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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

Endorsement-Ballot Inside

United Democratic Headquarters Open!

The Grand Opening of the Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters was Sunday September 9th. Congressman Adam Schiff, Congresswoman Judy Chu, and Assemblyman Chris Holden, were on hand for the celebration – along with a host of eager Democrats – all ready to flip the House.



Save the date October 21st, 2018 for the UDH Oktoberfest.

UDH Needs Volunteers!

When asked what our Pasadena Area United Democratic HQ (UDH) needs, Campaign Director Arthur Congo had one word: VOLUNTEERS!

Here are the UDH basics to help YOU volunteer:



Location: 1487 E. Colorado Blvd, Pasadena 91106 (across from PCC at the NE corner of Colorado and Harkness)

Parking: PCC pay lots (\$2 for entire day)

Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday

Phone: 626 808-8493

Website: PasadenaDemocrats.com

Email: pasadenaudh@gmail.com

Adam Schiff Visits UDH

Congressman Adam Schiff paid a surprise visit to our UDH on Saturday, September 8. He was greeted by a small, but enthusiastic crowd who welcomed his clear-eyed and calm analysis of the national political scene. He noted that Donald Trump had not denied any of the charges in the anonymous op-ed in the *New York Times* and pointed to the importance of California's congressional district votes in this midterm election. We can flip the House!

Congressman Schiff also presented UDH with a very generous check – UDH's share of the proceeds of his August 28 attorney fundraiser. He offered thanks to John Gallogly, Councilman Steve Madison and UDH Chair Hoyt Hilsman for their hard work in putting the event together. We thank them – and Congressman Schiff – as well.



Irony

After following the drama of the Supreme Court nomination I've concluded that while I like and support both Senators Harris and Feinstein, Harris is much closer to my positions than is Feinstein. I believe that candidate De Leon's positions are much closer to that of Harris than they are to his opponent Senator Feinstein and yet if I'm not mistaken Senator Harris has endorsed Senator Feinstein.

— Ron Garber



Save the Date

If you are one of the wonderful people who have been writing GOTV postcards for Katy Hill and/or Gil Cisneros you're invited to help give those cards a send off and to share a pot luck with your fellow volunteers at a beautiful location with a panoramic view of Southern

California in the hills above Altadena on Sunday, October 7.

Note: Please remember to put a 35 cent stamp on each card you write. And if you wish, you may leave your finished cards at UDH, 1487 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena.

Details to follow.

— Ron Garber



Altadena Library Race

Many of you may be aware of the controversies coming out of the Altadena Library Board. 3 particularly egregious members, all anti-progressives who operated in an extralegal fashion caused great consternation. Due to the efforts of many progressive groups in the greater Pasadena/Altadena area 2 of the 3 are gone; however the most egregious - Ira Bershatsky, a Trump supporter and tormentor of the progressive members of the board is running for a 4 year term.

There are 5 candidates for the two 4 year terms and ACT/ADC is positively endorsing 1 of them (see elsewhere in this edition), but there is no way to NOT endorse so I am asking you to vote for anyone other than Mr. Bershatsky.

— Ron Garber



Recruiting Next Police Chief

The City of Pasadena is asking for input from residents during the recruitment process for the new police chief to replace Chief Philip Sanchez who retired last spring.

Concerned residents who have recommendations about the qualities and characteristics of a good police chief candidate and what the priorities for the new Chief's ought to be should provide feedback to City Staff online at www.cityofpasadena.net/PoliceChiefRecruitment and provide feedback to City Staff.

Wonderings and Wanderings

By Inman Moore



“A Final Salute”

In the San Gabriel Valley one of the stand-out political organizations is ACT. It has a membership of several hundred. Many of you reading this are ACT members. While not a part of the Democratic Party, ACT is quite liberal in its outlook. There are several reasons for ACT's success. One of the main reasons is their monthly newsletter, “*The Phoenix*,” ably edited by Chuck Hains and Sally Beer. A premier segment of *The Phoenix* is the “Political Notes” written by Jon Fuhrman who does a super job of summarizing the monthly political scene. Also, each month *The Phoenix* carries several articles written by political office holders. In addition it carries information about various other liberal organizations and their activities.

For the last number of years it has been my privilege to write a monthly column for *The Phoenix* entitled “Wonderings and Wanderings.” I have thoroughly enjoyed writing it. It has been a pleasure. But time marches on and, at the age of 93, the time has come for me to sign off. So this will be my last column for ACT. I thank you, one and all, for the rare privilege I have had. Thank you for your generous and kind comments. As the old song says, “Thanks for the memories.”

Whoever takes my place as columnist is living at the right time. Just think of all the material that Donald Trump provides for columnists! At any rate here's to great times with all of us working together for a finer and nobler future!!

— Inman

Editor's Note: We are very sorry that this is Inman's final “Wonderings and Wanderings” column for *The Phoenix*.

Inman, we offer our heartfelt thanks for all those – from the January 2012 **Phoenix** to today's - serious and humorous and provocative columns. We appreciate both your words and you, yourself.

— Sally and Chuck



Barack Obama Highway Signs

Join Senator Anthony J. Portantino, Faye & Bob Davidson, Ruth & Joe Hopkins, John Gallogly, and the Pasadena Community Foundation

at a Fundraising Reception for the Barack H. Obama Highway Signs
September 23, 2018

2 pm - 4 pm

Pasadena event location will be provided upon RSVP

Refreshments provided

Sponsorships

(All sponsorships come with two tickets to the event)

State Senatorial Sponsorship: \$100

Congressional Sponsorship: \$200

Presidential Sponsorship: \$300

Single Ticket Purchase: \$30

SPACE IS LIMITED!

Tickets/Sponsorships Available:

pasadenacf.org/funds/barack-obama-highway-fund/

or mail check to: Pasadena Community

Foundation, 301 E Colorado Blvd #810

Pasadena, CA 91101

For more information call Darla Dyson

626.644.1425



Federal Campaign Contribution Limits

Here is a pointer to a chart that may be helpful to members who wish to "max-out" to certain candidates in 2018.

<https://transition.fec.gov/pages/brochures/contriblimitschart.htm>

Political Notes



Monday, September 10

Eight weeks to go, until perhaps the most consequential mid-term elections in my lifetime. We always think mid-terms are important, but we've never had anything near the craziness in the White House that has become stunningly apparent in the last few weeks. We must have institutional constraints on the President, and the only way to do that is to have Democrats in control of at least one, if not both, chambers of Congress.

In my last column, I was predicting a gain of 50 – 60 House seats, and winning the Senate, though that was a much closer call. If anything, the evidence, to me, now points to winning 60 or more seats in the House, with increasing confidence that we will win the Senate, and perhaps close to a dozen Governorships to boot.

To be fair, we still have eight weeks to go, and that can be an achingly long time politically. On the other hand, trends that have gotten

locked in by Labor Day seldom tend to be reversed; if anything, they tend to grow stronger by Election Day. Just today, polls suggest a record low in the President's approval rating; further, in a poll of 8 battleground Congressional districts, all currently held by Republicans, Democrats had a 47% - 43% advantage among likely voters.

In the Congressional arena, every day another Republican seat seems to get moved into the Toss-Up category by the "official" pundits, like the Cook Report or the 538 Blog. More and more Democratic candidates in seats that traditionally have been entirely safe Republican territory are now seen as competitive. Even if the Democrats in those seats don't win, they do have the effect of increasing Democratic turnout and votes for the entire state ticket.

The marquee example of this is Texas, where I think incumbent Senator Ted Cruz is likely to be defeated. I know – Texas, really? One can hardly think of a more prototypically red bastion. Yet the Democratic candidate, Beto O'Rourke, is now polling within one point of Cruz, and he has considerably outraced Cruz. (And the President has just scheduled a big October rally to boost Cruz's campaign, and Don Jr. is headlining several fundraising events for Cruz.)

But the secret key to success in Texas may be in the House races. Texas has 36 Congressional districts, split 25 – 11 between Reps and Dems. In many of those 25 Republican districts, Democrats typically have not really competed; often, we have not even run candidates, knowing the futility of the effort. But this year, we have candidates in nearly all of those districts. More importantly, in eight of those Republican districts, our candidates are running exceptionally strong races: two are rated as Toss-Ups, one is Leaning Republican, and five are currently rated as Likely Republican. Undoubtedly, we're not going to win all those races, but those eight districts (one-third of all the GOP seats state-wide) were typically

safe districts for the GOP. Even if we don't win, if we reduce the margins in those districts from a 70%-30% loss down to 55%-45% loss, that generates a huge number of extra votes for Democratic candidates for the U.S. Senate, for the Governorship, and for state legislative candidates. Changing that margin in 1/3 of the traditional GOP territory should be enough to put Sen. Ted Cruz into early retirement.

Florida has a similar situation, although with a few interesting quirks. Last month's Democratic primary really did generate a surprising result. The leading candidates had been hammering each other relentlessly, spending huge amounts of (mostly their own) money. But the clear underdog, Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, running a grass-roots campaign on a bare-bones budget, pulled out a narrow win. Gillum is a flat-out unabashed progressive, a millennial, and is African-American. Yet he has also demonstrated a practical down-to-earth approach as Mayor of Tallahassee (part of the panhandle area of Florida where Democrats often do poorly). He would be the first African-American Governor of Florida, and his campaign apparently had huge success in turning out both the minority community and millennials, voters who typically aren't included in pollsters' universes of likely voters.

(In a fascinating coincidence, Stacey Abrams, an unabashed progressive, former Minority Leader in the State House of Representatives, and an African-American woman, is running for Governor in Georgia, just to the north, and the latest polls have her exactly tied with the Republican nominee. We already have Democratic Governors in Virginia and North Carolina, and our candidate in Tennessee has at least an outside chance. What a change for the Old South!)



In Florida, the hard-core pro-Trump candidate for Governor, Ron DeSantis, abruptly resigned his seat in the House to focus exclusively on the campaign; clearly, he recognizes that the campaign has become much tougher, and much closer, than he anticipated. The Senate race has incumbent Democrat Bill Nelson tied exactly at 49% with Gov. Rick Scott. The Senate race is closer than it should be, because Scott has run an exceedingly clever and adept campaign, fueling it with his own personal fortune, and using it to reach out to the Hispanic community, and particularly the Puerto Rican community, touting his attempts to assist hurricane victims and advertising extensively

on Spanish-language television. Nelson has been slow to respond, but is starting to up his game.

Scott and DeSantis, however, will face one unexpected problem. Florida beaches are being befouled by huge amounts of sargassum seaweed, which emits a particularly sulfuric odor as it rots on shore. This algal bloom is likely exacerbated by global warming, which Republicans have dismissed as fantasy. But nothing is

more important to Floridians than their beaches, so Scott and DeSantis may be particularly vulnerable on this front.

Further, as in Texas, Florida House seats are under siege. Their 27 seats are split 16 – 11 for the Reps; 7 GOP seats – nearly half of all their seats – are being contested: one is already written off as a Lean Democratic seat; 4 are rated as Lean Republican; and 2 are Likely Republican. Democrats have recruited remarkably strong candidates, like former Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala. As in Texas, as Democrats win or simply do substantially better than traditionally, they add votes to the top of the ticket,

helping both the Senate and the gubernatorial race.

And there is one more twist in Florida. Also on the ballot is an initiative to restore voting rights to felons who have completed their sentences. Currently, Florida, like a number of other states (particularly in the South), permanently revokes the right to vote upon conviction of any felony. Literally millions of Floridians are thus disenfranchised for life. This initiative would correct that injustice, but it needs a 60% majority to become law. If it does, that has enormous implications for the 2020 Presidential race. But even if it fails, it is likely further to stimulate turnout in the minority communities that have borne the brunt of felony convictions for drug possession or use.

Let me cite one last example of the general trend developing that should undermine GOP chances. In Tennessee at the state-wide level, there were no surprises in their August 2 primary. But under the covers, there were some startling developments. There were 26 different countywide offices up for election around the state; Democrats won 21 of the 26, flipping control in over a dozen instances. Of the 10 most important of those elections, mostly for County Sheriff or local Mayors, Republicans had held 9 of them, but Democrats now hold every single one of those. This speaks both to a greater enthusiasm and commitment and intensity among Democratic voters, and a possible defection, or at least disengagement, among mainstream Republicans. That combination, on a national level, is absolutely lethal for Republicans. It, or something like it, is probably at the root of the latest generic polls, giving Democrats a 12-point lead, where a 7 to 8 point lead is generally seen as enough comfortably to flip the House.

So my guess is still that we take the House, and also the Senate, winning Senate seats in Nevada, Arizona, Tennessee, Texas and perhaps even in the Mississippi special election.

Democratic Senate incumbents seem to be holding on comfortably in Indiana, Montana and West Virginia; Missouri, North Dakota and Florida are still nip and tuck, but my guess is we will hold each of those seats.

Now, we shouldn't be over-confident. GOP consultants are well aware of the changing environment and the extraordinary challenges their candidates are facing. The GOP consultant running the Congressional Leadership PAC (Paul Ryan's committee dedicated to supporting Republican House candidates) was quoted recently as arguing that PAC's need to get away from spending 90% of their funds on TV, and instead focus that money on effective field programs to turn out their base voters. That consultant ran Sen. Rob Porter's re-election campaign in Ohio in 2016, where Porter outperformed Trump by 10% in 2016.

So the opposition is not entirely asleep at the switch. We can't be complacent, even if we are swimming with the tide. But if our folks continue to demonstrate the same enthusiasm and eagerness they have consistently demonstrated in special elections across the country, and in primaries across the country, then we should be in store for some serious celebrations come November 7.

I can't close without noting a pair of really important ballot measures right here in Pasadena. Measure I would authorize a $\frac{3}{4}$ cent increase in the sales tax in Pasadena, and Measure J would recommend sharing 1/3 of that new revenue with the Pasadena Unified School District. These two measures are at the absolute very end of what will be a long ballot, with 11 State ballot measures, Superior Court judges, and all the State Constitutional officers. But perhaps they saved the best for the last. These measures would provide critically needed revenues to the city and our public school district, while ensuring that this sales tax revenue stays here in Pasadena (as opposed to being scooped up by the state or the County or the MTA).

ACT's Research Committee and Steering Committee are both overwhelmingly recommending that we support those measures. I join enthusiastically in that recommendation. Both the city and schools have been impacted heavily by the increase in retirement costs assessed by CALPERS and CALSTRS, the two state agencies that handle pensions for all our employees. The pension funds have been steadily reducing their expected income from their investment portfolios, arguably bringing expectations more in line with reality. But those changes require our cities and schools to step up with greater and greater contributions to cover both current retirees and future obligations. Those increased costs are crippling the ability of the city and the school district to provide the sorts of services we want and need; this sales tax will provide a critical cushion against these rising pension costs.

These ballot measures are on the ballot only within the city of Pasadena. So if you live in Pasadena, or have friends who do, don't quit voting early – go to the bitter end, and vote YES on I and YES on J.

— Jon Fuhrman



Judy Boggs Interns Hard At Work!

Stop by the new United Democratic Headquarters and say hello to the two outstanding young women who were chosen as the 2018 Judy Boggs Interns.

Emily Aguilar is no stranger to political activism. As the daughter of immigrants, she is passionate about immigration and other issues. She has put her enthusiasm to work by volunteering for Hillary Clinton in 2016 and helping staff the California State Democratic Party Convention. Currently a junior studying Political Science at Cal Poly Pomona, Emily hopes to attend law school here in Southern California.

Karina Ourfalian knows Democratic politics from the grassroots up. She's been a campaign volunteer for Ardy Kassakhian for Assembly and Anthony Portantino for State Senate; she has also interned in the office of LA City Councilmember Bob Blumenfield. Karina is currently majoring in International Relations at Moorpark College.

Judy Boggs would have loved meeting, working with and teasing (!) these two young women. Many thanks to those who helped make this year's internships possible: **Sally Beer, Melissa Boggs, Dick & Nancy Esbenshade, Jon Fuhrman, Wendy Gordon, Ralph Hurtado, Jeanette Mann, Bobbie & Henry Moon, Joan & Jeff Palmer, Nancy Pine, Fred & Jeanne Register, and Ed Washatka.**

— Fred Register



Last, Best Chance to Fund our Public Schools!

Many of us have been trying for years to increase local support for our public schools. This November, we have a real chance to succeed at last. Mayor Terry Tornek has worked hard to get **Measures I & J** on the ballot. **Measure I** would raise the local sales tax by \$.0075. **Measure J** would commit 1/3 of that money to Pasadena's public schools -- \$7-million every year to strengthen and protect PUSD schools!

This opportunity to invest in our kids won't come again. Earlier efforts to pass a parcel tax won a majority but could not muster the required 2/3 vote. These measures need only a majority vote to pass! They are literally our last, best chance to make a generational impact on our public schools.

Unfortunately, the campaign has gotten off to a late start – especially in the school community, where many people are only just be-

ginning to get the message. If we can't step up our game in the next two months, we can't win. It's that simple. Right now, the single greatest obstacle is fundraising. We need to raise \$150,000 in just a few weeks to get our message out to a much-larger-than-usual electorate.

Here are three things you can do:

- Vote YES for I and J on the ACT endorsement ballot
- If you have questions, check out the Q&A on the campaign website: yesoniandj.com
- While you're there, please make a contribution – or go directly to:

secure.anedot.com/yesoniandj/donate

— Fred Register



Altadena Library Board Election

Voters in Altadena will be electing four trustees to the Altadena Library District Board of Trustees on November 6. Candidate names will appear at the end of the ballot so it's important for voters to go all the way to the bottom of the ballot to select their choices. Three candidates are running for 2 two-year seats. Five candidates are running for 2 four-year seats. The top two vote-getters in each race will win.

Altadena Library District Board of Trustees Candidate Forum

Neighbors Building a Better Altadena (NBBA) is hosting a candidate forum on Wednesday, October 3 from 7-9 p.m. at the Altadena Community Center, 730 E. Altadena Dr., Altadena. The forum will be moderated by League of Women Voters Pasadena Area. It will also be streamed by AltadenaElection.org. Altadena voters will want to attend this forum in order to make an informed decision in this extremely important local election.

All eight candidates have been invited to participate. The format will include brief statements by the candidates and set questions from the moderator. The public will also have an opportunity to ask questions of the candidates. All questions will be screened for appropriateness.

Questions? Call 626-344-7806 or contact NBBA at mail@buildingabetteraltadena.org.



Sales Tax Community Forum

Pasadena's 3/4% Sales Tax Measure, which is on the November 6th ballot, will be the subject of a community forum at All Saints Church on Tuesday, October 11 at 7 p.m.

Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek and Pasadena Unified School District school Board Member Patrick Cahalon will be joined by Larry Wilson, Public Editor of the Pasadena *Star-News*, who will moderate the panel discussion and community conversation on the sales tax issue.

Brian Biery, who is organizing the forum on behalf of the Pasadena Neighborhood Network, said the forum "is not going to be a debate. This is an educational event and will provide information on the initiative so that voters can make an informed decision on Election Day."

Biery continued to explain, "The forum will provide information on what the initiative is proposing, why the initiative is on the ballot, what its relationship is to the PUSD, what will happen if it is passed and what might happen if it does not pass."

If the ballot measure passes, it could raise over \$20 million annually. Voters will also be asked to pass an advisory measure which would direct the City Council to share one-third of the tax increase revenues with the PUSD.

continued on page fourteen

Summary of ACT Endorsement Recommendations

The Research Committee met Saturday, August 25, 2018. The session was attended by Monica Hubbard, Jeanette Mann, Marilee Marshall, Denise Robb, George Van Alstine, Ed Washatka and Bruce Wright. We considered candidates for the Altadena Library Board, propositions on the November statewide ballot, and a Pasadena proposal to impose a sales tax.

ALTADENA LIBRARY BOARD:

All candidates for the Altadena Library Board were invited to participate. We interviewed two candidates, Betsy Kahn and Katie Clark.

Katie Clark is running for one of the four-year positions on the Library Board, against four other candidates (the top two vote-getters will each be elected). Katie is a successful former academic and medieval historian. She obtained a BA from Tulane in History, Latin, French and Medieval Studies, and a D. Phil. (doctorate) in Modern History from Oxford, after which she was a teaching and research fellow in medieval history at Cal Tech. Katie left academia to become an entrepreneur in arts and humanities. She currently owns two businesses: The Connected Dancer, a ball room dance instruction company; and The Applied Humanities, a boutique firm focused on consulting, marketing PR and creative design.

A life-long Democrat, Katie considers herself further to the left than most of the party. Katie is running because she believes we need to restore public trust in our public library, and because we need elected Board members who will take their responsibilities seriously. Altadena, as Katie says, is a unique and evolving community, and the Library deserves outstanding guidance, vision and leadership. Altadena deserves Library Trustees who will

go above and beyond, who will actively and creatively promote the Library, who will develop systems to ensure a better and more sustainable future, who will re-earn the confidence of the community, and who will listen and respond to the needs of their town.

The Research Committee voted 7 – 0 – 0 to recommend endorsement of Katie Clark, and the Steering Committee voted 20 – 0 – 0 also to recommend her endorsement.

Betsy Kahn is running for one of the two-year positions, against two other candidates (the top two vote-getters will each be elected). Betsy holds a master's in Library and Information Science, from the University of Illinois and a B.A. in Inter-American Studies, from the University of the Pacific, in Stockton. She is bilingual English/Spanish and has served as a librarian in the South Pasadena Middle School for the past 8 years.

Betsy, a lifelong Democrat, sees the institution of public and school libraries as a bastion of democracy. She stresses that libraries are a vital public institution where the right of people of all ages are nurtured, developed and protected. Betsy was appointed to the Altadena Library District Board of Trustees in March 2018 to fill a resignation vacancy, and was elected its President in April. Betsy believes she has restored a level of decorum, respect and calm to their proceedings, and she is currently leading her fellow Board members and the library staff through a difficult process of conflict resolution. The library is coming out of a difficult chapter while at the same time maintaining its vibrancy, innovation and commitment to service. Betsy states that the newly elected Board will need to move quickly to find its strengths and use them to support the amazing staff in the work they do.

The Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation are also in a rebuilding stage, and the new Board will need to solidify and grow those working relationships, while simultan-

ously reaching out to connect with organizations and individuals in the community at large to bring a coordinated level of services to Altadena residents of all ages.

For more than a year this very important responsibility of the Board has had to take a back seat to crisis management. The new board will need to spend time assessing the current state of the library, working with the staff and community to clarify the long-term vision of the library and its mission, and create a plan to work toward its realization.

The Research Committee voted 7-0 -0 to recommend endorsement of Betsy Kahn, and the Steering Committee voted 20-0- 0 also to recommend her endorsement.

STATE BALLOT PROPOSITIONS:

Proposition 1: Housing Assistance Bonds: Authorizes \$4 billion in General Obligation bonds for existing affordable housing programs. Approved by over 2/3 votes in each house of the Legislature. Supported by the California Democratic Party, the League of Women Voters and Habitat for Humanity, among others.

The Research Committee recommends a YES vote (7 - 0 - 0). The Steering Committee recommends a YES vote (16 - 3 - 0)

(Note: Some Steering Committee members voted NO on this and other measures because they believed ACT should support, but not formally endorse, these measures. Measures that are formally endorsed qualify for financial support from the organization.)

Proposition 2: Housing Assistance Bonds: Ratifies issuance of up to \$2 billion in previously authorized General Obligation bonds for housing for the mentally ill, and allows the state to transfer up to \$140 million in existing revenues to pay the interest on those bonds. Approved by both Houses of the Legislature with only 1 dissenting vote. Supported by the

California Democratic Party, the League of Women Voters, social workers, firefighters, emergency room physicians, police chiefs and mental health professionals.

The Research Committee recommends a YES vote (7 - 0 - 0). The Steering Committee recommends a YES vote (16 - 2 - 0)

Proposition 3: Water Bonds: Authorizes \$8.87 billion in General Obligation bonds in infrastructure projects to provide safe drinking water, habitat protection, watershed and fisheries improvements, groundwater storage, and surface storage (more dams) and further repair of the Oroville dam. No position taken by the California Democratic Party. Supported by the California Wildlife Foundation, the Planning and Conservation League and former State Treasurer Phil Angelides. Opposed by Northern California taxpayer groups, who oppose both the cost and the lack of more money for dam maintenance.

The Research Committee recommends a YES vote (7 - 0 - 0). The Steering Committee recommends a YES vote (14 - 4 - 1)

Proposition 4: Bonds for Children's Hospitals: Authorizes \$1.5 billion in General Obligation bonds for construction, expansion and renovation of non-profit hospitals that treat children. Supported by the California Democratic Party, but opposed by the League of Women Voters.

The Research Committee recommends a YES vote (7 - 0 - 0). The Steering Committee recommends a YES vote (18 - 1 - 0)

Proposition 5: Property Tax Break for Seniors and Handicapped Homeowners: Initiative Constitutional Amendment that would allow seniors and handicapped homeowners to retain their original property valuation when they move into new properties, and thus receive a significant property tax savings, no matter how many times they move. Current law allows them to use this tax break

only once in their lifetimes. The measure would cost local entities \$100 million in property tax revenues at first, but that loss could grow to over \$1 billion each year. Opposed by the California Democratic Party, the League of Women Voters and the Congress of California Seniors, but supported by other senior groups.

The Research Committee recommends a NO vote (5 - 2 - 0). The Steering Committee recommends a NO vote (15 - 3 - 1)

Proposition 6: Gas Tax Repeal: Initiative Constitutional Amendment that would repeal the taxes and fees enacted in 2017 for road repair and public transportation. Would reduce state revenue by \$5.1 billion a year. New gas taxes would have to be approved by a majority of voters to take effect. This is the Republican's key strategy to boosting turnout in November by giving their base a chance to cut taxes. Supported by John Cox and the Jarvis groups; opposed by the California Democratic Party.

The Research Committee recommends a NO vote (7 - 0 - 0). The Steering Committee recommends a NO vote (20 - 0 - 0)

Proposition 7: Permanent Daylight Savings Time: This would allow the Legislature, by a 2/3 vote, to extend Daylight Savings Time year-round. Approved by over 2/3 votes in each house of the Legislature, with some dissenting voices. Supported by the California Democratic Party.

The Research Committee recommends a YES vote (4 - 2 - 1). The Steering Committee recommends a NO vote (11 - 8 - 1)

Proposition 8: Regulates Charges by Kidney Dialysis Clinics: An Initiative Statute that would limit the fees charged by kidney dialysis clinics to 115% of their actual costs. Requires extensive annual reporting, and prohibits clinics from refusing treatment based upon the source of payment for care (so Medicare or Medicaid patients cannot be turned

away). Supported by the California Democratic Party, the Congress of California Seniors; opposed by the California Medical Association and nurses' associations. .

The Research Committee recommends a YES vote (6 - 1 - 0). The Steering Committee recommends a YES vote (17 - 1 - 1)

Proposition 10: Allow Local Governments to Expand Rent Control: An Initiative Statute that would repeal the Costa Hawkins Law that currently significantly constrains the ability of local governments to enact rent control ordinances. This would allow local cities or counties to enact whatever rent control ordinances they saw fit, covering single-family homes as well as apartments, including new construction as well as existing units. Supported by the California Democratic Party, the League of Women Voters, the ACLU, the National Urban League, the SEIU, the SCLC of Southern California and the California Teachers Association. Opposed by the realtors, the Howard Jarvis folks and others who fear it will exacerbate, rather than ameliorate, the housing crisis.

The Research Committee recommends a YES vote (7 - 0 - 0). The Steering Committee recommends a YES vote (19 - 1 - 0)

Proposition 11: Keep Ambulance Employees On-Call during Breaks: An Initiative Statute that would require private-sector ambulance employees to remain on-call during normal work breaks. A recent court case prohibited private ambulance companies from assigning calls to employees on meal breaks; this initiative would amend the law to overturn that ruling, thereby reducing the potential costs ambulance companies would incur from covering for employees while on meal breaks. No arguments were submitted against this proposition, but the funding for it came entirely from the AMR Corporation, which runs private ambulance services. Opposed by the California Democratic Party.

The Research Committee recommends a NO vote (7 - 0 - 0). The Steering Committee recommends a NO vote (18 - 0 - 0)

Proposition 12: New Standards for Confinement of Farm Animals: An Initiative Statute that provides minimum requirements for confining certain farm animals, and prohibits the sale of meat or eggs from animals confined in non-conforming ways. This is represented as a way to stop animal cruelty, and is supported by the Humane Society, but is opposed by other animal rights and safety organizations. Supported by the California Democratic Party.

The Research Committee recommends a YES vote (6 - 0 - 1). The Steering Committee recommends a YES vote (15 - 4 - 0)

PASADENA CITY MEASURES:

Proposition I: City Sales Tax: Would authorize the City of Pasadena to impose an additional sales tax of $\frac{3}{4}$ of one cent. This is anticipated to raise \$21 million a year in additional revenues. It would help maintain essential City services such as fire, police, paramedics; it would help keep fire stations open; it would help the city improve neighborhood and school safety, address homelessness, and maintain after-school programs and senior services. Annual audits would be required, and all funds would be controlled locally. The accompanying measure – Measure J – would recommend that one-third of the revenues be shared with the Pasadena Unified School District. Because this is a general tax, only a majority vote is required (instead of a 2/3 vote). Placed on the ballot by a unanimous vote of the City Council.

The Research Committee recommends a YES vote (5 - 2 - 0). The Steering Committee recommends a YES vote (16 - 1 - 1)

Proposition J: (Advisory vote only) Sharing the sales tax revenue with the PUSD: This would express the citizens' desire to share 1/3 of the sales tax revenue raised by Measure I with the Pasadena Unified School District. Also placed on the ballot by a unanimous vote of the City Council.

The Research Committee recommends a YES vote (7 - 0 - 0). The Steering Committee recommends a YES vote (16 - 1 - 1)



**From
41st District
Assemblymember
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

It was a very busy August as the legislative session came to an end, but every moment was worth it. I'm proud of the work we're doing at the state level. I believe passing progressive policies that protect our environment, grow our economy, and support working families is our best resistance to President Trump. This year, we committed California to 100% clean energy by 2045, reformed our bail system, and established net neutrality standards.

We also worked hard to make sure we do the right thing in our response to the devastating wildfires that ravaged our state and to protect ourselves from future catastrophes. In the final hours of session we were able to pass sweeping wildfire preparedness and response legislation to provide comprehensive safety solutions to protect ratepayers, make our electric system safer, and stabilize the utilities. It was a pleasure to serve as co-chair of the Wildfire Preparedness and Response Legislative Conference Committee with my colleague, Senator Bill Dodd. Our work, to find consen-

sus on a complex issue and pass a bill, awaits the Governor's final decision.

I also have my own legislation that is sitting on the Governor's desk. Here are a few of my bills that passed the legislature:

Assembly Bill 2370 – Ensures that drinking water at California's childcare centers be lead safe. Increasing lead testing for California's high-risk children is one of the single biggest steps we can take to prevent lead poisoning.

Assembly Bill 2918 – Requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to include information in the California Driver's Handbook regarding a person's civil rights during a traffic stop. Being informed of these rights are critical in situations that can quickly go from calm to worse.

Assembly Bill 2599 – Requires law enforcement agencies and probation departments to increase awareness and access to the arrest record sealing and expungement process. No one should be defined solely by their past, but they should be given the chance to create a future they and their families can be proud of.

Lastly, as chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Regional Transportation Solutions, I invite you to join me for an informational hearing in Rancho Cucamonga, "Securing Transportation Growth Opportunities," to discuss and address timely transportation issues for the region and state. The hearing will take place on Thursday, October 11, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Rancho Cucamonga Council Chambers on 10500 Civic Center Drive, Rancho Cucamonga. To RSVP or for questions please contact my office at (626) 351-1917.

Sincerely,

— Chris R. Holden

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

From 25th District State Senator Anthony Portantino



Dear ACT members,

It was an eventful two-year session for my first term in the Senate and I'm very proud of the slate of bills I sent to the Governor, the improved public education funding efforts I lead as chair of the Senate Education Budget Sub-Committee and earning the trust of Senate leadership to be named the Chair of the Appropriations Committee. I am also excited to see the academic partnership program P-tech take off this year. P-tech is a unique partnership that IBM initiated between high schools and community colleges. I was able to secure \$10 million dollars in the budget to bring it to California. I'm also proud of my staff in the capitol and in the district for their dedication on behalf of the residents of the 25th Senate District. We have held and attended town halls, business walks, community outreach and educational programs across the district and in our wonderful diverse communities. I have a great district and I am honored to be its Senate representative in Sacramento.

I am anxiously waiting action on the bills I have sitting on the Governor's desk. In response to the shootings in Florida and other campuses, I'm hopeful that Governor Brown signs SB 1100 which seeks to raise the purchase age for long gun purchases in California to 21. It is imperative that California leads when Washington does not. I've been amazed at the vitriol toward me on social media from this common sense gun control initiative. SB 328, our historic attempt to follow science on teenage brains, will prioritize teenage health concerns by moving the start time of the high schools and middle schools later. I have sever-

al important environmental protections bills on drinking water and ocean protection that I hope garner a signature, too. Our IEP (Individualized Education Program) translation bill is important for the academic success of English learners who struggle and drug treatment efforts for teens are also subjects of bills that I was able to move to Gov. Brown.

I'm writing this on my lunch break from an ANC Legislative trade trip to Armenia. Our focus is to increase cooperation between California's high-tech leadership and Armenia's burgeoning high-tech hubs. We have visited several coding schools and high-tech businesses and our team has remarked that in almost every case women outnumber men. Assembly Member Autumn Burke from Los Angeles has consistently remarked at how Armenia has set the bar high for female tech opportunities that far surpass the US. As the father of daughters, it's been quite a wonderful experience.

On the family front, I'm anxiously waiting for the beginning of Bella's soccer season. I'm disappointed that I will miss her first game because I will still be in Armenia. Sofia is working on the film *Aquaman*. I can't wait to see it in December. All good in the Portantino household.

Respectfully, — Anthony
Contact Senator Portantino at home: (818) 952-3432



Upcoming Meetings

The November meeting of the ACT Steering Committee and ADC will be Thursday, November 8 and - coming two days after the mid-term election - will feature election analysis by Jon Fuhrman and Fred Register.

The December meeting will be our Annual Holiday Potluck meeting on Thursday, December 6. Locations for these meetings are still to be determined.

Sales Tax, Continued from page eight

ACT agreed to co-sponsor the community forum, as did Pasadenans Organizing for Progress (POP!) along with the host, All Saints Church.

— Ed Washatka



October Phoenix Deadline

The deadline for the October *Phoenix* is Sunday evening, October 7. Please send items for publication to Editor Chuck Hains at hains27@sbcglobal.net. Preparation of *The Phoenix* for mailing will likely be on Thursday, October 11 at a location to be determined.



Next Meeting

Our next ACT Steering/ADC meeting is **Thursday, October 4**, 7 p.m. at the home of Bruce Wright and Marilee Marshall, 654 S. Madison Ave., Pasadena. Our guest speaker will be **State Senator Anthony Portantino**, who will provide an update from the Capitol.

We hope you can come. Everyone is welcome.



Progressive Discussion Group

The topic for the next PDG meeting on Friday, September 21, 9-10 a.m. is the Pasadena Sales Tax. (Measures I and J.)

PDG meets every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month from 9-10 a.m. in the back room of Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S. Lake Avenue, Pasadena. Parking is in the lot behind the restaurant off Shopper's Lane.

Come join the conversation. Order breakfast, coffee, etc., or not. (If you plan to order breakfast, please arrive a bit early.) Contact Dale Gronemeier at dlg@dgronemeier.com for information.

ACT ENDORSEMENT BALLOT

for November 2018



Endorsement Ballot Instructions

The membership of ACT recognizes that ACT is a democratic organization dependent on the goodwill of its members. Towards this end, the following rules shall govern the election procedures for ACT endorsements. The purpose of these rules is to prevent the manipulation of the endorsement process, to safeguard the voting privileges of members, and to further the democratic principles and procedures of ACT.

Who can vote? Year 2018 ACT & ADC members who are 18 years of age or older can vote. **If you have not renewed for 2018 you can do so on-line or enclose your renewal along with your ballot.** Each member on your address label is entitled to one vote and only one vote (if there is one name on the label, you have one vote; two names, two votes. If a person casts more votes than authorized, those votes are voided.

How do I vote? Mark and return your ballot in the enclosed envelope with the label attached. Or, if you desire a secret ballot, you may enclose it in an additional unmarked envelope. Each completed ballot sent by mail shall be submitted in the ACT envelope. Each voting member must sign the outside of the ACT ballot envelope. If there is no enclosed envelope, please send the ballot in an envelope with your name and return address to: ACT, Attn: Endorsement Election Committee, P. O. Box 40074, Pasadena CA 91114-7074.

Ballot rules No proxies or duplicated ballots may be used in voting in ACT endorsement elections. If your ballot is damaged, write "void" on it and send it along with a note indicating how you voted.

Ballot Deadline Ballots must arrive by 5 p.m. Tuesday, **October 2, 2018**. Further endorsement election information can be found in this *Phoenix*.

Why do we vote? ACT's endorsement can mean access to donor files, computer data, and such financial contributions as are voted by the Steering Committee.

Endorsement Requirements

1. A 60% majority of ballots cast is required to endorse a candidate or either the "Yes" or "No" side of a proposition. Abstentions will not be counted, i.e. only ballots cast in each race will be counted as part of the percentage.
2. No quorum is required.

Example: (family has 3 ACT members qualified to vote), Member #1 supports Candidate X; Member #2 supports Candidate Y; Member #3 decides to vote "No endorsement":

Vote for one	Voter: #1	#2	#3
Candidate X.....	X		
Candidate Y.....		X	
No Endorsement.....			X

This is actually a double ballot, one for ACT and one for the Arroyo Democratic Club. Following each candidate's name, the first set of check boxes are for ACT voters and the second set are for ADC voters.

The ADC guidelines are identical to ACT with the exception that the ADC portion of the ballot will only have boxes for vote check marks for Democratic candidates.

Endorsement Ballot for November 2018 Elections

Altadena Library Board: (4 year term; two positions open)

The Research Committee recommends Katie Clark (7 - 0 - 0). The Steering Committee recommends Katie Clark (20 - 0 - 0)

	ACT Voter: #1	#2	#3	ADC: #1	#2	#3
Katie Clark		
Jason Capell		
Ira Bershatsky		
Dawn Digrius		
Bernadette Hendry.....					
No Endorsement.....					

Altadena Library Board: (2 year term to fill vacancies; two positions open)

The Research Committee recommends Betsy Kahn (7 - 0 - 0) . The Steering Committee recommends Betsy Kahn (19 - 0 - 0)

	ACT Voter: #1	#2	#3	ADC: #1	#2	#3
Betsy Kahn		
Terry Andreus		
Louise Hamlin		
No Endorsement.....					

State Ballot Measures:

Proposition 1: Housing Assistance Bonds:

The Research Committee recommends a YES vote (7 - 0 - 0) . The Steering Committee recommends a YES vote (16 - 3 - 0)

(Note: Some Steering Committee members voted NO on these endorsements because they believed ACT should support, but not formally endorse, these. Measures that are formally endorsed qualify for financial support from the organization.)

	ACT Voter: #1	#2	#3	ADC: #1	#2	#3
Vote for one						
Yes		
No		
No Endorsement.....					

Proposition 2: Funding Housing for ... Mental Illness:

The Research Committee recommends a YES vote (7 - 0 - 0) . The Steering Committee recommends a YES vote (16 - 2 - 0)

	ACT Voter: #1	#2	#3	ADC: #1	#2	#3
Vote for one						
Yes		
No		
No Endorsement.....					

Proposition 3: Bonds for Water Projects and Conservation:

The Research Committee recommends a YES vote (7 - 0 - 0) . The Steering Committee recommends a YES vote (14 - 4 - 1)

Vote for one	ACT Voter: #1	#2	#3	ADC: #1	#2	#3
Yes .....				.....
No .....				.....
No Endorsement.....				.....	

Proposition 4: Bonds for Children’s Hospital Construction:

The Research Committee recommends a YES vote (7 - 0 - 0) . The Steering Committee recommends a YES vote (18 - 1 - 0)

Vote for one	ACT Voter: #1	#2	#3	ADC: #1	#2	#3
Yes .....				.....
No .....				.....
No Endorsement.....				.....	

Proposition 5: Property Tax Assistance for Handicapped and Senior Property Owners:

The Research Committee recommends a NO vote (5 - 2 - 0) . The Steering Committee recommends a NO vote (15 - 3 - 1)

Vote for one	ACT Voter: #1	#2	#3	ADC: #1	#2	#3
Yes .....				.....
No .....				.....
No Endorsement.....				.....	

Proposition 6: Initiative to Repeal the Gas Tax Increase:

The Research Committee recommends a NO vote (7 - 0 - 0) . The Steering Committee recommends a NO vote (20 - 0 - 0)

Vote for one	ACT Voter: #1	#2	#3	ADC: #1	#2	#3
Yes .....				.....
No .....				.....
No Endorsement.....				.....	

Proposition 7: Allows Legislature to make Daylight Savings Time All Year Long:

The Research Committee recommends a YES vote (4 - 2 - 1) . The Steering Committee recommends a NO vote (11 - 8 - 1)

Vote for one	ACT Voter: #1	#2	#3	ADC: #1	#2	#3
Yes .....				.....
No .....				.....
No Endorsement.....				.....	

Proposition 8: Authorizes Regulation of Charges by Outpatient Kidney Dialysis**Clinics:**

The Research Committee recommends a YES vote (6 - 1 - 0). The Steering Committee recommends a YES vote (17 - 1 - 1)

Vote for one	ACT Voter: #1	#2	#3	ADC: #1	#2	#3
Yes .....				.....
No .....				.....
No Endorsement.....				.....	

Proposition 10: Initiative to Repeal Costa Hawkins to Permit Local Rent Control:

The Research Committee recommends a YES vote (7 - 0 - 0). The Steering Committee recommends a YES vote (19 - 1 - 0)

Vote for one	ACT Voter: #1	#2	#3	ADC: #1	#2	#3
Yes .....				.....
No .....				.....
No Endorsement.....				.....	

Proposition 11: Requires Ambulance Employees to be On-Call during Work**Breaks:**

The Research Committee recommends a NO vote (7 - 0 - 0). The Steering Committee recommends a NO vote (18 - 0 - 0)

Vote for one	ACT Voter: #1	#2	#3	ADC: #1	#2	#3
Yes .....				.....
No .....				.....
No Endorsement.....				.....	

Proposition 12: New Standards for Confinement of Farm Animals:

The Research Committee recommends a YES vote (6 - 0 - 1). The Steering Committee recommends a YES vote (15 - 4 - 0)

Vote for one	ACT Voter: #1	#2	#3	ADC: #1	#2	#3
Yes .....				.....
No .....				.....
No Endorsement.....				.....	

Pasadena City Ballot Measures:**Measure I: Adopting a ¾ cent Sales Tax:**

The Research Committee recommends a YES vote (5 - 2 - 0). The Steering Committee recommends a YES vote (16 - 1 - 1)

Vote for one	ACT Voter: #1	#2	#3	ADC: #1	#2	#3
Yes .....				.....
No .....				.....
No Endorsement.....				.....	

Ballot continues**Measure J: (Advisory only) Sales Tax Revenue To Be Shared with Pasadena Unified School District:**

The Research Committee recommends a YES vote (7 - 0 - 0). The Steering Committee recommends a YES vote (16 - 1 - 0)

Vote for one	ACT Voter: #1	#2	#3	ADC: #1	#2	#3
Yes		
No		
No Endorsement		

End of Ballot**Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:**

Carla Cowan, Sierra Madre
Charles Cummings, South Pasadena
Eileen Hatrick, Los Angeles

Special Thanks to Sustaining Members

Carla Cowan
Mary Hayden & Carla Tomaso
Brice & Carolyn Harris
Rex Mayreis & Joan Kaplan
Dick Smoak & Ferol Mennen

Special Thanks to Patrons

Armando Gonzalez & Brenda Berg
Trustee Sandra Chen Lau
Maria Low Way

Really Special Thanks to Benefactors

Edith Grady
Victor & Janice Laruccia, San Diego

Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Operating Account

Trustee Sandra Chen Lau

Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Political Account

Trustee Sandra Chen Lau
Michelle White

Thanks for Contributing to the Judy Boggs Memorial Internship Fund

Sally Beer
Nancy & Dick Esbenshade
Jon Fuhrman & Susan Kane
Wendy Gottlieb
Ralph Hurtado
Victor & Janice Laruccia
Jeanette Mann
Joan & Jeff Palmer
Fred Register
Ed Washatka

ACT's Website

Bruce Wright, our website manager, updates the webpage as we head toward the midterm election. Check it out: www.ACTpasadena.org!

You will also find the current on-line edition of *The Phoenix* (in color and often with items that couldn't be fitted into the print edition).

Bruce wants to hear your ideas. Contact him at brucewright@sbcglobal.net.

2018 Membership Renewal

A **RED CHECK** (✓) on your address label on this Phoenix tells you that we have not yet received your 2018 ACT and/or Arroyo Democratic Club membership dues. Please use the form below to send in your membership check right away. Or join or renew on line at www.actpasadena.org.

We need your continued support as we fight to flip Congressional districts in the midterm election.

Many thanks to those who have renewed! If you have any questions about you membership, contact Executive Director, Jon Fuhrman at jon_fuhrman@outlook.com



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.



Calendar

Sept. 14
Friday
7:30 p.m. UDH Steering Committee meeting at the home of Karen Wingard, 737 S. Magnolia Ave., Pasadena.

Sept. 21
Friday
9-10 a.m. Progressive Discussion Group meeting at Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena. Topic: Pasadena Sales Tax Measures. Also 10/5, 10/19, 11/2 and 11/16.

October 3
Wednesday
7-9 p.m. Altadena Library Board Forum at the Altadena Community Center, 730 E. Altadena Dr., Altadena

October 4
Thursday
7 p.m. ACT Steering and ADC meeting at the home of Bruce Wright & Marilee Marshall, 654 S. Madison Ave., Pasadena. Special Guest Senator Anthony Portantino to provide Capitol update. 7 p.m. for socializing; meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

October 11
Thursday
7-9 p.m. Community Forum on the Pasadena Sales Tax at All Saints Church, 132 N. Euclid Ave., Pasadena.

October 21
Sunday
2-4 p.m. UDH Oktoberfest Fundraiser at the Armenian Cultural Center, 740 E. Washington Blvd., Pasadena.

November 6 Election Day. Tuesday

November 8
Thursday
7 p.m. ACT Steering & ADC Meeting at a location to be determined. Election analysis by Jon Fuhrman and Fred Register.



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