



The Official Publication of ACT
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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

United Democratic Headquarters
invites you to join us for

NOT QUITE
★UDH **Oktoberfest 2017**

at

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Overview of the 39th Congressional District (part 1):

Republican Ed Royce has been adopted for early retirement by ACT/ADC. Royce represents California's 39th Congressional District, which covers parts of Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino counties. Cities in the district include Fullerton, Brea, La Habra, La Habra Heights, Buena Park, Anaheim Hills, Yorba Linda, Placentia, Diamond Bar, Chino Hills, Hacienda Heights and Rowland Heights.

This is an affluent, well-educated suburban district. By comparison, education levels are very similar to Judy Chu's district (27th CD), while average annual income is about 20% higher. In large part, this reflects a smaller proportion of low-income residents.

The 39th CD is approximately 55.1% White/Anglo; roughly 24.3% Asian; and 2.4% African-American. The district is 34.6% Hispanic – with almost half of Hispanics also identifying as one or more of the other ethnicities (which is why the total exceeds 100%).

At present, the 39th CD is @34.4% Democratic by registration; approximately 36.1% Republican; and approximately 29.5% independent (and/or minor party). Registration trends are somewhat obscured because the district has been radically revised several times in the reapportionment process. As a result, its aggregate voting and registration histories (prior to 2012) are not very useful.

The 39th had long been a Republican stronghold, and Ed Royce held the seat from 1993-2003. But after reapportionment in 2001-2, it became a Democratic seat and was held for a decade by Linda Sanchez. Royce, meanwhile, continued in Congress by running and win-

ning in the neighboring 40th CD. When the 2011-12 reapportionment shifted the 39th back in a more Republican direction, Royce retook the seat.

At the presidential level, the voting trend is good (though short):

- Obama lost the district narrowly in 2012 – 47.1% to 50.8%
- Clinton won the district easily in 2016 – 51.5% to 42.9%. Note the 3.5% increase in votes for minor candidates. That suggests potential for an even higher Democratic vote in future years. .

At the Congressional level, the trend is not as positive. Remember that Royce is, in essence, a 25-year incumbent:

- Royce won in 2012 – 58% to 42%. While this was not a “gimme” race,

Royce did outspend his Democratic opponent (Jay Chen) by almost 4-1; and he ran more than 7% ahead of McCain.

- Royce won again in 2014 (a non-presidential year) – 69% to 31%. He was all but unopposed, outspending the Democrat (Peter Anderson) more than 800-1.
- In 2016 Royce's vote dropped sharply – 57.2% to 42.8%; yet he still ran 14.3% ahead of Donald Trump. On the other hand, there was no serious competition: his Democratic opponent (Brett Murdock) was outspent 50-1.

All across the nation, districts like this one have reacted sharply and negatively to Trump – putting incumbents like Royce in serious danger. In 2018 he will face a strong, well-funded Democratic opponent for the first time ever and, if it were a presidential year, he would probably be toast. The question now is whether or not Democrats can summon a pres-



idental-year level of energy, registration and turnout. That's what it will take to win the 39th in a mid-term election.

— Fred Register

Note: Part 2 of this Overview will be printed in the October *Phoenix*.

You Can Help!

Folks you can contact to be involved in the 39th CD efforts:

"**Indivisible CA D-39.**" This group regularly meets in Fullerton, CA. Their website is at <https://indivisibleca39.org/>

"**Swing Left CA-39**" This group is the central hub for all Swing Left groups targeting CA-39, Ed Royce. <https://swingleft.org/district/CA-39>.

Edwenna Werner, <ewerner@usc.edu>. Edwenna is our contact at the Democratic Party of Orange County central committee efforts in the 39th CD

— Joanne Wendler



Wonderings and Wanderings

By Inman Moore



The Successes of D. Trump

On the surface, President Trump appears to have gotten off to a very bad start. But let's take a few moments to look at his "successes".

He has succeeded, for example, in destroying the United States participation in most of the international committees and commissions that have been in effect for years. Most of the European Nations are aghast at many of his public statements on international affairs.

By consensus America, under Trump, is no longer the leader of the Free World. What a success to be rid of that huge responsibility! That mantle has fallen on Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of Germany. What a relief for

Trump! Just think for a moment. In my lifetime we were at war with Germany, Italy, and Japan. And now Trump has succeeded in making the German Chancellor the leader of the Free World. What a success this has been for Trump! He can now feel free to flee Washington every week-end for the Trump Florida Golf Courses with the leadership of the free world no longer on his shoulders. Chalk that up for a big success for the Donald.

Just think what a success he is having in keeping people out of the United States and even planning to throw out people who were brought here as little children who are now grown adults with children of their own and working at productive jobs, some 800 thousand of them. Over 200 thousand of them are here in California. Does Donald think he is saving America for the native sons and daughters? What a great success!

But wait a minute! Wasn't Donald's grandfather an immigrant? Wow! Do you mean we elected a president whose grandfather was from Germany, the country that instigated World War II? Now I would call that a success for Donald!

Over the years we have let Germans immigrate to America? Wow! Come to think of it we have let lots of Italians and Japanese into America since World War II. My Scotch-Irish Ancestors came to America a little earlier in 1790. The first blacks came much earlier to America, as slaves, in 1609. As a matter of fact most present day Americans came from somewhere else. Isn't Donald lucky that, in the past, America has welcomed people from all over the world? Yes Donald has been extremely successful in that respect. I wonder why, since he was so lucky to be accepted as a son of an immigrant, that he can't find a way to accommodate the DACAS (Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals). Surely Donald, you can't be that hardhearted!

Just think how successful the Donald has been in other areas. For instance, I can't think of any president that has cost us so much money for family and recreation.

But Donald, a word of advice! The next time you stage a "feel good" rally and have a token black placed in a prominent spot for TV coverage, please do him the honor of giving him a professional sign to display and not that old miserable handmade job!

So, yes, in a way as a con artist, the Donald has been extremely successful.

— Inman Moore



Inman Writes about ACT

ACTing Out, written by Inman Moore, first appeared in the August 17 issue of the *Pasadena Weekly*.

It is a cogent description of ACT and our goals and history. Here it is in its entirety:

ACTing Out

Pasadena Political Action Group Wields Great Power in Local Elections

The name of the political organization known as ACT is not an acronym or initials of a larger name. ACT gets its name from its members, who do just that: They act, and their success in getting people elected is renowned.

While ACT is not affiliated with any political party, it has a definite liberal leaning. It grew out of a number of local people who were extremely active in the McGovern for President Campaign in 1972. While greatly disappointed by McGovern's defeat, they felt it was time for a more liberal atmosphere locally and they wanted to continue the fellowship established in the McGovern campaign.

Those early founders of ACT were tremendously interested in having a more liberal atmosphere in the public school system, as well

as in other public offices. With those factors in mind, ACT held its organizational meeting on Feb. 4, 1973. It rapidly grew to a membership of over 400 and still continues to this day as a very large and influential organization.

Early on, ACT adopted the following goals:

1. Provide an open forum for all interested candidates so that issues of interest to the membership can be discussed.
2. Provide a means of communication to the membership through a newsletter.
3. Establish monies for the use of the organization.
4. Serve the community through a series of community forums and workshops, thereby also attracting new members.
5. Maintain and improve our precinct organization.
6. Promote and assist candidates who appeal strongly to the philosophy of this organization.



Pictured here are Judy Boggs, Fred Register and Jon Fuhrman, from an article in the '70's

One of the things that has kept ACT a strong and active organization through the years is its newsletter, *The Phoenix*, which is mailed monthly to the entire membership. Ably edit-

ed and published by Chuck Hains and his associate, Sally Beer, The Phoenix is the envy of other organizations. Jon Fuhrman's "Political Notes" carried by The Phoenix is always eagerly read. The Phoenix also carries monthly columns from the political officers in our area, as well as other political news and columns.

In 1970, every state and federal office covering this area was occupied by a Republican. Today every state and local office is filled by a Democrat. This is no accident. ACT played a major role in this turnaround. Here is one example. ACT knew that Dr. Jack Scott, popular president of Pasadena City College, was retiring. A committee from ACT called on Scott and urged him to run for the Assembly. Their urging prevailed and the rest is history. Scott won the election and years later, when termed out of the Assembly, with the aid of ACT and others Scott was elected to the state Senate. Carol Liu, with the support of ACT, was elected state senator. ACT was also active in supporting Anthony Portantino in his elections to the Assembly and Senator. ACT also supported Chris Holden in his successful bid for the Assembly.

Democratic Congressman Adam Schiff is another success story. With the help of ACT and the local Democratic clubs, Schiff was elected to the US House of Representatives, a spot long held by Republicans. Today, Schiff is one of the top representatives in Congress. Many other elections in this area, such as those for mayor, City Council and the school board, have been greatly affected by the actions and support of ACT.

ACT has a research committee which strongly "vets" political candidates and then presents its recommendations to the ACT Steering Committee, and eventually to the entire membership. ACT also sponsors public forums. While ACT has a liberal bent and has strongly supported many Democrats, ACT has also

supported Republicans over the years, including: Al Lowe, Andy Wilson, Ann Hight, Bill Thomson, Jess Hughston, Armando Gonzales and Diane Philobosian.

Closely associated with ACT is the Arroyo Democratic Club, fully chartered by the Democratic Party. Chartered Democratic Party Clubs are not allowed to endorse candidates of the opposite party. ACT, however, can endorse whoever they please.

Over the years, several ACT members have become successful paid professionals in the political arena. Among the ACT professionals are Fred Register and Jon Fuhrman. The late Judy Boggs and Wendy Soltes were excellent professional fundraisers. All of these have contributed greatly to the successes of ACT.

The evidence is clear that ACT has made quite an impact on several close-knit communities here in the San Gabriel Valley. As to what the future holds, no one fully knows. Donald Trump has turned the federal political arena upside down. But one thing is for sure: ACT will be there, struggling to create their vision of a better world.

– Inman Moore, with permission



ACT Members Receive NAACP Honors

ACT members are among those to be honored by the Pasadena Branch of the NAACP at its 32nd Annual Ruby McKnight Williams Awards Dinner on October 12 at the Pasadena Hilton.

Senator Anthony Portantino will receive the Civic Award. J. Morgan Kousser, CalTech Professor of History and Social Science, will receive the Education Award and also is the keynote speaker. Gronemeier and Associates (Dale Gronemeier and Skip Hickambottom) will receive the President's Award. Congratulations all!

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Tuesday, September 12.

It's a good thing that in last month's column I didn't try to predict what was forthcoming in the next few weeks. There was no way I could have anticipated the Charlottesville drama, the President's sudden pivot to doing deals with the Democratic leadership, the DACA decision, the foreshadowing of what may be a wave of retirements on the GOP side of Congress, and, worst of all, the pain from two successive hurricanes crashing into Texas and Florida.

Fortunately, and more in spite of President Trump than because of the President's leadership, the government functioned relatively smoothly and, to the extent it can, is providing critical assistance to the impacted areas. The costs, particularly to rebuild the Virgin Islands and the Florida Keys, where it seems most of the homes and businesses have been

either wiped out or substantially damaged, are going to be enormous. Hopefully, Congress will recognize that, even if the tally reaches into the hundreds of billions, the aid simply has to be spent, and there is no realistic hope of finding offsetting reductions in other spending.

This will simply add to the strains in the GOP coalition (one almost can't really call it a party anymore, as opposed to a loose association of assorted blocs). The debt hawks are seeing their dreams of fiscal restraint disappearing, as even the President is considering simply abolishing the debt limit rather than continually fighting over increasing it. The anti-immigration elements are at once heartened by the stated determination to eliminate the executive order implementing DACA but aghast at the likelihood that the President would actually support Congressional action to institutionalize exactly what DACA has been doing for the last two years. The climate change skeptics are running for shelter as even Republican mayors in Florida and Texas dare them to deny reality. Republican Governors are urging the Congress to fix, rather than ditch, Obamacare, and they are finding a warm and bipartisan reception in the Senate committee overseeing health and labor issues.

Are we seeing our political system beginning to reset itself? There are a few intriguing hints. Several Republicans have announced their retirements – Charlie Dent from Pennsylvania, Dave Trott from Michigan, Dave Reichert from Washington – moving those districts into the Toss-up or Lean Republican columns, instead of being safe GOP seats. Sen. Bob Corker from Tennessee, who chairs the prestigious Foreign Affairs Committee, is publicly musing about retiring. Should this wave grow, the odds of recapturing the House would noticeably improve.

The Senate remains a tougher nut to crack, but keep an eye on the Alabama GOP run-off

election on Sept. 26. When Jeff Sessions gave up his Senate seat to become AG, Luther Strange, the State Attorney-General, was appointed to the open seat, but Alabama law requires a special election to fill the seat. Since no candidate got over 50% in the GOP primary, a run-off election is required, and Strange is running about 20 points behind Roy Moore, the former Chief Justice of Alabama's Supreme Court. Former is the operative word here – he was kicked off the bench once for disobeying a federal court order to remove copies of the 10 Commandments from his courtroom, then re-elected, then suspended and resigned for refusing to comply with a federal court order to allow gay marriages in Alabama. Moore is an unrepentant birther, and he apparently has been a semi-regular guest on the radio show of a local pastor who just recently declared that God sent Hurricane Harvey to punish Houston for electing a gay mayor.

Democrats don't exactly have a promising track record of electing candidates in Alabama, but Moore is so far out there that the



Democrat, Doug Jones, is polling within 3 points of Moore. Jones was born and bred in Alabama, graduated from the Univ. of Alabama, and served as U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama at the end of the Clinton Administration. He is perhaps best known for successfully prosecuting KKK members for the infamous 1963 bombing of a church in Birmingham. He is focusing on jobs (including increasing the minimum wage), health care and education, and is solidly pro-choice (which actually might not help in Alabama).

President Trump had been strongly supporting the appointed incumbent, Luther Strange, but he has gone relatively silent recently.

Meanwhile, Sen. Mitch McConnell has doubled down on his support for Strange, despite Strange being 20 points behind, because McConnell is not at all interested in having more bomb throwers like Ted Cruz in his caucus. But conservative elements like Steve Bannon and the Mercer family are strongly supporting Moore, and are looking to expand that fight by backing primary challengers to several other incumbent GOP senators (especially Dean Heller in Nevada and Jeff Flake in Arizona).

The Alabama primary run-off is Sept. 26, and the general election will be on Dec. 12. Should Moore win the run-off, it is not out of the

realm of possibility that Strange would withhold his endorsement; the feud between the two is becoming intense. If Moore wins, a substantial part of the Republican establishment might just stay home on Dec. 12, and Mitch McConnell might just calculate that one more Democrat is not nearly as annoying as another Ted Cruz.

Here in Pasadena, the City and the School District will shortly be confronting some tough choices

about our electoral system. A recent state law requires that local districts move their election dates to the state-wide general election dates – either June or November of even number years – if the turnout in local elections is at least 25% less than the average turnout over the prior four statewide general elections. That is a high threshold, and virtually every city and school district, including ours, falls within that category.

The fact that Pasadena is a Charter City, which presumably carries with it a greater degree of independence from state control, seems not to prevail, at least according to a recent opinion from the State Attorney-General. So

both the City and School District are, apparently, on the hook to comply with state law.

One can argue that this is a bad idea, primarily because blending city elections with state or national primary or general elections will make it nearly impossible to have a focused community discussion and debate of city issues and because it will dramatically undermine the non-partisan nature of local elections. As compelling as these arguments may be, they are unlikely to provide much ammunition with which to challenge a state law, especially one with which most other jurisdictions are already beginning to comply.

Pasadena has an additional wrinkle, and that is our primary / run-off system. Some jurisdictions already have a plurality winner rule – that is, no matter how many candidates there are, the one with the most votes wins outright, and there is no run-off. Both Pasadena City and the PUSD, however, have always had a 50% rule – if you got 50% + 1, you won outright, but otherwise there was a run-off between the top two vote getters. That way, the successful candidate always received an outright majority of the votes cast.

But if we were to retain that system, the primary would be in June and the run-off in November – a five month lag, instead of the current six-week period between races. That five month lag period adds dramatically to the cost of running and complicates efforts especially for a challenger, since the incumbent has 5 months of City Council meetings in which to bolster his or her name recognition and apparent record of accomplishments.

Making this problem even worse, California is considering moving our June primary to March, to make our votes more relevant in a Presidential selection process. That could mean an eight-month lag between the city primary and run-off, which is really unattractive. Any change would have to be approved by the

voters, since it would be a change to the City's Charter. It would also contort the current or future terms of incumbents, as we re-synchronize our terms to the new calendar. The City Council will shortly be addressing these issues, either directly or by creating a Citizen Task Force to work through the possibilities and see if we can find some reasonably attractive alternative. Should we go to a single election? Could we implement rank-order voting, as the League has advocated for some years now? Could it be an entirely mail election? Should the County administer it for us, or should we administer it ourselves? Would having a "separate" mail-only election, administered by the City but held on the same day, insulate our non-partisan offices, at least to a degree, from the partisan national or state elections? We're going to have to make some tough choices shortly, and hopefully they will be informed by some fascinating debates.

— Jon Fuhrman



Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Alan Mendrala, Pasadena

Pamela Royce, Pasadena

Special Thanks to Our Patrons

Nancy Warner & Christine Reynolds



ACT/ADC Sponsors Not Quite Oktoberfest

ACT and ADC members agreed to sponsor UDC's *Not Quite Oktoberfest* at the \$1000 level at our September 7 meeting. Interested limited income or student members may contact ACT Executive Director Jon Fuhrman about acquiring one of our eight sponsor tickets at jon_fuhrman@charter.net on a first come, first served basis.

ACT Steering Committee Opposes Trump's Decision to End DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)

On September 7, the same day that the University of California filed suit against the administration in federal court charging that rescinding the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival) program harmed the University and its students, the ACT Steering Committee voted unanimously to oppose phasing out the program. "It is imperative . . . that we stand up for these vital members of the UC community," said University of California President, Janet Napolitano. "They represent the best of who we are – hard working, resilient and motivated high achievers. To arbitrarily and capriciously end the DACA program, which benefits our country as a whole, is not only unlawful, it is contrary to our national values and bad policy."

DACA provides temporary immigration relief to over 800,000 young people, many of whom were brought to the United States as children and who know no other country. At the best estimate there are 60,000 undocumented students attending college in California: 47,700 at the community colleges; 8,300 at The California State University, and 4,000 at the University of California. Approximately half of these students are protected by DACA. In addition, there are approximately 48,000 children and youth in Los Angeles County who meet all the program criteria (including being in the country since 2007) but were under 15 when DACA was launched and are DACA eligible.

DACA students are our vital part of our community. There are 1,100 DACA students attending Pasadena City College according to Dr. Rajen Vurdien, college President. "DACA students have been raised in our communities, taught in our public schools, and abided by our

laws. The time, energy, and money that have been invested into these students would be a huge economic loss for our state both in resource and in contributions they could be making. Ending DACA means families will be torn apart, our economy will suffer, bright young minds in our colleges and universities will face unfair uncertainty about their future, and California will be further away from meeting the demands for a more educated workforce." (Michele Siqueiros, President of the Campaign for College Opportunity, in an open letter to President Trump.)

— Jeanette Mann



Viewing the Eclipse at Cal Tech



ACT members Beth Gertmenian, Jeanette Mann, and Betty Krachman at the Cal Tech Eclipse Party

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



Dear ACT Members,

Many of you know that I lost my older brother to depression and ultimately suicide. As I visited him in three different county facilities I saw and experienced many deficiencies and challenges with mental health treatment. One thing that particular concerned me was the lack of information shared with family members. As he was placed on different levels of care there were evaluations done with no opportunity for me to share my perspective or to even know when these hearings were taking place. Hospitals have no obligation to set a time certain within their required 36-hour window nor is there family notification. I hoped to be able to improve this situation and I am very pleased that Governor Brown signed SB 565 which I authored to do just that. Starting in January, hospitals will set time certain for these hearings and make efforts to notify loved ones about them. I'm hopeful, that by offering family members the opportunity to involve themselves in supportive care it will improve the system and may just save a life. I was proud that this was my first Senate Bill signed into law.

The Western part of my district came through the La Tuna Fire with tremendous community spirit. Our first responders from Glendale, Burbank, LA City, LA County, Mutual Aide, State and Tribal Departments worked around the clock to keep the fire under control and protect life and property. When it was done, it was the largest fire in Los Angeles City history with only a handful of minor injuries and minimal property loss. The community re-

sponded in kind with a volunteer effort that makes one pause and appreciate the kindness exhibited by so many generous people.

It's our final week in Sacramento with about 1000 Bills to vote on. As I write this, I don't know the fate of several important issues. Earlier in the year I voted in support of SB 54 which protects Dream Act students on campuses and families in their communities. It passed the Senate and I'm hopeful that it will pass the Assembly before the end of session. Given recent actions in Washington it's more important than ever that California stands strong in its values and does everything it can to protect every resident.

Additionally, SB 478 to help community college students transfer to four-year colleges with their degrees in hand, has passed the legislature and is headed to the Governor. SB 328 our school start time effort is coming up next week in the Assembly and I have my fingers crossed it will pass. SB 275 to freeze the rents of Caltrans tenants helping them to purchase the homes they've lived in for years is also coming up any day. I'm hopeful that they both will pass.

I've already begun to work on my agenda for next year, I've introduced a bill to change the way elections appear on ballots. Recent state law requires cities to consolidate elections with county elections. This will prevent the PUSD and the City from holding stand-alone elections. Upon hearing concerns from local officials that our local races would get lost in large election ballots, it was suggested to me by City Clerk Ardy Kassakhian that we change our ballot order to feature local elections first. I've put in a bill which requires elections to begin with the most local elections. Practically, the ballot order will be Local City and School Elections, County Elections, State Elections and then conclude with Federal Contests.

Recently, I've read several reports on the need to place automatic defibrillators on mass transit. Defibrillators save lives and they should be more readily available and I have authored a bill to require their placement.

On the family front, I can share firsthand that Bella's school's change to a later start time is having a positive benefit and teens getting more sleep. Sofia is doing well in her new job in Montreal. For me, Labor Day arrived way too quickly. I had the chance to appreciate our hard-working men and women at the annual Labor Day march and BBQ in Wilmington. Despite fears about Washington our labor brothers and sisters in California remain strong and committed to progressive values and ideals.

Warmly,

– Anthony



Democrat Wins in Oklahoma

From the Electoral-Vote.com blog:

There have been a number of special elections this year, which partisans (particularly those on the Democratic side of the aisle) have been watching eagerly for signs as to what is going to happen in 2018. At the national level — elections for vacated House seats, mostly — the blue team hasn't won much, but they have outperformed their 2016 numbers almost everywhere. So, the tea leaves are a little fuzzy in those races. At the state and local level, however, the Democrats [have done very well](#) indeed, including in races that the Party really has no business winning.

There was another such victory in Oklahoma on Tuesday, as Jacob Rosecrants (D) faced off against Darin Chambers (R) in OK House of Representatives District 46. In the last three elections in that district, the Republican took 65%, 81%, and 64% of the vote. This time, the Democrat [won](#), 60.4% to 39.6%. That is a swing of more than 25 points in just one year.

There are mitigating factors, of course—in the last three elections, the Republican was an incumbent; Chambers ran a terrible campaign, etc. Nonetheless, while data like this might not be definitive, RNC management should have trouble sleeping at night when a liberal Jewish labor activist is winning elections in red, red Oklahoma.



Next Meeting – October 5

Julianne Hines, Pasadena and the San Gabriel Valley Planned Parenthood Executive Director will be guest speaker at the next ACT/ADC meeting on Thursday, October 5, (socializing at 7 p.m.; meeting at 7:30 p.m.), at the home of Marilee Marshall & Bruce Wright, 654 S. Madison Ave., Pasadena.

Also, if the issue is still alive, we will discuss the pros and cons of the timing of local elections per the new state law. Can and should the City of Pasadena and PUSD shift from local-only elections to elections concurrent with federal and state elections. Please come. Everyone is welcome.

Upcoming meetings: November 2 meeting – Supervisor Kathryn Barger. December 7 Holiday Potluck meeting – Assemblymember Chris Holden.



Where Have You Been Recently?

Either near or far. Please send a high-resolution photo (of you) to Chuck Hains at hains27@sbcglobal.net for inclusion in *The Phoenix*.



Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Operating Account

Nancy Warner & Christine Reynolds

**From
41st District
Assemblymember
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

We are in the final weeks of the legislative session and I'm excited to share with you the progress made on my legislative package this year. On the final day that fiscal bills could pass the Senate Appropriations Committee, five of my six bills left in that committee made it to the Senate Floor. The passing legislations included Assembly Bill 17, which establishes a pilot Transit Pass Program to provide free or reduced cost transit passes for low-income K-12 and college students; Assembly Bill 726, which requires power companies to provide an opt-out energy alert program; Assembly Bill 959, which empowers families with special needs children; Assembly Bill 1239, which updates building standards to include electric vehicle charging infrastructure; and Assembly Bill 1567 that streamlines foster youth enrollment into educational assistance programs in California Community Colleges and California State University Programs.

Unfortunately, my bill that would have required the State to adjust reimbursement rates for developmental disability service providers in order to comply with mandated minimum wage increases, Assembly Bill 279 did not make it out. While the bill was held, I'm incredibly proud and thankful to the coalition of supporters at the grassroots level that got us as far as we did. Together we generated thousands of petitions, held a rally in the capitol attended by hundreds of developmental disability service providers and their clients, and produced media coverage throughout the state on this important issue. As these service

providers continue to adhere to local mandates without receiving necessary funding, they will soon be forced to shut their doors on a population in need of their services. This is something we can't let happen and I'm ready to push this issue next year whether through passing a bill or making a budget fix.

While we're making progress in Sacramento the same cannot be said for Washington DC. From Trump's inability to condemn white nationalist groups to his executive action to end DACA it is clear that President Trump is not a defender of rights, nor a proponent of the American Dream. Countless times this year I have joined my colleagues in the legislature to push back against the President's policies and rhetoric. Most recently, as the Chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC), I joined Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de Leon, and leaders from California Latino Legislative Caucus, Asian & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, Jewish Legislative Caucus, LGBT Caucus, and Women's Legislative Caucus to speak out against Trump's DACA action. Our message was clear. To the more than 200,000 Dreamers in California, we will continue to defend what is right to better their lives and their families, and despite these uncertain times, we remain united.

Lastly, the CLBC celebrated its 50th Anniversary with "The Legacy Continues" black tie Gala at Universal Studios Hollywood's Globe Theatre. Nearly 500 people gathered at the Gala to honor 50 years of advocacy by former CLBC leaders, including the Founder's Award recipients, Hon. Willie L. Brown, Jr. and the Hon. Yvonne Brathwaite-Burke; the Chairman's Award recipient, Hon. Nate Holden; and the Vanguard Award recipient, Hon. Mark Ridley-Thomas. The CLBC began with the belief that by speaking with a single voice, we could be a force on issues affecting education, justice, and civil rights. The Gala's honorees

are visionaries who successfully passed policies on these issues and are responsible for making California the leader it is today. As this year's CLBC chair it was a great honor to recognize my father, Nate Holden, for his contributions to the CLBC.

I look forward to keeping you up to date in the next Phoenix as the legislative comes to an end.

Sincerely,

— Chris R. Holden



*The California Legislative Black Caucus,
Chris Holden is upper right*

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



The Phoenix Editorial Policy:

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

Letters to the Editor



In having to deal with Trump's 'Dreamer' action the House has a 'Hastert' problem. You remember Dennis Hastert, he's the Republican Speaker who's responsible for not allowing any legislation to come to the floor if it didn't command a 'majority of the majority' although they don't call it the 'Hastert Rule' any more since he served time for molestation of the high school boys for which he was responsible when he was their wrestling coach.

The provision, which is unofficial, does not allow a Republican controlled House to pass any 'controversial' legislation with a solid Democratic majority and a few Republican votes to get it over the top. This is the procedure which caused John Boehner to resign in disgust due to the hard time he received from the Tea Party wing and it's the rule that now will turn Paul Ryan prematurely grey.

It's clear that protecting the Dreamers would garner all of the Democrats and easily enough Republicans but nowhere near of majority of Republicans to pass the House.

There is just not enough popcorn for me to sit back and watch this play out.

— Ron Garber

And another..

While we all wish Donald Trump a swift impeachment and conviction consider this; House and Senate Republicans who are NOT united under Trump would fall all over themselves to be led by Mike Pence who's religious form of Republicanism could go a long way in uniting them in all their agenda with a special emphasis on reversing Roe V. Wade, same sex marriage and even the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. A wounded Trump is preferable to a healthy Pence.

— Ron Garber

Sponsor Not Quite Oktoberfest

Sponsor our Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters' (UDH) **Not Quite Oktoberfest**. Help fund the 2018 Headquarters! Help pay the rent! Help pay the staff! Help feed the volunteers who man the phones! Help turn Red Districts Blue!

Not Quite Oktoberfest (Sunday, October 8, 2-4 p.m. at Descanso Gardens) is UDH's fundraising event of the year. The proceeds will give us the tools to take on the party of Trump and win the House, the Senate and the State House. Sponsor amounts are \$5000, \$2500, \$1000, \$500, \$250 and \$125. Your help is urgently needed.

Please call Bill Hacket (626)705-2180 or visit the UDH website, pasadenademocrats.com to sponsor today.



Progressive Discussion Group

Friday Morning 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 the discussion. 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 start is not delayed.)

Check with Dale Gronemeier for additional information at dlg@dgronemeier.com.



Special Thanks to Sustaining Member

Sandra Chen, Pasadena



Calendar

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Sept 15
Friday
9-10 a.m. | Progressive Discussion Group at Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S. Lake Ave., Pasa. Dale Gronemeier, dlg@dgronemeier.com for more info. Also 10/6 and 10/20. |
| October 5
Thursday
7 p.m. | ACT Steering & ADC Meetings at the home of Marilee Marshall & Bruce Wright, 654 S. Madison Ave., Pasadena. Guest speaker is Julianne Hines of Planned Parenthood. Socializing at 7 p.m.; meeting at 7:30 p.m. All members welcome and urged to attend. |
| Oct 8
Sunday
2-4 p.m. | UDH 2017 Fundraiser, Not Quite Oktoberfest at Descanso Gardens, La Cañada Flintridge. |



October Phoenix Deadline

The deadline for the October *Phoenix* will be Sunday evening, October 8. Please send your items for *The Phoenix* to editors Chuck Hains or Sally Beer at hains27@sbcglobal.net on or before the deadline.



New Region 11 Director



Mark Ramos, our new Region 11 Director (ADs 41, 43, 51, 53) for the California Democratic Party can be reached at (323) 739-8904, Mark4Region11@gmail.com.

Does Your Address Label Have a RED CHECK?

Have you sent in your 2017 membership check? A **RED CHECK** on your address label of this **Phoenix** tells you we haven't yet received it.

Can it be true? We hear that even some Steering Committee members have not yet paid 2017 dues! Hey! We need your continued support! Please use the form below or renew online at www.ACTpasadena.org. Many thanks!



If you have any questions about your membership please contact Executive Director Jon Fuhrman at 626 795-5255 or jon_fuhrman@charter.net.

P.S. Thanks to all of you who have already renewed - for your amazing generosity.

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.