



**The Official Publication of ACT**  
P. O. Box 40074, (626) 795-2798

*the phoenix*  
**On-Line**

Volume 50  
Number 5  
May, 2022

Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

## **ACT and ADC Primary Election Endorsements**

### **Endorsements voted by ACT and ADC members:**

#### Pasadena City Council

**John Kennedy** ..... District 3  
**Jason Lyon** ..... District 7



#### Pasadena Community College

**Steven Gibson** ..... Area 3  
**Kristine Kwong** ... Area 5 (ACT only)  
**Alton Wong** ..... Area 7

**Eli Vera** ..... L A Co Sheriff  
**Tony Vazquez, Dist. 3** ..... State Bd. of Equalization  
**Chris Holden** ..... 41st Assembly District

**Jeffrey Prang** ..... LA County Assessor  
**Judy Chu** ..... US Congress  
**Adam Schiff** ..... US Congress

All Democratic incumbents were endorsed for Statewide Constitutional Offices.

### **Judicial Recommendations**

The ACT Steering Committee voted to recommend the following Judicial candidates. (Names in **bold**.)

- |                 |                                 |  |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Seat 3</b>   | <b>Tim Reuben</b>               | private attorney rated well qualified. He is running against a candidate rated not qualified.      |
| <b>Seat 67</b>  | <b>Elizabeth Lashley-Haynes</b> | public defender rated qualified.   |
| <b>Seat 70</b>  | <b>Holly Hancock</b>            | public defender rated qualified.   |
| <b>Seat 90</b>  | <b>Kevin McGurk</b>             | public defender rated well qualified.  |
| <b>Seat 116</b> | <b>Lloyd Handler</b>            | public defender rated qualified.   |
| <b>Seat 118</b> | <b>Georgia Huert</b>            | DA rated well qualified.   |
| <b>Seat 151</b> | <b>Patrick Hare</b>             | public defender rated well qualified.  |
| <b>Seat 156</b> | <b>Carol Elswick</b>            | rated qualified. She is a judge defending her seat against a candidate who is rated not qualified. |

We made no recommendation for **Seat 60**. Candidates **Abby Baron** and **Sharon Ransom** are both DAs rated well qualified.

## ACT and ADC Meeting

Friday, June 10, 7 p.m.

Election Analysis Via Zoom

**Please Note That This Meeting Is On Friday, June 10, And Not On The Usual Thursday Meeting Date!**

Join us on Friday, June 10 at 7 p.m. for our ACT Steering Committee and Arroyo Democratic Club Meeting via Zoom.

Come for an **analysis of the June 7 Primary Election results by our member experts!** And stay for the meetings that follow.

Socializing before the meeting begins at 7 p.m. The program and meeting follow at 7:30 p.m. George Brumder will chair the ACT meeting; Tim Wendler, the ADC meeting. Fred Register will serve as the Zoom host. Everyone is welcome and urged to attend.

(Find the Zoom link for the meeting on ACT's webpage, <http://www.actpasadena.org>.)



## Upcoming Meetings



**Friday, June 10** – Election analysis of the June 7 Primary results via Zoom. (Note that this meeting is NOT on our regular Thursday meeting date.)

Thursday, July 7 -- Traditional Summer Potluck – in person outdoors. (We hope.)

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)



## Special Thanks to Patrons

Martin Hessel & Pamela Miller-Hessel

## Win for Democrats One Postcard at a Time!



Postcarding opportunities abound. Please join us! We supply the postcards, addresses, and scripts. You share your energy, time, and good juju to get this done!

Thank you for being part of our team AND saving our state and country! Find the Postcard Order Form at [HTTP://WWW.ACTPASADENA.ORG](http://www.actpasadena.org) under 'Pasadena Area Democratic Headquarters' or email or call one of us right away to get going.

~ Karen Rowinsky - 626-483-1135

[karen@karenrowinsky.com](mailto:karen@karenrowinsky.com)

~ Katie Dempster – 323-363-2602

[kdcjic@earthlink.net](mailto:kdcjic@earthlink.net)



## NWPC-GPA Fundraiser to Benefit Endorsed Women Candidates

The National Women's Political Caucus – Greater Pasadena Area is resurrecting its annual fundraiser, this year as an evening event. Join us on Friday, May 20 from 5 – 7 pm as we honor Dolores Hickambottom and hear from women officeholders and endorsed candidates.

Go to <https://www.nwpcgpa.org/may-2022-fund-raiser> to sponsor or to purchase tickets. Every dollar we raise will go directly to funding the campaigns of endorsed women.



## Thanks to Sustaining Members

Franklin & Marianne Dryden

Judy Gripp

Philip Hawkey & Dena Spanos Hawkey

Herb & Karin Meiselman

Eddie Newman

Kris Ockershauser

Ann Scheid

## Elected Speakers Report at the May Meeting

**Pasadena City Council Member Jess Rivas** and **PCC Trustee Sandra Chen Lau** joined us at the May ACT/ADC meeting. Both are ACT members who had previously been endorsed for their current offices, and both are unopposed for re-election this year. Because neither was interviewed by the Research Committee prior to the June Primary they agreed instead to come to a meeting and share with us their perspectives on local issues.

**Council Member Rivas** reported that her top ongoing priorities are 1) responding to the Covid pandemic, and especially shoring up the City's financial condition coming out of the health crisis; 2) ensuring public safety, working both to improve police protection and to ensure that police response itself does not endanger residents; 3) addressing the housing crisis through local action, including her strong support for a proposed rent control ordinance.

Rivas also highlighted her opposition to a proposed change in the law that would remove all limits on campaign contributions in local elections. In response to questions, she noted that the Attorney General is threatening to sue Pasadena over the City's response to a new state law requiring cities to build more housing. She believes this will work itself out once the AG has a clearer understanding of Pasadena's actions and aims – especially regarding historic and landmark districts.

**Trustee Chen Lau** expressed concern that disputes between PCC's President and the faculty continue to make headlines. While the college has won back its full accreditation, the underlying issue which led to probation was poor communication between the faculty and the Board/Administration – and that continues to be a problem. Chen Lau noted that the college may

consider a bond issue for the fall ballot and listed her personal priorities: continuing to strengthen PCC's academic standing; maintaining a strong fiscal position; better access for local students; and improving communication between the college and the community.

In response to questions, Chen Lau agreed that the serious enrollment drop (almost 30%) that PCC has experienced during the pandemic poses some serious issues and could certainly affect plans and decisions about a bond issue. However, she noted that the decline, which was especially severe among Hispanic students, is expected to be temporary. She believes that PCC's appeal to students both inside and outside the district will bring enrollment back to more normal levels as pandemic fears ease.

~ Fred Register



## Abortion Protections Under Dire Threat

The Supreme Court's leaked draft decision on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* overturns the federally protected right to abortion and leaves it up to each state to decide whether abortion should be restricted or banned.

- *Roe v. Wade* – 1973: made abortion legal at the federal level.
- *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* – 1992: added to the precedent set by *Roe*.
- *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* – 2022: overturns *Roe v. Wade*. The final decision is scheduled for release in June.

The passage of the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA) will codify *Roe v. Wade*. It will use the Constitution's *Supremacy Clause* to protect abortion rights from anti-abortion laws passed at the state level. Introduced by Congresswoman Judy Chu, the bill has passed from the House to the Senate where it is expected to fail.

~ Karen Breau

## Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Monday, May 9

The old proverb says be careful what you wish for. The right-wing of the GOP has been wishing for an outright repeal of *Roe v. Wade* for nearly 50 years, and now, it would seem, they will get exactly that.

At least 5 Justices appear ready to abandon the deference they pledged to settled law and *stare decisis* and super-precedents and the doctrine of reliance. They seem ready quite simply to erase *Roe* and *Casey* from the law books. Justice Alito attempts, through a particularly pathetic and self-serving stretch of logic, to cloak his decision in righteousness by likening *Roe* and *Casey* to other “egregiously wrong” cases like *Korematsu*, which deprived thousands of innocent Japanese citizens of their liberty and property, and *Plessy*, which created the separate but equal standard, thereby legally justifying segregation and depriving generations of African-Americans of their

rights to equal treatment and opportunity.

But repercussions are already being felt, and my guess is that the GOP will ultimately rue this day. Extremists on the GOP side already are asking where they can go next. The Governor of Louisiana, when asked on a national TV interview if he would sign a bill banning all contraception, repeatedly dodged the issue. An Idaho State House member wants to ban morning-after pills. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell is talking about a nation-wide ban on abortion should the GOP take control of the House and Senate in the mid-terms. Of course, implicit in that threat is both the disregard for the Supreme Court logic that since abortion is not mentioned in the Constitution it therefore should be subject only to state regulation, and that McConnell would abandon the 60-vote rule for cloture, which he so stoutly defends now, since there is no way the GOP could get a 60-vote majority in the Senate (especially with Senator Susan Collins and, if she should survive, Senator Lisa Murkowski dissenting).

So will this stunning ruling and the ensuing dramatic overreaching have an impact on voters, and what might that impact be? It seems apparent that the “enthusiasm gap” which pollsters have been reporting – whereby GOP voters were supposedly more motivated than Democratic voters – has likely turned around. National Democratic organizations raised over \$5 million in contributions in the 24 hours after the leak came out. Rallies have been held around the country. Democrats are already using this in campaign ads: Sen. Maggie Hassan in New Hampshire, seen as one of the most vulnerable incumbent Democratic Senators, has a digital campaign ad up now tying her GOP opponent to “McConnell’s decade-long crusade to criminalize abortion.”

We have some general polling data, showing substantial majorities of all voters supporting at least some access to legal abortions, also we also have

a little bit of specific polling data, although it is too early to put much reliance on it. A new Yahoo News / YouGov poll (which is done via the web, rather than by phone calls, and therefore considered less reliable by professional pollsters) showed that their sample of voters preferred a generic Democrat over a generic Republican by 5 percentage points (44% - 39%). That's somewhat different than most other polls, which have been showing a modest lead by Republicans in the generic horse-race. But what is most interesting is that when those same voters were asked to choose between a "pro-choice Democrat" and a "pro-life Republican", the support for the pro-life Republican dropped by 8% to 31%, while the Democratic support held steady.

So even if this particular polling sample is biased somewhat, the drop of support within that group is telling. It conforms to my gut sense that this issue will move an additional 5 - 10% of the voters our way. The specter of jailing pregnant mothers, of prohibiting abortions even in the cases of rape and incest, of prohibiting common forms of contraception even when obtained through the mail – let alone the possibility that the Supreme Court's logic could undermine a raft of other decisions touching on gay marriage, interracial marriage, sexual conduct between consenting adults, access to contraception – will likely be enough to sour voters on the GOP. It transforms the outrageous conduct of many GOP leaders (like Trump) from something distant that the news media harp on into something directly impacting individuals' daily lives. So when GOP strategists talk about targeting Democratic Congressional incumbents who won by less than 5%, or who are in Congressional Districts that President Biden carried by under 5%, moving 5 – 10% of the centrist voters not only



protects incumbent Democrats but actually endangers incumbent GOP officeholders.

We also have one little speck of electoral data already. Last Tuesday, the day after the leak of the draft Supreme Court decision, Michigan had a special election for a State House seat in the suburbs of Grand Rapids. The GOP incumbent, who resigned to move up to the State Senate, had won re-election in 2020 by 24% points. The district had never been represented by a Democrat. This is a classic suburban / ex-urban red district that Trump carried by 16%. Yet, in this special election, where the GOP advantage ought to be magnified, the Democrat won by 51% - 40% -- nearly a 25% point swing from 2020. To be fair, the

GOP candidate was no ordinary candidate. Robert "RJ" Regan had promoted conspiracy theories about COVID-19 and shared anti-Semitic rhetoric on his Twitter feed. But that alone probably wouldn't have been enough. Regan went on to make national headlines in March for suggesting that rape victims "lie back and enjoy it," which led even the Michigan GOP State Chair to condemn Regan's remarks. Apparently Regan graduated with honors

from the Todd Akin school of campaigning. (Akin was the Missouri GOP Senate candidate whose campaign collapsed in 2012 after he argued that women couldn't get pregnant in cases of "legitimate rape"). All that together was, indeed, enough to push nearly 25% of the electorate away from the GOP candidate and give the win to the Democratic candidate, Carol Glanville, a local city commissioner who was a teacher and administrator and who focused on education, jobs and the environment in her campaign.

We can't really know how much the prospect of overturning Roe contributed to this swing. But at least we have evidence that there are limits

beyond which GOP candidates will lose the center and lose the election. Yes, those limits may seem to us to be extreme, but there is a line. Does the upcoming Court decision cross that line and endanger the entire GOP ticket? We'll know in November.

~ Jon Fuhrman



### **Roe v. Wade, Abortion Rights, and the Midterms**

The leaked draft opinion by Justice Alioto is not only an open declaration on the rights of women; it represents a much broader threat to many rights enjoyed by Americans, including same-sex marriage, the right to travel, interracial marriage, the use of contraception and a host of other freedoms, a threat that could be imposed by the states and even federal government. It is more important than ever to prevent the radical Republican party from gaining power in order to impose their anti-democratic, authoritarian agenda on our nation.

The midterm elections will be the first critical test of the Republican overreach. If the Republicans are able to win back the House and Senate, then not only will the progressive policies of the Biden administration be blocked, but it will provide a platform for Republicans to continue their pursuit of repressive measures that undermine our democratic system.

The United Democratic Headquarters is dedicated to waging a vigorous campaign to hold onto the House and Senate in November. A particular battleground will be in Southern and Central California, where four Republican House members running for re-election oppose women's repro-

ductive rights. In addition, the Senate races in Arizona and Nevada are expected to be hard fought, with reproductive rights as a major issue.

Republican House members Mike Garcia, David Valadao, Michelle Steel and Young Kim have all supported legislation that would either ban or severely restrict access to abortion and women's health. Each of these Republicans is running for re-election in swing districts that have previously been held by Democrats. The UDH will be working with campaigns in each of these districts to defeat the incumbents' anti-women agenda.

As we get closer to the elections, the UDH will be hiring campaign staff, setting up a headquarters and recruiting volunteers to make phone calls, send texts, write postcards and canvass for Democratic candidates. This election will be decided by turnout, especially in the swing districts. We will make a special effort to get out the vote, particularly among voters who do not vote regularly in midterm elections. Our future depends on the outcome of this election and we are committed to work hard for victory!

~ Hoyt Hilsman  
Chair, UDH Steering Committee



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

Jim & Priscilla Gamb  
Herb & Karin Meiselman  
Ann Scheid

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

Michael Duran & Suzanne Spillane  
Franklin & Marianne Dryden  
Jim & Priscilla Gamb  
Eddie Newman

## My Two Cents

By Ron Garber



In April's *Phoenix* I gave advice to California's Republicans, which is bizarre as Jon Fuhrman frequently advises me that you can count non-partisan ACT's Republican membership using the fingers on a single hand. So, this month I'm talking to you Democrats. I'm thinking electoral politics virtually all my waking hours (I was going to say 24/7 but I sleep well and cannot ever remember dreaming about elections.) The definition of inertia is "a body at rest tends to remain at rest unless acted upon by an outside force, and a body in motion tends to remain in motion unless acted upon by an outside force." Off-year elections almost always favor the party NOT in the White House and the Democrats were counting on the January 6 hearings to generate the interest needed to get complacent Democrats to the polls, but those hearings, while both necessary and entertaining, might be exciting Republicans into action in greater numbers than Democrats. Enter the Supreme Court and the potential Roe v Wade ruling. This could be the biggest political game changer (outside force) ever.

I know that until last Monday when it was leaked that SCOTUS is poised to throw out Roe I was dismayed; no, I was downright depressed by the prospects of the upcoming election, and I tend to have a Pollyanna(ish) mentality about all elections. Now I'm cautiously optimistic and am hoping we can generate that same feeling among the Democratic voters who only get out to the polls when the Presidency is on the line.

Republicans have mixed emotions about the pending ruling. On the one hand they're elated at achieving their 'pro-life' goal after pursuing it for fifty years, but they now are coming to realize

that what was once their wedge issue is now the Democrat's wedge. Furthermore, they're becoming horrified that the fringe religiously motivated Republicans want to drag them further to the right by trying to get Congress to outlaw abortion nationwide, not allowing exceptions for rape, incest and the health of the mother even when pregnancy complications threaten her life, and even turn abortion into felony murder for both the woman and her doctor.

Now for the promised advice. Make this election about Choice and stick to that no matter what. If someone asks you a question about inflation your response should include the mention of how sad it is that a poor woman, forced to carry a pregnancy to term, will now have to feed an extra mouth when she is already having trouble feeding herself. Force your opponent to commit on how they would vote on a legislation package that would make Roe v Wade the law of the land or a package that would outlaw abortion nationwide. Even if their answer favored Choice over Life, they still could be tarred with the anti-choice tag because their vote would go towards determining who would become either the House Speaker or the Senate Leader and they set the agenda.

Bottom line, maybe now, we can hold on to one House - maybe both.

---

On Friday, May 6 at 4 a.m. to avoid crowds, because I'm still semi sheltering in place, I took the Gold Line to the Lake Station. From there I ventured South on foot with pen and notepad to do reconnaissance for South Lake business district storefront space for a UDH brick-and-mortar campaign office. Between the freeway and California, I found 14 potential locations with leasing information for half of them. I emailed the info to Hoyt Hilsman, Jon Fuhrman and Fred Register who are other members of the UDH Steering Committee, sub-committee on locating campaign

office space. I added that I would be willing on successive Fridays to survey both North Lake and Colorado, but Jon responded that he believed that that would not be necessary as it appeared that we have enough leads. It's understood that South Lake is the prime location for political campaign offices. Sad to note that three of the locations had previously been home to Conrad's, Continental Burger and Dupar's which had hosted our Progressive Discussion Group breakfast meetings. Covid did a number on the sit-down restaurant trade.

It's not a done deal that we will have a brick-and-mortar campaign office because we don't know the future of Covid at this time, which brings me to the promise I made in last month's *Phoenix* - to report on the judicial system under Covid as I was scheduled to begin Jury Duty on May 9. Being 72 I decided that perhaps it wasn't prudent for me to be venturing out while recently reported variants are cropping up, so I reluctantly called to cancel my service but learned that I didn't have to cancel but could reschedule which I did. I pushed it off until August 15 when hopefully the virus will be history. Stay tuned for further updates on this topic.

~ Ron out



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

Jim & Priscilla Gamb  
Herb & Karin Meiselman  
Ann Scheid

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

Michael Duran & Suzanne Spillane  
Franklin & Marianne Dryden  
Jim & Priscilla Gamb  
Eddie Newman

### **From Congressman Adam B. Schiff...**



#### **Ukraine Trip**

If you've been reading my emails over the past few years, you know that I believe we're engaged in a global struggle against the rise of autocracy — and how critical it is that democracy wins, both at home and abroad. This weekend (4/30-5/1) I joined a trip that brought the stakes home in a way nothing else could.

I wanted to tell you about my trip to Kyiv, Ukraine four days ago. Along with Speaker Pelosi and three of my House colleagues, we met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, as the first Congressional delegation to meet with him since the outset of the war.

A little over two months ago, Russian President Vladimir Putin — in an act of reckless aggression against his democratic neighbor — launched an invasion of Ukraine.

This war has not gone as Putin expected. And that is largely because of the indomitable spirit and resilience of the Ukrainian people. Even in the relative calm of Kyiv, where Putin's forces were repelled just weeks earlier, the cost of this war to the Ukrainian people was evident. As was the absolute necessity that we support Ukraine in its struggle for freedom.

The war has led to a humanitarian and economic crisis throughout Ukraine. Cities have been leveled, millions of refugees have fled in advance of the Russian army, and those trapped in war zones in the East are struggling to survive. And war crimes, including the deliberate murder of civilians and the rape of Ukrainian women and girls, have been well documented.

That's why a delegation of us, led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi, went to Ukraine to meet with President Zelenskyy in Kyiv on Saturday.

It was an experience I will never forget. In many areas of the city, the streets of Kyiv were buzzing with activity, as people tried to go about their lives, even as cruise missiles continued to fall on the city with an unnerving randomness. In other neighborhoods, there was an eerie quiet, and all over the city a curfew sent people indoors by sundown. Through it all, the Ukrainian people remain unbowed.

I had never met President Zelenskyy before seeing him in Kyiv under these extraordinary circumstances. But I was already well familiar with him before the war — he was, of course, the same Zelenskyy that I prosecuted Trump for trying to blackmail over military aid during the first impeachment trial. Like so many others, I have been awed by his courage and leadership. Underestimated by many, Putin most of all, he has proven himself to be a rare leader, rallying his nation under impossible circumstances. Meeting him in person, he projected a calm that was all the more remarkable for the dangerous and chaotic situation all around him.

We met with President Zelenskyy and his top advisors for three hours. We heard their requests for more humanitarian, economic, and military assistance. And we promised we would not only hear them, but also act on them as quickly as possible when we returned to Washington, DC.

The urgency is real, as the war enters a new phase and Ukraine needs the long-range artillery and anti-ship munitions to hold the Russians at bay. Tragically, the war is far from over, as Ukrainians fight hour by hour to prevent Russia from advancing in the East and claiming more territory and lives. But we can help it come to a more rapid end, by supplying Ukraine with the assistance it needs, and further constricting the eco-

nomie sanctions on Putin's Russia. Ordinary Russians must be made to feel the murderous folly of their Kremlin dictator.

This war is just the latest front in the struggle against oppression around the world. Ukraine is a young democracy, and that was something that their authoritarian neighbor could not abide. This was an attack on Ukraine, yes, but also against the very idea that a free people get to chart their own destiny.

That's why what happens in Ukraine matters. Right now, authoritarians are watching what is occurring, and wondering how the world will respond. So far, we have stood united and stronger than anyone expected. But the struggle is nowhere near the end - that much was clear in Kyiv. And what happens there will echo across Europe and the world, for decades to come.

We all have a role to play in protecting democracy at home and abroad. We became the arsenal of democracy in the 1930s and 1940s, and we must do so again today.

~ Adam

*This email from Congressman Adam Schiff was sent to supporters on May 4.*



## ACTpasadena.org

Our website has undergone some changes and we are operating on a new platform. Please take a look.

Thanks to website manager, Bruce Wright and to Marcus Green for updating and adding to the site. **Bruce asks you to send him items for the online calendar.** [Brucewright@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Brucewright@sbcglobal.net) is where you can reach him.



You will always find the current *Phoenix*, plus a newsletter archive on the website at:

[www.ACTpasadena.org](http://www.ACTpasadena.org).

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



Dear ACT members,

Like many Californians, I was outraged and angered by the leaked SCOTUS decision on *Roe v. Wade*. As the father of two daughters and a proud spouse I'm fearful of our daughters' generation having fewer civil rights and privileges than current and past generations. It's a potentially dangerous situation and a prescription for disaster. It takes our country back to a time where attitudes and healthcare were not firmly in the hands of women and girls. I hope that the leak turns out to be a false alarm, but I'm heartened by the work of Planned Parenthood and Senate Pro Tem Atkins to prepare California for a constitutional amendment protecting abortion rights and access.

As many of you know, I have focused much of my time in office on education issues. I've also made mental health and sensible gun control priorities. These issues have taken on even more importance this year as we move our lives back to normal and our children are once again in classrooms. As districts face a situation where 1 in 5 high school students think about suicide with an even greater number for LGBTQ students, it's critical that we enact policies to nurture and protect our children. That's why I've authored SB 1302 to help every high school to enact student wellness practices and strategies and SB 387 to train 75% of all school personnel in mental health first aid. I've also been committed to shifting our education funding model from one based on attendance to one based on enrollment and to expand Cal Grants for students at the Claremont Colleges, USC and other nonprofit colleges and

universities in California. I'm pleased that the Senate Budget architecture thus far includes allocations to cover both of my proposals. The enrollment-based funding shift would allocate an additional \$3.4 billion to K-12 education. I am getting optimistic that I can land SB 830 and SB 851 on the Governor's desk to make these happen.

I've had the honor of traveling to Armenia and Artsakh four times over the past eight years. This past November I was able to help establish our California Trade Desk in Yerevan. Following up on my trip I wanted to share my perspective on some important issues relevant to autocrats and their dangers to democracy. I was honored to have the following op-ed published in the Jerusalem Post. Check it out if you have time:

<https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-706075>.

From our family to yours, stay safe and vote in the June primary!

~ 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.*



***Non-Partisan Humor***

*It is fast approaching the point where I don't want to elect anyone stupid enough to want the job.*

~ Erma Bombeck

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



Dear ACT Friends,

It has been a busy few months with legislation making its way through policy committees before the deadline. I am proud that three of my bills are in good shape to get to the next steps.

The first bill, AB 2748, Telecommunications: Digital Equity in Video Franchising Act of 2022 (DEVFA) passed the Assembly Committee on Communications and Conveyance. The bill would update the Digital Infrastructure and Video Competition Act (DIVCA) of 2006, to directly address modern issues with broadband connectivity, subscriber discrimination by telecommunications providers, and other digital equity barriers. The pandemic highlighted many key disparities for communities globally, and in California the digital divide was clear. I acknowledge and appreciate the work that took place to craft DIVCA 17 years ago, but we must rapidly provide solutions that meet the present needs of all Californians.

The second bill, AB 1737: Children's Camps: Local Registration and Inspections is in response to the wholly preventable drowning death of 6-year-old Roxie Forbes at a Los Angeles County summer camp, as well as a history of traumatic incidents at children's camps statewide. AB 1737 passed the Assembly Committee on Health. We owe children and their guardians the promise of safely returning home. AB 1737 would clarify that day and overnight camps attended by children are subject to California Department of Public Health (CDPH) regulations and specifically outline the obligations of CDPH, local agencies,

and children's camps prior to and during operation of the children's camps. With AB 1737, we establish safety protocols for the security of children throughout California.

Finally, I believe that working together across sectors to reach our carbon emission goals and to secure better practices for the people and the planet is essential for generations to come. I have introduced AB 2446: Carbon Intensity of Construction and Building Materials Act, a measure which would require the State to develop a framework for measuring and then reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the construction of new buildings, including those for residential uses. I hope to bring conscious design to reduce materials used and the employment of low carbon construction materials. 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.

I welcome your support as these bills make their way through the process.

As we enter this milestone in the legislative season, I am also looking forward to stepping into my new role as Chair of the Assembly Appropriations Committee to ensure legislation that benefits Californians.

Lastly, May is an important month for the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. I am proud to stand in solidarity with my colleagues in the legislature as well as community against AAPI hate.

Sincerely,

~ Chris R. Holden



## Book Review

By Robert V. Frampton



### “Totally Unofficial” A Memoir by Rafael Lemkin

Vladimir Putin’s invasion of Ukraine, where his army brutally assailed civilian centers, creating massive destruction and deaths of civilian population, including women and children, prompted many, including President Biden, to refer to this incursion as a *genocide*. Thus, it is timely to look at the legal definition of *genocide*, and how this definition became codified into international law.

Rafael Lemkin coined the word *genocide* in 1942, in his treatise *Axis rule in occupied Europe: laws of occupation, analysis of government, proposals for redress*. As Lemkin explains in Chapter 11 of his memoir, *Totally Unofficial*, he coined the word by combining the Greek word *genos* (family, clan or social unit) and the Latin word *cidium* (killing). Genocide refers to the killing of one *genos* by another *genos*. However, the genesis of this term began long before this meticulously researched legal treatise, *Axis Rules*, when, during Lemkin’s youth and training as a lawyer, he became aware of the Armenian genocide (1915-1917) and the Holodomor, the famine in Ukraine during 1932-33 induced by deliberate Stalin policy. The Holodomor is discussed at length by Anne Appbaum in her book, *Red Famine: Stalin’s War on Ukraine*, to be reviewed here in the coming months. Along with Lemkin’s memoir, a legal analysis of Lemkin’s work is found in *Rafael Lemkin and the Concept of Genocide* by Douglas Irvin-Erickson.

Lemkin was born in June, 1900, in what is now Belarus. “The people in this region lived in an area that historians have termed ‘*The Shatterzone*

*of Empires*’ or ‘*Bloodlands*’. They survived political upheavals. They knew persecutions. In his autobiography Lemkin wrote that his life’s work to outlaw genocide was derived from his childhood experience of trying to survive and understand the antisemitism and violence of the world” [quote from Ervin-Erickson].

Lemkin began the study of linguistics at the Jan Kazimierz University of Lwów (now Lviv). Lemkin then moved on to Heidelberg University in Germany to study philosophy, and returned to Lwów to study law in 1926. Lemkin became chief prosecutor in Warsaw before the war, and made a harrowing escape to Sweden during the Nazi invasion of Poland. After lecturing for a year at the university in Sweden, Lemkin travelled through Siberia and Japan, to join the law faculty at Duke University in April, 1941.

In June, 1942, Lemkin received an appointment to be the Chief Consul for the Board of Economic Warfare in Washington, D.C. The Board was chaired by Vice President Henry Wallace. Lemkin had no luck in efforts to explain the concept of genocide to Wallace. He then wrote a memo to President Roosevelt, urging that the President negotiate a treaty recognizing genocide as a crime. Roosevelt wrote back that he understood the concept of genocide, but that the time was not right for a treaty, and urged patience. Lemkin then decided, making no progress toward this goal in official circles, to take the case directly to the American public. He thus compiled his treatise *Axis Rules*, from documents on Nazi laws that he had meticulously collected in Poland, Sweden and at the Library of Congress, which was published in 1944 by Columbia University Press. Lemkin became advisor to Justice Robert H. Jackson, chief judge on the Nuremberg War Crimes tribunal in November, 1945. Lemkin got the crime of genocide to be included in the indictments. However, the Tribunal threw out the charge of genocide as not being a crime that was

recognized by the London Charter of the International Military Tribunal, adopted in August of 1945. Lemkin realized that he needed to push for a United Nations treaty recognizing the crime of genocide.

In *Totally Unofficial*, Lemkin describes in detail the efforts he made, in countless discussions with UN delegations, to get the genocide resolution adopted. He concentrated on the delegates from the smaller nations, especially those in Latin America (which tended to vote as a bloc). The Convention draft was adopted by the Law Committee of the UN at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the General Assembly in New York in 1946. Lemkin also lobbied to secure its approval by the UN Economic and Social Council in Geneva in the Summer of 1948.

The Genocide Convention was the first human rights treaty adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 9 December 1948 and signified the international community's commitment to 'never again' after the atrocities committed during the Second World War. Its adoption marked a crucial step towards the development of international human rights and international criminal law as we know it today. Following Adoption of the Convention on Genocide, Lemkin worked to achieve the necessary ratifications by national legislatures in time for the UN General Assembly meeting in 1950, when it took effect. However, this genocide Convention was not ratified by the United States until after Lemkin's death.

While the Nuremberg Tribunal tried crimes defined by the London Charter of the International Military Tribunal (IMT), issued on August 8, 1945, including war crimes (violations of customs or laws of war, including improper treatment of civilians and prisoners of war) and crimes against humanity (including murder, enslavement or deportation of civilians or persecution on political, religious or racial grounds), the

Tribunal did not consider genocide. While war crimes and crimes against humanity were committed in time of war against individuals, the crime of genocide is very different. Genocide may be committed in time of peace as well as of war; and genocide is a crime against an entire social group, be it a national or cultural group, a racial or religious group, or a linguistic group. This includes the destruction of a culture.

Rafael Lemkin was in negotiations with a publisher in New York for the publication of *Totally Unofficial* when he died of a heart attack in 1959. His manuscript sat in boxes until recently. It was edited by Donna-Lee Frieze and published by Yale University Press in 2013.

~ Robert V Frampton

*Next month's review.* "Blowout" by Rachael Maddow, which includes an account of the Russian oil oligarchs and how they came to be billionaires.



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



## Rent Control / Just Cause Eviction

### Protection On Pasadena's November Ballot



For years, the City Council has refused to even consider renter demands for meaningful protections. This May, tenants, who total more than 60% of Pasadena's residents, successfully qualified a Charter Amendment for the November ballot. If approved, the Amendment will provide for rent control and just cause eviction protections, as well as establish a rental board and rental unit registry.

The grassroots campaign, newly renamed "Affordable Pasadena," turned in more than 20,500 signatures, of which 15,101 were validated. The Campaign now seeks the joint endorsement of ACT/ADC for the ballot petition.

The ballot measure is in keeping with ACT's principles. As stated in its By-laws, "*We the people of ACT, in order to make real our beliefs, facilitate effective participation in the political process, promote Justice for all, ensure Tranquility of our neighborhoods, ... do ordain and establish these articles for the members of ACT.*"

Out of control rent increases are destroying our neighborhoods and are a source of economic injustice.

Low-income renter households are particularly affected by steeply escalating rents. For example, the median rent for Pasadena apartments increased by 32% between 2012 and 2018, while the Consumer Price Index/inflation increased only 12.4%. During the COVID years, rents in Pasadena rose more steeply than in any other city in Los Angeles County. Meanwhile, wages did not even keep up with inflation.

More than 60% of Pasadena renters with an annual household income of less than \$50,000 paid

over 50% of their incomes on rent. More than one-half of all renter households are considered to be "rent-burdened" i.e., paying more than 30% of their income on rent. More than one quarter of Pasadena renters spend 50%+ of their incomes on housing.

The rent control/just cause eviction protection movement has special significance for the City's African American and Latino households. 70% of the City's Black residents and 68% of the City's Latino households are renters; many are also economically marginalized.

According to the Pasadena Draft 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan, "Populations paying more than 50% of their income towards housing costs or having incomes at or below 50% of the Area Median Income have the greatest risk of becoming homeless." It should come as no surprise there are concurrent increases among those who are unhoused in Pasadena.

Support for this ballot petition should resonate with Pasadena voters. Before the onset of the pandemic, during which time Pasadena rents escalated and many workers lost their jobs, the David Binder Research facility conducted a citywide 2019 poll of registered voters on behalf of Pasadenans Organizing for Progress (POP!) and found that 69% of respondents supported rent control and 82% of respondents supported imposing just cause eviction protections.

The Affordable Pasadena campaign seeks the ACT/ADC endorsement for its measure.

~ Michelle White



## Really Special Thanks to Benefactors

Beth Gertmenian

Kip Thorne & Carole Winstein

Betsey Tyler

**Roe v. Wade Organizations / Resources:**

NOTE: These are links for websites related to the abortion rights issue. Several of these groups are on Facebook and/or Twitter as well.

- [ACLU Reproductive Freedom](#)
- [Act For Women](#) (advocates for the Women's Health Protection Act)
- [Atheists United at Bans Off Our Bodies May 14th Rally](#)
- [Guttmacher Institute](#) ("Good reproductive health policy starts with credible research")
- [Move On](#)
- [NARAL](#) (National Abortion Rights Action League)
- [National Women's Law Center – Reproductive Justice](#)
- [Planned Parenthood Action Fund](#)
- [Planned Parenthood Advocates Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley](#) (aka PP Advocates)
- [UltraViolet](#) ("Drives feminist culture and political change")
- [Women's March Foundation](#) (WMF, not WM)
- [WRRAP](#) (Women's Reproductive Rights Assistance Project)

~ Karen Breau

**LAVOTE.GOV**

**Visit LAVOTE.GOV for all voting and election information.** Vote-by-Mail ballots are being mailed to every registered California voter starting May 5.



*The early bird may get the worm, but it's the second mouse that gets the cheese.*

**Calendar**

May 20 Friday 5-7 p.m.	NWPC- GPA Fundraiser at 436 S. Arroyo Blvd., Pasadena.
May 23 Monday	UDH Steering Meeting via Zoom. 5:30 p.m.
June 7 Tuesday	Statewide Primary Election.
June 9	January 6 Select Committee first televised hearing. (Eight public hearings planned in June - some prime time; others daytime.)
June 10 Friday 7 p.m.	ACT Steering/ADC Meeting via Zoom. Socializing at 7pm, meet- at 7:30 p.m. Election analysis.
June 13	<i>Phoenix</i> deadline.

**June Phoenix Deadline**

The deadline for copy for the June *Phoenix* will be Monday, June 13. 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 Beer at sally.beer125@gmail.com). (Chuck will continue to contact regular contributors with a deadline reminder.)



**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)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <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)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Single                               | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Single Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Each additional member per household | <input type="checkbox"/> \$85 Double Sustaining |
| <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)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Single                               | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Single Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Each additional member per household | <input type="checkbox"/> \$85 Double Sustaining |
| <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)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 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 you provide will be available to other members and endorsed candidates upon request.