far more exciting than back during the great recession or even two years ago.

In keeping with a tradition started when I was in the Assembly, our holiday book drive was a big success. I was very pleased by the generosity of friends, neighbors and activists who came to my holiday open house in Glendale over the weekend. We collected several hundred children's books that we will donate to local public-school libraries. Thank you

everyone for your book donations and for sharing some holiday cheer with #TeamPortantino.

I want to give a big shout out to my friend Toni Atkins who will be our next Senate Leader. Toni has been a friend for over 20 years and I know she will be a dynamic and successful ProTem. Senator Atkins led the effort to bring an affordable housing funding source into being through SB 2 and was a joint author of SB 562 on single payer health care. She will carry on a strong and positive agenda that our current ProTem, Kevin DeLeon should take pride in championing. She will be the first woman in California history to be elected Pro Tem and I will proudly cast my vote for her in January.

In family news, Sofia will be coming home from New York for Christmas making me very happy and Bella's JV Soccer team won a big soccer tournament against several Division 1 schools from the South Bay. She even set up the game winning goal! From my family to yours -- please have a blessed holiday and a safe and Happy New Year!

– Anthony



Special Thanks to Our Patrons

Dr. Janice Nelson & Doug Hayes

And really special thanks to Our Benefactors

Betty Sandford, Monrovia

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

Dr. Janice Nelson & Doug Hayes

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

Dr. Janice Nelson & Doug Hayes

**From
41st District
Assemblymember
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

As we near the end of 2017, I'm already looking forward to what we can accomplish together in 2018 to build upon our successes – growing our economy, protecting our environment, strengthening our infrastructure and supporting working families. The Interim Recess, between now and January, is a great opportunity to provide me with your policy ideas that could have a positive impact for the state and the 41st Assembly District.

Some of the best legislative ideas and solutions come from community members like you. Last year I introduced two bills that came directly from constituents. The first was Assembly 279 that would have extended authority to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and Regional Centers to adjust the rates of developmental disability providers to comply with legally binding local mandates and minimum wage levels across the state. The second, Assembly Bill 1567 that automatically notifies foster youth and former foster youth of the services they qualify for upon acceptance at a Calif. Community College or Calif. State University, was signed into law.

It was Journey House of Pasadena that came to me early this year with this bill idea to improve education outcomes for former foster youth that ultimately became Assembly Bill 1567. Recently I had the opportunity to celebrate our victory with Journey House and the former foster youth you involved in success of the bill. It was their efforts organizing stakeholders and sharing their personal stories with legislators in Sacramento that transform-

ed this idea into a new law. I'm incredibly proud to be a part of this victory and look forward to working with them support foster youth and former foster youth throughout the state.

Over the Thanksgiving holiday, I had the opportunity to partner with local and state water utilities including East Pasadena Water to provide \$1,500 in grocery store gift cards for families at Flintridge Center. The gift cards will benefit families who are currently in or graduated from Flintridge Center's Apprenticeship Preparation Program. The program prepares and assists previously incarcerated and gang affiliated community members in qualifying for careers in the construction trades by providing them with information, experience and skills necessary to be successful. The giveaway was part of the California Water Association's Statewide "Operation Gobble" Program – a joint philanthropic venture between California's investor-owned water companies, local nonprofit organizations and policymakers to distribute turkeys and donations to families during Thanksgiving.

One of the most significant events for Pasadena took place in November when the Rose Bowl unveiled the new statue of Jackie Robinson. It was honor to speak again with Rachel Robinson and Vin Scully during the ceremony. Jackie Robinson remains a true hero who continues to influence our lives by his actions and words both on and off the field, even 70 years after he broke the color barrier in a major professional sport.

It's been an incredible year and a privilege to represent you in Sacramento. I'm grateful for your support and thank you for the work that you do. I hope you enjoy the holiday season and look forward to keeping in touch in the New Year!

Sincerely,

– Chris R. Holden

Help Flip the 39th CD

Arroyo Democratic Club members are working with Swing Left and other groups to bring about Republican Congressman Ed Royce's early retirement in the 39th CD. You can help by joining other volunteers canvassing Democratic and independent 39th CD voters at upcoming Swing Left events:

Sunday, Dec. 17 1-4 p.m. in La Habra

Saturday, Dec. 23 1-4 p.m. in Brea

Saturday, Dec. 30, 1 p.m. in Fullerton.

Sign up and get full details at swingleft.org/district/CA-39/calendar. You can also reach the Swing Left calendar via ACT's webpage, ACTpasadena.org. Contact the host Steve Timberman (steventimberman@gmail.com) with any questions.

Volunteers will be provided with clipboards and materials and comprehensive training before heading out in pairs. Please bring a fully charged smartphone and download the MiniVAN Touch app, available for android and iphone through the app store. (So we can record data automatically.) If you don't have a smartphone you will be partnered with someone who does have one. Don't forget to wear comfortable shoes and bring some water.

You may contact ADC President Bill Hackett at billhackett2002@yahoo.com or 626 705-2180 to talk about ridesharing.

NOTE: Swing Left is a national grassroots network that helps people take action in their closest Congressional Swing Districts to swing the House in the 2018 midterm elections and put a check on the Trump agenda.



Welcome New and Returning ACT Member

Susan Dembowski, Pasadena

Rep. Judy Chu & Senate Candidate Mike Eng host Annual Holiday Party and Toy Drive

Congresswoman Judy Chu (CA 27) and Senate Candidate Mike Eng for SD 22 indicated that they are appreciative of all those who joined them at their 9th Annual Holiday Party and Toy Drive to celebrate the holiday spirit of sharing by donating a toy to a child in need in the greater San Gabriel Valley

Before the toys were distributed, the Dewey Elementary Woodcraft Rangers Dance Team from the Garvey School District kicked off the event with a holiday Jingle Bell hip hop routine.

Close to 200 guests attended and showed support to the cause. Big toy contributors were Charlie Woo of MegaToys and Jennifer Brawley of William Mark Company. Both they and State elected officials were spotted at the event: candidate for 2018 Governor of California Treasurer John Chiang, Arcadia City Clerk Gene Glasco, Monterey Park Mayor Pro Tem Stephen Lam, Monterey Park Councilman Peter Chan, San Gabriel Councilman Chin Ho Liao, Azusa Mayor Joseph Romero Rocha, Altadena Councilwoman Dr. Sandra Thomas and Judy Matthews, La Puente Councilman Dan Holloway, Pasadena City College Trustee Linda Wah, Alhambra Unified Boardmember Bob Gin, and former San Marino Mayor Eugene Sun.

The recipients of 2017 Annual Toy Drive were:

- Arcadia Elks Lodge 2025 - critical part of the Arcadia community by helping the local community with a variety of programs such as food drives and Veteran initiatives.
- Bright Future Scholars - Spearheaded by Altadena Councilwoman Dr. Sandra Thomas, this program provides a helping hand to at-risk youth who have maintained a strong GPA

in school despite facing insurmountable odds.

- SteamCoders - This non-profit organization teaches underrepresented and underserved students and their families the fundamentals of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math, also known as STEAM.
- Glendora Ministerial Association – Composed of a community of Churches in the City of Glendora, this association provides a variety of important services to families, including food banks and shelters.
- Chinese Parents for the Disabled (CPAD) - Open for over 20 years, CPAD provides educational and recreational services for individuals with special needs to help achieve their full potential. CPAD also provides emotional support and resources for assistance.
- Professional Child Development Associates - PCDA has been serving the San Gabriel Valley for 20 years. Their work benefits children, teens and young adults with autism or other developmental challenges through innovative therapies, services, and professional education.
- Sierra Madre Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3208 - VFW Post 3208 gives assistance to all Veterans by helping them fill out applications for benefits and providing resources on various Veteran related issues.
- Boys & Girls Club of West San Gabriel Valley - The group has been a cornerstone of the community since it opened its doors in 1972. The Boys & Girls Club provides a safe and structured environment for young people after school, during holidays and on summer vacation.
- Pathfinders Ministry - This incredible ministry is an important part of the City of Azusa because it provides a number of community services throughout the year that families rely on. Last year they gave toys to over 1,600 children in Azusa.

Healthcare Call to Action

Do you know people who utilize a Federal Qualified Health Center (FQHC)? If you know me, then you know someone whose family has directly benefited from the Health Center network. My husband and I utilize ChapCare, our local FQHC, for our son's primary care. The services are great!

Plus, ChapCare's mission is to provide excellent, comprehensive and innovative healthcare that is accessible to ALL residents of the San Gabriel Valley. This means ChapCare serves those most in need. For example, ten percent of ChapCare's patient population is homeless.

But now Health Center funding is under threat. Even though Health Centers enjoy bipartisan support, Congress failed to reauthorize the Community Health Centers Fund. Worse yet, Congress failed to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), a program many ChapCare pediatric patients depend on. Without CHIP's reauthorization, 9 million children will lose their health insurance nationally. Additionally, without funding for the Health Centers, 9 million patients nationally will lose access to the primary care they need, including medical, dental, vision and behavioral health services.

Health Centers serve the areas of this country where people need healthcare the most. CHIP helps children who would otherwise fall through the cracks of the health insurance system. Please contact your senators and congressional representatives today to advocate on behalf of these programs. To avoid Health Centers reducing their services and children going without health insurance, a solution must be found before the end of 2017. Please contact your senators and congressional representatives today! For an easy tool to take action, please go to hcadvocacy.org/takeaction. California's open enrollment period will last

longer than the national enrollment period!! Covered California's fifth open enrollment period began on November 1, 2017 and will end on January 31, 2018.

ChapCare offers health insurance screening and enrollment services at three locations:

Lime Health Center - 513 E. Lime Avenue, Suite 102, Monrovia, CA 91016, Monday and Friday, from 8am – 5pm, (626) 486-9729.

Del Mar Health Center – 3160 E. Del Mar Boulevard, Suite 100, Pasadena, CA 91107, Tuesday from 8am – 5pm, (626) 486-9729.

El Monte Enrollment Shop – 11635 Valley Blvd, Suite D, El Monte, CA 91732, Monday – Friday from 10am – 7pm and Saturday 10am – 2pm, (626) 486-9696.

To enroll in a health insurance plan, people need to bring the following:

- Identification (Driver's license, state ID, passport),
- Proof of California Residency (CA driver's license/ID, utility bill),
- Proof of current income (recent paystubs, last year's tax return, etc),
- Proof of Legal Residency (Social Security Card, Naturalization Certificate, Employment Authorization Card, Residency Cards),
- Know birthdates and home zip code.

For more information on ChapCare and its services please visit www.chapcare.org.

– Emily Stork



More Paraproducts

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

We never really grow up -- we only learn how to act in public.

After Hurricanes HARVEY and IRMA

By John Grula, reprinted from the *Pasadena Weekly* with permission



Hurricane Harvey, followed closely by Hurricane Irma, are among the worst extreme weather events our nation has ever experienced. The final death tolls are still being determined.

Many thousands have been displaced, perhaps permanently. Some have lost everything. The governors of Texas and Florida have said it will take years to recover (N.Y. Times, 8/29/2017; L.A. Times, 9/13/2017). Incredibly, it appears that Harvey and Irma may even eclipse Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy as human disasters.

Folks, this is what global climate change looks like. It's the new normal. In his recent movie, "An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power," former Vice President Al Gore discusses at some length the consequences of global warming. One is increasing amounts of water vapor in the atmosphere and therefore increased chances of catastrophic flooding. This is exactly what happened in Southeastern Texas during the Harvey event. Record setting rainfall (L.A. Times, 8/30/2017) of biblical proportions. Once-in-a-thousand-years flooding (Pasadena Star-News, 8/29/2017).

See Al Gore's new movie if you possibly can. As usual, he is brilliant, and elucidates other threats posed by global warming. For example, heat waves even worse than the ones we've experienced this summer and fall in Southern California. In a 7/29/2017 N.Y. Times article, "Hotter summers, once exceptional, become the norm," this is described in graphic detail. Extremely hot summers, the kind that were rare in the 1950's, have in recent years become common. Killer heat waves such as those that have recently roasted Southern Europe

and Pakistan (where temperatures have sometimes neared 130 degrees Fahrenheit) are part of this more general trend.

Of course, heat waves, along with Santa Ana winds, also increase the chances of catastrophic fires such as the ones we're seeing now in Southern California. They are always a concern throughout California.

It is somewhat ironic that the high pressure system that caused our late-August heat wave also impeded Tropical Storm Harvey's ability to move inland and dissipate (Pasadena Star-News, 8/29/2017). We are more connected than is generally realized.

Another Gore prediction is that global warming will also prolong and worsen droughts. Not good news for a parched California. Climate change means some areas will get too much rain (like Houston), while others won't get enough (California and the American West).

On 7/25/2017, the L.A. Times reported that researchers predict sea-level change from glaciers melting in the heat of a warming planet risk flooding many coastal communities. The flooding we've recently witnessed in Houston? Imagine this also happening in Miami, Boston, and even San Diego County. Coastal L.A. County could also be affected.

Global warming is a vicious circle. Warming is now occurring most rapidly in polar areas such as the Alaskan tundra, where permafrost extending many feet underground is melting at an alarming rate. The problem is that huge amounts of carbon are frozen within the permafrost, and as it melts greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane are released into the atmosphere. This will only accelerate the heating of the planet (N.Y. Times, 8/24/2017).

The human toll a hotter planet takes can be devastating. An 8/4/17 N.Y Times article, "In sweltering South, climate change is a workplace hazard," documents this in detail. Espe-

cially for people who work outdoors, like postal letter carriers, it can be life-threatening. The article describes how a worker vomited and convulsed after mowing lawns in brutal heat. Other workers covered him in ice and he eventually recovered, but it was a close call. It is people at the bottom of the ladder who suffer most from global warming.

After Harvey and Irma, one can only hope that climate-change deniers will finally wake-up. One would also hope that complacent officials like Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek (Pasadena Weekly, 7/13/17) will get a spine and join the more than 350 mayors in the US who have endorsed the Mayors coalition to support the Paris Climate Agreement. President Trump has backed-out of this agreement, breaking U.S. promises, isolating us from the rest of the world, and endangering the entire planet.

In the aftermath of Harvey and Irma, climate leadership has never been more needed.

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



Another letter to the Editor

While we're all basking in the glow of Doug Jones victory over Roy Moore there is a message to be learned from this contest. A month prior to the Washington Post's expose about Moore's sexual proclivities I was reading that many Democratic operatives were urging the DNC and the DCCC to throw lots of money behind Doug Jones and while I think Senator elect Jones will be an amazing representative for Alabama I'm certain that if it hadn't been for the Post's expose he wouldn't have come close to winning no matter how much money we would have thrown down that hole. If the money and effort afforded this windmill tilting fiasco had been used to solidify what had been assumed to be safe states in the Mid West she would be President today.

The lesson; We need to better ascertain what is possible and what is not in order to husband our resources both financial and labor. Unless there is an extraordinary circumstance like the Moore revelations we should not be wasting resources on statewide elections in states that are as solidly Republican as California is currently solidly Democratic. This does not mean we don't try to extend our outreach to local elections in those states as Democrats always do well in urban areas and because Trump is President we can make inroads into the suburbs. Bottom line Presidential elections and Senate contests will be won and lost in Purple States not solidly Red or Blue ones.

– Ron Garber



Upcoming Meetings

February or March – Mark Gonzalez, new L A County Democratic Party Chair and former Judy Boggs intern will be our guest speaker.



Where Have You Been Recently?

Whether you have been near or far, please send a high-resolution photo (of you) to Chuck at hains27@sbcglobal.net for *The Phoenix*.



Dec Jan Calendar

- January 4
Thursday
7 p.m. General Membership Meeting at the home of Marilee Marshall and Bruce Wright, 654 S. Madison Ave., Pasadena. Guest speaker is Hank Guerrero on LA Co's Civil Grand Jury. Election of officers. Socializing at 7 p.m.; meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- January 5
Friday
9-10 a.m. Progressive Discussion Group at Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena. Msg Dale Gronemeier for more info at dlg@dgronemeier.com. Also Jan. 19 and Feb. 2 and 16.
- January 8
Monday
7 p.m. UDH Steering Meeting at the Garripoli/Gallogly home, 859 N. Avenue 67, Los Angeles.



January *Phoenix* Deadline

The deadline for the January *Phoenix* will be Sunday evening, January 7. Please send your items for *The Phoenix* to Editor Chuck Hains or Sally Beer at hains27@sbcglobal.net on or before the deadline.

We will prep *The Phoenix* for mailing on Thursday, January 11, 7 p.m., location to be decided.

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

2018 Membership Renewal Time

With the New Year it's time to renew your ACT and ADC membership. Please use the form below or renew online at www.ACTpasadena.org. Or you can wait to receive your membership renewal letter.

If you have any questions about your membership please contact Executive Director Jon Fuhrman at jon_fuhrman@charter.net.



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

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

Information provided will be available to other members and endorsed candidates upon request.