



**The Official Publication of ACT**

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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

## **ACT & ADC Summer Potluck Meeting**



**Thursday, July 7, 6:30 p.m.**

at the home of

**Tom Seifert & Dianne Philiposian**  
436 S. Arroyo Boulevard, Pasadena



For good food and a good time please come to ACT's and the Arroyo Democratic Club's Summer Potluck and General Membership Meeting (in person and outdoors!) in the beautiful backyard of Tom Seifert and Dianne Philiposian at 436 S. Arroyo Boulevard, Pasadena.

The Potluck and socializing begin at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will follow at about 8 p.m. Everyone is welcome and urged to attend. The program includes a **UDH update and a Pasadena Rent Control Referendum discussion.**

Here are our potluck assignments:



- A-Hi ..... Main dish
- Hu-O ..... Fruit, dessert
- P-Z ..... Salad, vegetable, side dish



Please bring enough to serve 5 - 6 people and provide serving utensils for your dish. Beverages will be provided.



### **The January 6th Select Committee Hearings**

Find detailed information re the June public hearings of the January 6th Select Committee, including a summary of the facts and findings and what to look for here:

<https://www.justsecurity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/primer-on-january-6th-select-committee-hearings.pdf>

## Congratulations!!

Congratulations to ACT members Jess Rivas, John J. Kennedy, and Jason Lyon on their election to the Pasadena City Council. The final votes are not yet in -- perhaps 20% of the Vote by Mail ballots are still to be counted. But it looks quite certain that two-term District 3 incumbent John Kennedy will be returned to office with over a 60% majority.

Councilmember Jess Rivas, recently appointed to the District 5 seat left empty when Victor Gordo won election as Mayor, was unopposed for her election to a full 4-year term.

In District 7, incumbent Andy Wilson chose not to run again. Jason Lyon continues to capture over 52% of the vote, just enough to avoid a November run-off, despite facing two candidates – Ciran Hadjian and Allan Shay.

Incumbents fared less well in the PCC Board races. Although incumbent Sandra Chen Lau was unopposed in District 1, and thus sailed to reelection, two incumbents appear to have been ousted.

Board President Berlinda Brown, representing District 3, has clearly been defeated by challenger Steven Gibson. Incumbent Linda Wah, representing District 5, is locked in a tight race with Kristine Kwong, but at this time Kwong has a modest lead and will likely emerge victorious.

The tightest race is in District 7, where incumbent Anthony Fellow is ahead of challenger Alton Wang by a mere 69 votes. That thin margin could well disappear since an additional 1200 votes are likely to be added in. The Registrar will update these vote totals on Tuesday, 6/14 and again on Friday, 6/17, by which time essentially all the Vote by Mail ballots will have been processed and tallied. So both candidates in this race will be biting their nails for another week or so.

The turnout in our local races was relatively modest, but not atypical. Turnout across the entire state was modest – it will barely reach 30% after all the ballots are tallied. Historically, this is quite lower than two years – 2008 and 2020 – but both those elections featured really hot Presidential primaries at the top of the ticket. In other years, when there were no hot races at the top of the ticket, turnout was quite similar to this year, running between 25% and 35%. The moral: if there is something that truly interests voters, they will vote, but local elections, on their own, are typically not sufficient to energize the electorate.



## Programs for Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, July 7 -- Summer Potluck – in person outdoors. UDH update (Jon/Fred/Hoyt) and Pasadena Rent Control Referendum discussion.

August – Dark. No meeting or Phoenix.

September – Research Committee report, recommendations on PUSD Board and key local and state ballot measures. (An electronic endorsement ballot will be sent to ACT and ADC members following this meeting.)

October – Planned Parenthood: topic TBD pending Roe outcome and Endorsement ballot results and candidate funding decisions.

November – Midterm Election Analysis (Jon Fuhrman/Fred Register).

December – Traditional Holiday Potluck. Congressperson Judy Chu to be invited.

Suggested topics for 2023 -- Climate Change; key new CA laws going into effect; Pasadena housing and homelessness issues; Pasadena Housing with Housing Director Bill Huang.

*ACT and ADC meetings begin with socializing at 7 p.m. The program and business meeting follow at 7:30 p.m. (Except our Potlucks, which begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the meeting at 8 p.m.)*

## Maureen Carlson

We were saddened to learn of the death of Maureen Donnelly Carlson, who died at home on the first weekend of this month at age 88. Maureen was a wonderful person and a tireless advocate for public education and other progressive causes in Pasadena. She and her husband Bob have been members of ACT since the 1970s.



The Carlsons met at Harvard when Maureen was working on her PhD. at the Harvard School of Education. She was a staunch Democrat from a family of Democrats and she brought Bob into the Democratic party. They married soon after they met.

They made Pasadena their home and raised their four children here. When the children were grown, Maureen attended law school and was admitted to the State Bar in 1981. Among her many civic activities, she was a Board member of the Pasadena Education Foundation where she served on and chaired many committees and was Board President from 2006 to 2009. She is remembered by PEF as smart, kind, gracious and generous.

We extend deepest sympathy to Bob, family members, and friends. At the time of this writing, memorial services were pending.



## Special Thanks to Sustaining Members



Nichole Mihara & Greg Harrison

Michael Reagan & Carolyn Garner-Reagan

Bonnie Skolnik

## Special Thanks to Patrons

Garrett Paine

June Thurber Paine

## Announcing the 2022 Judy Boggs Memorial Internships



ACT is now accepting applications for the 2022 Judy Boggs Memorial Internships in Grassroots Politics. If you know of qualified young people who might be interested, please pass this information along. Here's more detail about the program:

**In memory of our long-time Executive Director, Judy Boggs, ACT will award stipends to two outstanding students to intern at the 2022 Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters (UDH). This year UDH will focus on targeted Congressional districts in California and supporting local Democratic incumbents.**



Internship program goals: to give interns experience in all aspects of a local campaign; to help them meet and work with local activists, candidates and elected officials; and to develop potential future leaders in local politics.

Preference will be given to students in good standing at a local college, community college, university or graduate school; but recent graduates will also be considered. Applicants must demonstrate an interest in government and electoral politics; show commitment to progressive issues and grassroots participation; and be able to work at least twenty hours a week at UDH in the 2-3 months leading up to the November election.

All interested students will be asked to submit a resume and a cover letter. **Applications must be received by Wednesday, July 20, 2022.** For more details, you can E-Mail Fred Register at: [fred.register@charter.net](mailto:fred.register@charter.net) -- or call 626-791-5345 and leave a message.

~ Fred Register

## Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Sunday, June 12

I confess – I’ve been spoiled. When I find a TV or streaming series I like, I binge watch – I’ll stay up to 6 am to see the last episode if I can. That’s what I really wanted to do after Thursday’s first hearing of the January 6<sup>th</sup> Committee. Granted, we already know the big picture, but I wanted to hear for myself the personal testimony of the key players. I wanted to see the texts, the tweets, the specific actions and deeds that constitute this overarching conspiracy to retain power, the voters be damned.

I’ll also admit I shared some trepidation. Could the Committee pull it off? Could they make the whole sordid affair understandable, relatable, relevant still seventeen months later, something which an ordinary voter, not intimately tuned in to politics or the political process, would feel affects them personally and was important to them personally?

I think we have our answer. They did, big time. Most critically, they wove the parts together into a compelling story. They described hubris, greed, corruption; disdain for the process; contempt for the people. They made the story understandable, and it will become only more graphic and more compelling with each additional day of hearings.

Some commentators on our side worried that, by waiting so long, the Committee had already blown it. They feared the delays had already pushed the hearings into irrelevancy. Fear no more. Yes, the Committee took their time. Yes, from a purely partisan political perspective, it would have been nice to have these hearings in January instead of June. But it is clear that the Committee needed time to piece this all together, weave it into a tale well told, present it in a way compelling for a modern audience accustomed to high-end production values.

I won’t dive into the details here. Three more hearings are already scheduled, and likely two more after those. So it’s too early even to try to summarize the full picture they will produce. But two facets in particular are worth noting.

Commentators have talked about the audience for the hearings, often concluding that the prime targets are prosecutors in the Department of Justice, and perhaps the Attorney-General himself. Clearly, the Committee has taken pains to use language taken directly from the US Code, from the specific statutes they believe have been violated. More, they are providing evidence for each of the particular elements that have to be proven to substantiate violations of those statutes. It’s a roadmap for charging the former President of the United States with serious felonies.

This is no small thing. The Attorney-General is right to be cautious here, more than cautious. It would be a monumental step in our legal history. It would shatter a norm, cross a bridge never

before crossed, and open all future Presidents to equivalent peril – justified or not. This decision is not simply a prosecutorial one – it is inextricably entwined with politics and history and a judgment balancing the need for accountability with the need for stability and the long-term health (we're talking hundreds of years) of our political system. And all this does not even take into account the difficulty of convicting a former President, who drew support from nearly half our citizens, and rabid support from a good 25 – 30% of them. Could you convince any randomly selected group of twelve citizens to convict the President? The chances for a hung jury seem pretty high to me.

But I think the commentators have missed one perspective here. On the Committee, and on its staff, are former prosecutors, like our own Congressman Adam Schiff, who have presented difficult cases to juries and won convictions. They know how to convince twelve random jurors, who know nothing about the crime, the defendants, or the specific laws involved, to render a unanimous verdict of guilty.

Congressman Schiff has won tough cases, as have other former prosecutors on the Committee staff, and I think they are approaching this as they would a tough case. The American people are the jury. They are presenting their evidence, wrapping it together into a coherent and believable story, so that in the end, we together can find the defendant guilty. As helpful guides, in lieu of a judge's instructions to the jury about the law, the Committee is quoting the statutory language, proving the required elements for each crime, demonstrating means, motive and opportunity. And in the end, they will need to show that Donald Trump knew this was wrong and why he did it anyway, in a way convincing to all but his most rabid supporters.



If they do that, regardless of what happens to Donald Trump, they will have helped the nation heal and move on, and make it far less likely for any future candidate in the style of Donald Trump to succeed.

There are also less lofty considerations at stake. What will the partisan political impact be? Will these hearings help arrest the decline of Democratic Party prospects? Will they impact the midterms?

They certainly have, for a few weeks at least, moved the Supreme Court's potential decision on Roe off the front pages. But the Roe decision will likely be released by the end of the month. How will the two interact?

It seems to me hard to imagine any scenario other than these two streams coming together to motivate the Democratic base and, as well, move some GOP voters in our direction. There appears to me to be an odd dissonance in the public today – they blame President Biden for all our problems (and we do indeed have plentiful problems, with inflation and gas prices at the top of the list), yet when you look at individual candidate races, there doesn't seem to be an impact.

In Pennsylvania, our guys are ahead, and initial polling seems to suggest the expected Roe decision actually moves 5 – 8% of independent voters toward Democrats. In Ohio, our Senate candidate is neck and neck with the GOP candidate, and if there were a broad-based flight from Democrats, you should see that in Ohio.

In Georgia, our incumbent Sen. Raphael Warnock seems to be running head-to-head with GOP challenger Herschel Walker. Indeed, the latest poll gave Warnock a 5% lead. Again, if Democrats are in trouble nation-wide, it should be painfully obvious in Georgia.

This may, in part, be due to the GOP choosing some terrible candidates (as they are wont to do). But whatever the cause, despite this lack of enthusiasm for President Biden, our Senate candidates seem to be doing well, and I would not give up on the House. The apparent erosion of support for the President, with national approval numbers sinking to depths equal to those that former President Trump experienced prior to losing both Houses of Congress, seem not to be translating to individual races.

Further, we have four more months for the President to help gas prices start going back down, for the Roe decision to unleash all the most extreme demands from anti-choice zealots, for President Trump to get indicted by the Fulton County grand jury in Georgia (the County District Attorney has publicly stated she will decide whether to arraign the former President by the end of June), for him to testify under oath about the financial chicanery of his company in New York, for the stream of indictments and convictions of January 6th rioters to continue and perhaps climb the ladder to those who organized and financed the plot, even if they themselves didn't invade the Capitol, and lastly, of course, for the January 6th Committee to finish its work as spectacularly as it began its work. Of that, at least, I have little doubt.

~ Jon Fuhrman



### **Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Operating Account**

Susan & Don Bosch  
Helen Nedelman

### **Really Special Thanks to Benefactors**

Carol Liu & Michael Peevey  
Peter Robinson & Buffy Shutt



### **Lessons from January 6<sup>th</sup>**

As we watch the hearings of the Select Committee on January 6<sup>th</sup>, there are several important things to keep in mind. The first, and most obvious, is that this was a conspiracy by former President Trump and his right-wing allies to obstruct a presidential election. Whether or not Trump is ultimately brought to justice, it is clear that he and his supporters were guilty of conspiracy.

On a larger level, the events leading up to January 6<sup>th</sup> and its aftermath demonstrate the fragility of our democratic institutions, and at the same time some of their resiliency. It should not be a surprise to any of us that democracies are fragile, including ours. History is littered with the ruins of democratic states, or at least of nations that strived for democracy, but fell short.

January 6<sup>th</sup> illustrates that but for the strength of our institutions, along with the determination of a brave few, our democratic election process could have crumbled. However, it is important to note that institutions like Congress and the courts, despite their history of ineffective and inefficient government, did finally rise to the occasion and at least preserve the bedrock of our electoral system.

As we focus on the crimes of the Trump cabal and the threat to our own democratic institutions, it is important to understand that what happened on January 6<sup>th</sup> was not an isolated American phenomenon. Long before Trump and Trumpism there has been a growing nativist, nationalist movement throughout the world, from Brexit in Britain to the yellow vest movement in France and elsewhere.

Global capitalism, huge refugee migrations, in-

equality and the concentration of wealth have led to upheaval, especially among the middle classes. These movements are largely the result of the decline in standards of living and fear for the future, which often translates into scapegoating of minorities and mistrust of governments and resentment of elites. Make no mistake, these are mass movements, even though they still represent a minority of most nations' populations.

These populist movements have no coherent ideology. They have no program or platform other than to oppose the actions of their governments and demonize minorities and the elites. Unlike the years before the Second World War, when organized movements of leftists and fascists battled in the streets, there is very little ideology or even organization to the current mass movement. However, it is perhaps even more worrisome that today's populist movement is likely more widespread and tacitly accepted than the Brown Shirts, the Communists or the Italian fascists of the thirties.

How, then, should we as Democrats confront not only what was a conspiracy by the former president, and a future threat to American democracy, but a worldwide populist, nativist movement that threatens not only American society but the global order? In addition to fighting for working people, the poor and minorities and all the policies that we believe in, Democrats must also try to understand the deeper causes of what is not just an American phenomenon.

Whether the crisis is economic, political or social, we must strive to address the complexity of the crisis and not look to simplistic solutions – which is the danger that we face from populist rhetoric. As Democrats fight to win elections – which we must – we should also be thinking creatively about the future of not only our own country, but also of the world.

~ Hoyt Hilsman, Chair UDH Steering Com.

## **United Democratic Headquarters**

### **Campaign Positions Available in Southern California**

#### **Mid-July to Mid-November**

The Pasadena Area UDH is an independent expenditure campaign, not affiliated with the California Democratic Party or the Democratic National Committee. <http://pasadenademocrats.com>.

**WE OFFER:** A large and experienced volunteer base, a history of successful elections, a diverse population with a large voter target, and a dedicated Steering Committee. Compensation commensurate with experience.

#### **WE SEEK:**

**Campaign Coordinator:** Seasoned campaign leader to develop and implement local voter outreach, including voter registration, vote by mail ballot program, phone banking, precinct walking and GOTV as well as to recruit volunteers to help in targeted districts outside our immediate boundaries. In consultation with the Steering Committee, the Coordinator will develop and implement a campaign plan designed to deliver victory for state and federal candidates. The plan will include deadlines for reaching goals with periodic progress reports reported to UDH Steering Committee. Must be able to manage social media and virtual campaign; supervise consultants, interns and volunteers; prioritize activities of consultants and interns to meet voter contact goals; create a positive working environment; manage day-to-day operations in conformance with an established budget; supervise the volunteer and voter data banks; get out the vote of identified Democratic supporters in the targeted area; oversee handling of monies; assist the Fundraising Consultant; and supervise on-line retail. Reports to Steering Committee.

**Headquarters Coordinator:** Outgoing individual to develop and implement plans to reach out

to every facet of the community to recruit a diverse team of volunteers. Must be able to orient team members and volunteers to all aspects of field work including voter registration, vote by mail programs, phone banking, precinct walking, and GOTV; track voter contact data using campaign software to measure progress; register Democratic voters; identify and train precinct captains; identify lead volunteers; foster a positive experience for volunteers; maintain a volunteer data base; get out the vote of identified Democratic supporter in the targeted areas. Reports to Campaign Coordinator.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Political campaign experience (required for Campaign Coordinator, preferred for other position), strong computer skills, good organizational skills, ability to work with volunteers, reliable work history, ability to work as part of a team. References required.

**Requirement:** Non-standard work hours and weekend and holiday work.

**Applications will be accepted until positions are filled.**

#### **How to Apply:**

Please send a letter outlining your experience working in political campaigns as well as your professional and community experience and educational background along with a current resume to [hoyth75@gmail.com](mailto:hoyth75@gmail.com).



### **Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Political Account**

Carol Liu & Michael Peevey  
Helen Nedelman



*We can't truly be leaders if we're only living for reelection.*

~ Matthew McConaughey, Uvalde, TX native

## **My Two Cents**

By Ron Garber



In early December my younger daughter contacted me with the surprising news that she, her husband and her boys aged 8 and 5 would be moving to of all places, Texas, the day after Christmas. My son-in-law Juan and his family are from El Salvador and my grandsons bear a strong resemblance to him and naturally have a Latino surname. They've been on my mind a lot since they moved to a very small town 45 minutes from Dallas, but even more so since the horrific events at Uvalde a few weeks ago.

Most of us are of the generation that practiced the useless exercise of duck and cover during the cold war. Students all over the country participate in active shooter drills, but unlike duck and cover the states of Texas, Florida, Colorado and Connecticut have shown these exercises to be necessary and more is the pity. Because of the gun culture, the attack on the rights of women, people of color, immigrants both invited and uninvited, gay, lesbian and transgendered people, I wished that they had not moved to a place like Texas with its hateful Republican leadership.



A few weeks ago, I got a letter from a most unusual source. The return address reads; From the Desk of Kathleen Cady J.D. Victims' Rights Attorney, paid for by the Committee to Support the Recall of District Attorney George Gascon. It included a petition to sign and a request for a contribution to their cause. I can't fathom that of all people they would waste resources on sending this to me.

Some politicians, like Sheriff Villanueva, campaign as one thing and immediately after taking office, act in the opposite of what they promised

- and should be recalled. D.A. Gascon's crime is that rapidly after taking office he delivered on all his campaign promises. How refreshing is that? I'm all for having a recall process but it needs amending, so it isn't abused. More importantly, if the petitions are successful, we have to make it a priority to help him stay in office.

I hate the death penalty, and while I support all Gascon's progressive positions, his taking the death penalty off the table - which is a D.A.'s prerogative - had to be the deciding factor in voting for Gascon over D.A. Lacey (who wasn't a bad D.A., but did not take the death penalty off the table.) One of Governor Newsom's first acts upon taking office was to place a moratorium on the death penalty and I firmly believe he will commute all those sentences upon leaving office when he's termed out. That may even be the greatest piece of his legacy.

Bottom line, save Gascon!!!



Speaking as one of ADC's representatives on the UDH Steering Committee, I'm going to make it my mission to have UDH concentrate on flipping the 25th Congressional district. UDH is pledged to support and aid all Democrats representing the Pasadena area but as most, with the exception of Supervisor Barger, are Democrats and figure to coast to victory, the 25<sup>th</sup> CD which is in our backyard, is the closest district now being represented by a Republican. In the last general election Christy Smith came within 333 votes of winning and since then the reapportionment of the district favors Democratic registration. If we help flip this district and other Democratic campaign offices do the same for their locals, maybe we can hold on to the House of Representatives.

~ Ron out



## Pasadena Affordable Housing Coalition UPDATE



Approval of the latest draft update to the Housing Element of Pasadena's General Plan continues its slow walk through the bureaucratic process on its way to final adoption by the City Council.

At the May 25 Planning Commission meeting, the staff presentation revealed that several of the motions passed by the Mayor's Housing Task Force were not included in the body of the 288-page Housing Element document. The motions specifically included some of the policy solutions submitted by the Affordable Housing Coalition.

Some members of the Commission, as well as members of the Housing Task Force, and Coalition members attending via Zoom expressed their frustration and disappointment to City Staff that their comments and work product is seemingly being dismissed.

Specifically, the Housing Task Force had passed several motions by overwhelming votes of support around the issues of tenant protections such as rent stabilization, unjust evictions, and funding sources for affordable housing production. These were some of the same policy concerns that the Coalition had been supporting for months in letters to the City and to the State's Housing and Community Development Department (HCD).

It remains to be seen if the Planning Department staff will include any of the Housing Task Force's or Coalition's proposed policy solutions in the Housing Element final draft. The Staff will schedule a Commission meeting in the coming weeks and recommend the Commission vote to send the final update to the City Council for adoption and submittal to the State's HCD for acceptance and approval.

The due date for filing an acceptable Housing Element with the state is October 2022.

~ Ed Washatka



**From  
25<sup>th</sup> District  
State Senator  
Anthony Portantino**



Dear ACT,

Fate and providence often create interesting and compelling circumstances. Minutes after the tragic shooting in Uvalde, I was called on to present SB 1327 on the Senate floor. Although the complete details and depth of the tragedy weren't yet disclosed, the preliminary reports were staggering and horrific. SB 1327 seeks to grant the same private right of actions that Texas created for individuals to use against abortion providers and patients for Californians to use against gun manufacturers and gun dealers. Governor Newsom sponsored the bill proposal, and I am proud to be jointly authoring it with Senator Hertzberg. If Texas can use this tool to punish women, California can use it for sensible gun control.

Prior to Uvalde, several legislators had introduced gun control measures. California leads the nation on sensible gun control laws and this session we were primed to do even more. Since the Texas tragedy, Governor Newsom asked us to fast-track a handful of these important new proposals, including SB 1327. I'm also pleased that SB 906 is also on the fast-track list. SB 906 has two important components. First, it requires school districts to educate families on California's safe storage of firearm laws. In addition to authoring SB 906 I wrote and passed California's safe gun storage law.

The second provision of 906 requires school districts to actively investigate credible violent

threats toward that campus. This was included because of what recently happened in Michigan. In that case, the school district was aware that the shooter was threatening the school but failed to act. Under SB 906, when potential shooters post their intentions online, school districts must take them seriously and must inform the appropriate law enforcement.

Like many, I'm sickened by the Uvalde tragedy and hope it's the last one of this largely American phenomenon to grip our nation. I'm also disappointed in so many Republican Senators who have not embraced gun control. While a bi-partisan gun control deal was announced today, it doesn't go far enough and leaves more work to be done. While California leads the nation, it is still vulnerable to the inaction and permissive laws of our neighboring states. The inconsistency of states addressing gun control places Californians at risk. We don't need excuses, false statements and blame, we need more action in DC.

Respectfully,

~ Anthony

*Senator Anthony Portantino represents California's 25th State Senate District, which stretches along the 210 Freeway from Sunland/Tujunga to Upland. He proudly represents the Rose Bowl, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Griffith Park, Warner Brothers, Disney, Caltech and the Claremont Colleges.*



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



Dear ACT Friends,

I am pleased to see that thirteen of my bills cleared the Assembly Floor during the House of Origin deadline at the end of May. This demonstrates both the commitment of the Legislature and the ongoing public support for these important reforms. We need to ask for accountability from the public and private sector, and expedite the safety communication process now more than ever. As my bills cross from the Assembly to the Senate, I hope to encourage rehabilitation of incarcerated people, halt the on-ramp of youth of color to the prison system and promote equity, accessibility and accountability in communities across California.

Below is a partial list of legislation that now sits in the Senate:

**AB 1604** promotes upward mobility for people of color in California's civil services system and requires diversity on state boards and commissions. If passed, this bill would be the first of its kind in the nation.

**AB 1720** would streamline the licensure process for those that have been convicted of a crime to ensure that an unrelated prior conviction does not prohibit a qualified, rehabilitated person from securing employment.

**AB 2446** would require a life cycle assessment to determine the carbon intensity of both residential and non-residential buildings in the state. The bill would require the Energy Commission to design the framework to achieve an eighty percent net reduction in new construction by 2045, which is aligned with Executive Order B-55-18 that sets a statewide goal of carbon net neutrality, no later

than 2045.

**AB 2617** would allow and incentivize local education agencies to expand dual enrollment opportunities for all students, while targeting underrepresented students and those from low-income families, provide resources to effectively communicate dual enrollment opportunities to students, and ensure that students have program support in critical areas such as academic advising.

**AB 2085** would address the over surveillance and overrepresentation of families of color in the child welfare system by reforming mandated reporting requirements. The bill would direct mandated reporters to use their discretion and training to determine whether families need to be reported to child welfare services, or if they simply need to be connected with community-based services.

**AB 2632** would ban the use of solitary confinement for certain populations including people who are pregnant, have disabilities, or fall within certain age limits. The bill also defines solitary confinement as any period of confinement that exceeds seventeen hours a day in a cell, requires facilities to document any instance in which solitary is used, and places limits on the duration any person can be held in this manner.

**AB 2748** bridges the digital divide and would leverage the state's licensing authority over cable companies, who are among the largest internet service providers in the state, by obligating them to serve the public under the highest standards and in a manner that ensures equal access to broadband connectivity and service.

**AB 2515** would require a person registered as a proprietary private security officer to deliver a written report to the director describing the circumstances surrounding the discharge of any firearm, or physical altercation with a member of the public while on duty, in a manner similar to a person licensed as a private patrol operator.

**AB 2644** would protect our young adults twenty-five years of age or younger, by prohibiting a law enforcement officer from employing threats, physical harm, deception or psychologically manipulative interrogation tactics such as lying, during an interrogation. According to the Center on Wrongful Convictions of Youth, false confessions are one of the leading causes of wrongful convictions, accounting for roughly 25% of all convictions that were later overturned based on DNA evidence.

**AB 2773** would require a peace officer making a traffic or pedestrian stop, to state the reason for the stop, before asking any questions, unless the officer reasonably believes that withholding the reason for the stop is necessary to protect life or property from imminent threat.

**AB 1919** would establish the Youth Transit Pass Pilot Program, a grant program for transit agencies designed to fund fare-free youth transit passes for Californians twenty-five years of age or younger. This bill is a win for our students, our climate and our transit agencies.

**AB 1737** would increase the safety of our children by requiring day camps to adopt basic safety standards and conduct annual background checks for all camp staff. Under current law, child day camps enjoy zero regulation and are not even required to conduct background checks on staff. It is critical that California protects our children by enacting appropriate oversight of children's camps.

**ACR 188** would allow the Legislature to request by February 2023, in consultation with the California balancing authorities, to produce a report that summarizes recent relevant studies on the impacts of expanded regional cooperation on California. This resolution identifies key issues that will most effectively advance the state's energy and environmental goals.

In the district, I am happy to announce that I am

proceeding with my annual Block Party and Resource Fair on Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>! I look forward to seeing you all. Stay tuned for more details to come.

Sincerely, ~ Chris R. Holden

*Assemblyman Holden represents some 420,000 people in the foothills communities of Altadena, Monrovia, South Pasadena, Pasadena, Sierra Madre, San Dimas, La Verne, Claremont, and Upland. He can be reached via his website at:*

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



### Your Photo in *The Phoenix*

Please share a photo (of you) at an interesting place with *Phoenix* readers. Send it to Chuck at [hains27@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hains27@sbcglobal.net) for inclusion in an upcoming issue.



## Book Review

By Robert V. Frampton



### “Blowout”, Investigatory Reporting by Rachel Maddow

*Blowout*, by Rachel Maddow, is the story of the Natural Gas and Oil industries worldwide, and the social and economic impacts that these industries have engendered. The book begins by discussing the history and methodology of shale fracturing (fracking) for natural gas mining, and discusses the oil and gas development in the US, in Africa and in Russia. There are, by my count, eight major themes in this account by Maddow, which I outline below.

1. Hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”). The concept for fracking in drilling for natural gas in shale was developed in the early 1990s, but was perfected in 1998 by George Mitchel in the Barnett shale formations around Fort Worth, Texas. It involves injecting water and some solvents into wells at high pressure. When combined with horizontal drilling, the yield can be quite impressive. However, in Oklahoma this process led to a series of earthquakes near the wells. Maddow has a couple of chapters devoted to the investigation on the causes of these quakes, and political interference by oil executives into revealing the connection between the quakes and fracking.
2. Oklahoma oil barons. Three major oil and gas companies dominate the drilling activity in Oklahoma: Devon Energy, led by CEO Larry Nichols, bought George Mitchel’s company in 2001; Chesapeake Energy, founded by Aubrey McClendon; and Continental Resources, led by Harrold Hamm. Maddow denotes how excessive tax breaks to these oil companies by a state

legislature largely controlled by the oil industry, led to a severe decline in public resources for schools in Oklahoma.

3. Equatorial Guinea is a country on the west coast of Africa ruled as a private fiefdom by the family of its president, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, who assumed the presidency in 1979 by staging a coup against the government of his uncle. Equatorial Guinea’s government is authoritarian and has one of the worst human rights records in the world. It has an estimated billion barrels of oil in estimated reserves. Oil companies were invited in for oil exploration in 2002, led by Rex Tillerson and ExxonMobil. Through oil income, the median income is \$37,000 per year; however, 77% of the population lives in poverty, and public education is abysmal. Yet, President Obiang is ranked by Forbes magazine as the 8<sup>th</sup> wealthiest national leader in the world. Most of the oil royalties are paid into bank accounts directly controlled by the president’s family. Very little of this oil wealth is put into public investments or to create a sustainable economy.

4. Russian oil companies. President Yeltsin had decided to “spin-off” the State-owned Soviet industries to the public by distributing ownership shares to each citizen. The main oil company to form after the fall of the Soviet Union was Yukos, built by Mikhail Khodorkovsky, then a Putin ally, by buying up, by devious means at bargain price, shares in the Soviet oil company that were distributed as part of Yeltsin’s “capitalist” experiment. After Khodorkovsky challenged Putin’s increasing authoritarianism, however, Putin had Khodorkovsky arrested in October 2003 on trumped-up charges, and seized the assets of Yukos and merged them into a Putin-controlled company, Rosneft, headed by a long-time Putin underling (who had no oil and gas experience) Igor Sechin.

5. Rex Tillerson is featured through the book. He became CEO of ExxonMobil in 2006 after

overseeing the merger of Exxon and Mobile. And he brought this giant oil company into the natural gas fracking business with the \$30 billion purchase of XTO Energy in 2010. The book has several chapters on Tillerson's dealings with Vladimir Putin in striking joint venture exploration deals between Russia's Rosneft company and ExxonMobile in 2011 to explore both in Siberia and in the Arctic Ocean. Tillerson opposed US Sanctions against Russia after the takeover of Crimea in 2014 and for a while defied these sanctions to continue drilling operations in the Kara Sea in the Arctic.

6. Paradox of plenty. What has come to be known as the "Resource Curse" is the phenomenon that countries that "strike it rich" in the oil boom do not generally use this wealth to create a better economy and life for their citizens. Rather, this sudden influx of oil wealth more likely leads to great corruption, a class of oil billionaires, an autocratic government and an impoverished populace. For example, in Russia's Gazprom, about \$40 billion a year was syphoned off in corruption, mostly enriching Putin and the oligarchs. Russia's oil riches did not provide benefit to the Russian populace, giving Russia a median household income less than half that of Saudi Arabia. This trend is analyzed by Terry Lynn Karl, an economist at Stanford University, in her book *Paradox of Plenty: Oil Booms and Petro-states*. Maddow follows this trend of oil income fostering massive corruption in Russia, Equatorial Guinea, Venezuela, and even in Oklahoma.

7. Russian computer hacking. Starting in 2013, an extensive Russian hacking and disinformation campaign was carried out by the "Internet Research Agency," located at 55 Savushkina Street in Saint Petersburg. Teams of young computer hackers worked two shifts, day after day, continuing up to and through the 2016 US elections, to hack internet accounts and to post disinformation on Facebook and other social media, carrying out

what they called "information warfare," including trolling, identity theft, email hacking, and fake social media accounts, with the objective of spreading disinformation and chaos, and instigating rage. Maddow writes: "Putin and his techno-warriors identified and exploited what differences and disagreements and prejudices were corroding the health and cohesion of American society. They found the most ragged faults and fissure in our democracy: immigration, race, religion, etc. ... to try to make Americans of differing experiences and viewpoints hate and distrust each other; to make public discourse and discussion as mean-spirited and alienating as possible."

8. Mr. Putin's strategy has been to utilize Russia's vast oil and gas reserves to make Russia into a major petrol-state (even at the expense of building up other industries), and to make European nations dependent on Russia for energy. He negotiated Nordstream and Southstream pipeline deals with Gerhard Schröder in Germany and with Berlusconi in Italy, even putting Schröder on the Board of Gazprom. Ultimately, Russia was supplying the European Union with 40% of its natural gas imports. With Gazprom for natural gas and Rosneft for oil, Maddow writes, "this was just the sort of hydrocarbon leverage that Putin had long desired," his energy superpower strategy, that served to mute European criticism of Russian human rights abuses at home and aggression in Georgia, Syria and elsewhere.

~ Robert Frampton

Next Month: *I will review the memoir of Dr. Fiona Hill, [There is Nothing for You Here](#). The "Here" in the title refers to Fiona Hill's native northeast England, a deindustrialized area of closed mines. She became a Russia expert, and served as senior director for European and Russian affairs on the National Security Council staff in the Trump Administration. Dr Hill is also author of [Mr. Putin, Operative in the Kremlin](#).*



## Calendar

- June Eight public hearings of the House January 6 Select Committee are planned in June; some primetime, others daytime.
- July 7 ACT and ADC General Membership Meeting and Summer Potluck. Details and potluck assignments on the front page.  
Thursday 6:30 p.m.
- July 11 UDH Steering Meeting via Zoom. 5:30 p.m.  
Monday
- July 11 Phoenix deadline.
- August Research Committee Meeting on a date after the close of filing on August 12.

## July Phoenix Deadline

The deadline for copy for the July *Phoenix* will be Monday, July 11. Send items for publication to Chuck Hains at [hains27@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hains27@sbcglobal.net) and Sally Beer at [sally.beer125@gmail.com](mailto:sally.beer125@gmail.com). (Chuck will continue to contact regular contributors with a deadline reminder.)



## ACTpasadena.org

Have you checked out our website? You can always find the current *Phoenix* there, plus a *Phoenix* archive. Thanks to website manager Bruce Wright and to Marcus Green for updating and adding to the site. **Please share items of interest and online calendar items with Bruce.** Reach him at: [brucewright@sbcglobal.net](mailto:brucewright@sbcglobal.net).



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

## Please Pay Up for 2022!

If you find a **RED** ✓ on your address label on this *Phoenix*, that tells you that we are still looking for your 2022 membership dues for ACT and/or ADC. Please pay up now. Send your check with the form below or renew online at our website. If you have any questions about your membership, check with Executive Director Jon Fuhrman at [jon\\_fuhrman@outlook.com](mailto:jon_fuhrman@outlook.com) or 626 864-5255.



### I'd like to join both groups for one low price! (Checks payable to ACT/ADC)

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Single                               | <input type="checkbox"/> \$70 Single Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Each additional member per household | <input type="checkbox"/> \$90 Double Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student or limited income            | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Patron           |
|                                                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$275 Benefactor       |

### I'd like to join ACT (Checks payable to ACT)

- |                                                                    |                                                 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student or limited income            | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Patron           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Gift Membership (NEW!)               | <input type="checkbox"/> \$275 Benefactor       |

### I'd like to join the Arroyo Democratic Club (Checks payable to ADC)

- |                                                                    |                                                 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student or limited income            | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Patron           |
|                                                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$275 Benefactor       |

### Extra Contribution

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Political Account (for endorsed candidates and issues)
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Information you provide will be available to other members and endorsed candidates upon request.