



The Official Publication of ACT

P. O. Box 40074, (626) 795-2798

Pasadena, CA 91114-7074

Volume 38

Number 5

May, 2010

Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

PUSD Measure CC Defeated

While the majority of May 4 PUSD voters supported the PUSD parcel tax measure, their numbers were far fewer than the 2/3 vote required to pass it. The initial count was 13,871 for and 12,568 opposed. An additional 4,500 ballots were to be counted on May 7, but a passing count could not be reached from these remaining ballots. Now the PUSD is faced with some Draconian choices, including layoffs, possible school closures and increased class sizes. Local proponents of public education will need to search their hearts to find ways they can help.

The Loss of Measure CC

On Tuesday, May 4th those of us who care deeply about the quality of public education in Pasadena were left with the question, now what? School Board Member Ed Honowitz addressed the future of PUSD at ACT's most recent meeting, attended by many of the Yes on CC campaign. I want to reflect on a few key themes of his speech as they relate to ACT's mission to act on behalf of progressive ideals in the community.

Honowitz pointed out the enormous amount of time and energy contributed to the Yes on CC campaign by over 700 volunteers. The campaign was well run and the volunteers' passion for public education was obvious. He reflected that we must convert that energy into continuing support for the schools. ACT must become an integral part of this effort.

We have asked the volunteers from the Measure CC campaign to join us in our mission to campaign on behalf of progressive ideals by electing great candidates. That is a good first step. But we must do more both as an organization and individually. As a group we can continue to keep the public schools in front of our elected officials and make sure they are a prominent part of the upcoming election cycle. Individually, we can take as little as an hour a week to volunteer in our local public schools.

He also reflected that PUSD's \$23 million deficit is part of a massive defunding of public education in the state of California. In March of this year, 26,004 pink slips were issued to teachers throughout the state. These layoffs follow massive layoffs last year. ACT plans to ask our state representatives about California's priorities at future meetings. Individual-

ly, each of us can donate to the Pasadena Education Foundation's emergency fund. I have chosen to make a \$300 donation for budget relief.

The image of PUSD within the community was also an important theme. The schools have improved enormously over the past ten years. But many people are unaware of this progress. As a progressive group that not only believes in action, but is named after it, we need to ask ourselves, what can we do to spread the news of PUSD's successes and obliterate the lag that exists between reality and image? One idea I had was to go to the Farmer's Market held at Victory Park and talk to people about PUSD much as Measure CC volunteers did. Would this be the best way to reach people? Would we reach those who voted no? I have posted this idea on our forum at www.actpasadena.org. Please stop by and share your ideas or contact me at emilystork@yahoo.com.

The fate of PUSD must continue to be a central concern for our organization because as Mr. Honowitz stated educational inequities are becoming worse and worse in California. The affluent communities surrounding Pasadena passed parcel taxes. But PUSD, even with the endorsement of numerous community groups and the Pasadena and Sierra Madre City Councils, was unsuccessful. For an organization built on action, such inequities should make ACT rise to the occasion.

-- Emily Stork



Good Guy Jon Fuhrman

Campaign finance and reporting guru **Jon Fuhrman**, was honored by the National Women's Political Caucus – Pasadena with their "Good Guy" Award at their 2010 Caucus Brunch on May 8. Jon has served as the un-

official advisor on monetary matters to numerous women candidates and elected officials. Starting in 1979, he has been campaign treasurer for Mayor Loretta Glickman; for Assemblywoman and County Supervisor Gloria Molina (1988 to today); for Assemblywoman Lucille Roybal Allard; for Assemblywoman and State Senator Carol Liu; and for his wife, former PUSD Board Member Susan Kane. In addition to stints as treasurer for our Carter, Clinton and Gore UDHS, Jon co-chaired the Obama UDH in 2008.

During the 1980's, per Jeanne Register, Jon began attending the Caucus' Champagne Brunch fundraisers, sometimes as the sole man present. Congratulations, Jon, for bravery and for a well deserved honor.



Good Gal Susan Kane

Susan Kane recently received a special honor – the San Gabriel Valley YWCA's "Woman of Achievement" Award. In addition to her professional achievements, Susan takes a leadership role in education and in encouraging young women in science careers.

Susan, we salute you. Congratulations.



Web Page News

Find the current issue of *the Phoenix* at our web page, www.ACTPasadena.org. We will update each month so that the current *Phoenix* is available to ACT and ADC members online. (Earlier issues are available to everyone.)

We are testing online membership renewal and expect to have that function available soon.

-- Elliot Cuite

If You Find the Dreaded (Gasp) Red Check (✓) on Your Address Label on this *Phoenix*, It's a Reminder to Renew Your 2010 ACT and ADC Membership

ACT and Arroyo Democratic Club membership is by the calendar year – so 2010 membership dues are due now. A red check (✓) on your address label on this *Phoenix* means we have not yet received your 2010 check for ACT and/or ADC membership. We sure hope that's an oversight and you are still with us. Please use the membership coupon and enclosed return envelope to send in your 2010 dues right away.

Also please note that we have voted to place \$10 from each membership into our Political Account so we will be better able to help fund future candidates and campaigns that ACT and ADC endorse.

P.S. Thanks to everyone who has already renewed for 2010. And double thanks for your overwhelming generosity.

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Phoenix Deadline

The deadline for the June *Phoenix* will be Sunday, June 6. Please send items to Chuck Hains at Hains27@SBCGlobal.net. The *Phoenix* will be prepared for mailing on Thursday, June 10 at 7 p.m. at Chuck's house, 1391 La Solana, Altadena. (Volunteer mailers please call Ellen Coles at 626-798-2402 to verify date and time.)

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Democrats –

The Democrats of Pasadena Foothills have invited the Democratic judicial candidates to an endorsement forum on May 20th, so you can hear from them first hand! This is a rare

opportunity to make sure your votes for judge are well informed.

We will also be considering support of the propositions, so be ready to educate and be educated on these important issues!

Here are the meeting details:

Democrats of Pasadena Foothills
Thursday, May 20th (7:30 pm)
Villa Gardens, 842 East Villa Street, Pasa.

See you on May 20th!

-Tim Wendler, Vice President, Campaigns

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Special Thanks to Our Sustaining Members

Evelyn & Stephen Abrahamson, Pasa.
Ann Appley, Claremont
Mary Barrie & Ted Stork, La Canada
Bob & Maureen Carlson, Pasadena
Wendy Gordon, Pasadena
Greg Harrison & Nichole Mihara, Pasa.
Jim & Ginny Heringer, Pasadena
Berjouhi Koukeyan, Duarte
Marge Leighton, Pasadena
Ann & Ned Munger, Pasadena
Bob & Betsy Neuwirth, Pasadena
Anita Pemstein, Pasadena
Elizabeth Pomeroy, Pasadena
Norri & Betty Sirri, Pasadena
Maria Low Way & George Way, Pasa.
Roger & Anne Wolf, Pasadena
Neal Wrightson, Pasadena

Special Thanks to Our Patrons

John & Susan Caldwell, San Marino
Kevin Ennis, Pasadena
Bobbie & Henry Moon, Altadena
Marge & Joe Wyatt, Pasadena

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Monday, May 10

Lots of interesting political news on the state and federal levels last month, but we have to start here at home with Measure CC. A solid majority of 53.75% (and perhaps more) are willing, in tough economic times, to raise their own taxes to support their schools. Unfortunately, our state Constitution requires a 2/3 majority for local parcel taxes, so Measure CC failed. As a result, over 160 teachers, librarians, and counselors will be laid off this summer. How incredibly depressing!

So what happened? Particularly in light of this community's record of supporting parcel taxes for the Pasadena and Altadena libraries, and recent bond measures for PCC and PUSD -- all with majorities exceeding 75% -- why did this measure win so much less support?

The campaign was actually one of the strongest run for any ballot measure. Nearly

\$300,000 was raised, from 400 donors mostly within the community, 60% of who gave less than \$100. There were over 700 grass-roots volunteers, doing phoning and walking door to door. Over 1000 lawn signs went out. So why was our vote 20 points under these other elections?

Two factors clearly stand out. This was the first parcel tax or bond measure facing organized opposition. For Measure TT, the PUSD's bond measure in 2008, no one even submitted ballot arguments opposing the measure, let alone publish a web site or send a district-wide mailing and then another piece to Republican voters. Although the Star-News endorsed the parcel tax, the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce opposed the tax, to the delight of the opponents.

Secondly, the opposition played upon voters' economic fears, arguing that this was just not the time to be increasing taxes. And, indeed, we are in a far grimmer economic climate than even 18 months ago, when PUSD's bond measure was approved. It was asking a great deal of voters to put aside their personal insecurity and step up for public schools. That's tough to ask, even in the absence of an organized campaign highlighting that insecurity, playing to Tea Party sentiments, and sowing doubt about the district's need for funds and its ability to use those funds wisely.

So perhaps the tougher economic times and the organized opposition doomed the parcel tax from the beginning. But there may have been other factors as well that influenced the outcome; one of those was the choice to have a mail-only election in May.

The District could have consolidated the parcel tax with the regular June primary. That might have cut the cost of the election in half, from \$530,000 down to \$250,000. But there were several downsides to a June election. The PUSD Board had to finalize lay-off notices

to teachers by May 15th, so they needed to know if the parcel tax would be in place prior to that date. Further, the June primary, because all the exciting races this year are on the Republican side, would have had a distinctly unbalanced turnout, heavily weighted by the most conservative voters.

The most important factor, though, in my mind, is that any measure on the June ballot would be swamped by the blizzard of publicity surrounding the state-wide races. Both sides would have simply used partisan slate cards to communicate their position to voters.

Say what you will about the election, the special parcel tax election let our community focus on and have a real discussion about the parcel tax and our schools. There is a huge benefit in having local elections, and local issues, separated from state-wide, partisan elections -- even if it rebounded to our detriment in this particular case (Measure TT, in November 2008, was swept along, to a significant degree, on Obama's coattails).

Another fascinating aspect of this election was the turnout. Over 36,000 voters participated in the election -- over double the turnouts in the last 3 school board elections. Undoubtedly, the controversial nature of the parcel tax boosted turnout; but using a mail-only election, where every voter automatically gets an "absentee" ballot, probably did as well. Even though the increased turnout may, again, have hurt our cause this time, it's hard to argue that this dramatically increased level of voter participation is not, in and of itself, good for the body politic.

However, if we use mail-only elections in the future, there are clearly problems we need to overcome. About 31,340 ballots were counted,

but another 5,500 ballots were set aside by the Registrar as "No-Count" ballots. That means 5,500 voters (about 1 out of 7) sent in their ballots (or at least the outer ballot envelope) but their votes didn't get counted. (And this doesn't include those ballots that were received in the mail on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday after the election!) The Measure CC campaign is working with the Registrar's office to understand why so many were disqualified, and we'll keep you updated on what we discover. Typical reasons for disqualifying ballots include returning envelopes without a ballot inside, forgetting to sign the outer envelope, signatures that don't match the original affidavit signature, and receiving envelopes for which an affidavit can't be found. Detecting and understanding patterns among disqualified ballots will help us design election information and campaign strategy more effectively in the future, so our voters don't get disenfranchised.

Lastly, the sharply increased turnout leads one to ask, who

were those "new" voters who traditionally don't participate in local elections? Is there a real Tea Party effect right here in Pasadena? Are we seeing fringe right-wing voters, who may not even typically vote in national elections, suddenly energized (or outraged) and now actively participating in local elections? Does this suggest that November elections will be substantially closer than history would lead us to believe? We'll be analyzing the voting patterns to look for this sort of Tea Party effect. For now, though, my guess is that the entire electorate was shifting to a more conservative outlook, at least on spending, in response to economic uncertainty and fear. Hopefully, as we continue to see the sort of job creation we saw in the April numbers (290,000



new jobs, and upward corrections in prior month's estimates), that fear and uncertainty will recede, and voters' confidence in the Obama Administration, and Democratic Congressional candidates, will rise.

On the national scene, it's clear that this Tea Party effect can be a double-edged sword. In Utah, in a stunning turn of events, the Tea Party faction succeeded in booting a three-term incumbent senator, Robert Bennett, off the Republican ticket. Bennett is pretty much the prototypical conservative; but he did vote for President Bush's bank bailout plan, and he did try to craft an alternative health care reform plan with Ron Wyden, the Democratic Senator from Oregon. Even though that alternative approach went nowhere, Bennett's mere association with Wyden was seen as heresy. So in the Republican state convention, dominated by Tea Party extremists, Bennett came in a distant third, despite endorsements from the NRA and Mitt Romney.

The two top vote getters will face each other in a Republican primary in June. Normally, the Republican candidate should have a lock on the Utah seat. But although Utah state law prohibits Bennett from running as an independent, he still can run as a write-in candidate in the primary. If that happens, win or lose, the party could be torn apart, and who knows what might happen in November.

In a similar fashion, Charlie Crist, Governor of Florida, appears set to run as an independent candidate in Florida's Senate race, creating a three-way free-for-all. In Kentucky, Congressman Ron Paul's son, Rand Paul, who has never held office, seems to be ahead of the party's mainstream candidate in the race for an open Senate seat.

All these hard-right candidates may end up being quite vulnerable in November, particularly if the economic situation, and voters' per-

ception of the economy, is on the rise. These candidates, in general, alienate the traditional Main Street / business center of the Republican Party, as well as the suburban "soccer mom" voting bloc. And as we saw in 2008, those elements are perfectly capable of deserting their traditional political home and crossing over to support moderate and centrist candidates. So this November may turn out to be a remarkably interesting election.

-- Jon Fuhrman



Thanks to Members for Additional Contributions to ACT's Operating Account

Evelyn & Stephen Abrahamson, Pasa.
Norman & Frederika Brooks, Pasa.
John Grula & Joan Depew, Pasadena
Ruth Hadley, Thousand Oaks
Greg Harrison & Nichole Mihara, Pasa.
Betty Chin Ho, Pasadena
Marge Leighton, Pasadena
State Senator Carol Liu &
Michael Peevey, La Canada
Neal Wrightson, Pasadena
Marge & Joe Wyatt, Pasadena

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

Melissa Boggs, Arroyo Grande
Andrea Gordon, Altadena
Marge Leighton, Pasadena
Irma Strantz, Altadena
Grace Tiessen, Pasadena
Ed Washatka & Linda Centell, Pasa.
Marge & Joe Wyatt, Pasadena



**From
44th District
Assemblymember
Anthony
Portantino**



Greetings from
Sacramento!

In a few weeks we will get a revised version of the state budget from the Governor. I've been hopeful that we'd be doing more by now, but then again, I am an eternal optimist. Six different times I have introduced legislation to freeze the salaries of the state's highest paid workers. It's been killed five of those times. I've also authored a bill to create an Office of the Inspector General to root out waste and fraud in all areas of state government. As you can imagine, many in state government are not pleased with these bills and the going is tough. Doesn't it make sense to have someone with independent oversight over the legislative and executive branch? As for the raises, those folks in the money management side of state government want their bonuses at a time when so many folks are losing their homes and jobs. I remain committed to a pragmatic and independent reform agenda.

Arts Funding

With all the budget cuts, this may come as no surprise - California ranks last when it comes to public funding for the arts. I have authored a bill (AB 1777) to increase money for the arts by transferring 20% of sales tax collected on specific arts-related businesses to grants for arts programs. The arts industries are a driving force in California's economy and this measure would go a long way towards keeping arts jobs in-state. I have been impressed by the advocacy of the Los Angeles arts community in

coming to Sacramento and fighting for this bill, office by office. In particular, my good friend John Gallogly, the Executive Director of Theatre West, is an extremely passionate voice.

Community College Financial Aid

I've also authored legislation (AB 1997) to make it easier for Community College students to apply for financial aid. Currently students fill out different forms for different financial aid packages. That's why I authored AB 1997 that would make the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) the primary financial aid form for community colleges. A lot of students have missed out on federal aid because they didn't fill out the FAFSA. But it's online and easier to use these days and just makes sense to have them fill out one form rather than two.

Disaster Tax Relief Update

Here's where we stand on the disaster relief tax measure for property owners who lost homes to the devastating wildfires and mudslides of recent months. Under my bill making its way through the Assembly, property owners with damage or loss would get a break on their state property taxes. The bill (AB 1662) has been approved by two key committees and I am hopeful that it will soon be approved by the Assembly. The bill has an urgency clause to put it into effect right away once it is signed into law.

And finally, congratulations to the 30 members of the Arcadia High Constitution Team who recently won the national competition.

Assemblymember Anthony Portantino represents the 44th Assembly District of California, including La Canada, Pasadena, Altadena, South Pasadena, Eagle Rock, Highland Park, Glassell Park, Temple City, Duarte and parts of Arcadia and Monrovia. He can be reached by Email at:

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a44/>

From Congressman Adam B. Schiff...



WASHINGTON UPDATE
May 10, 2010

Keeping you informed of progress being made in Washington, D.C. and at home on public policy issues of interest to our communities.

- **Strengthening Veterans' Health Services**

It is important to ensure that our veterans and their families receive the care and support they need, have earned and deserve after putting themselves in harm's way for our safety. On Wednesday, April 21, I voted for the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act, an important component of an ongoing effort to give back to our Veterans and their families. The bill passed the House and will reform and improve veterans' health services. It will support wounded veterans, their family members and caregivers who look after our injured veterans to bring them the relief they deserve. It will also expand care for almost 2 million female veterans, providing care for female veterans' newborns for the first time in history. Additionally, it will improve access to care for veterans in rural areas, ensure that the VA can better treat veterans suffering from mental health issues, and provide the VA with resources to learn more about the tragically high suicide rate among veterans.

- **Health Insurance for Young Americans**

Currently, one in three young Americans has

no health insurance. In April, some of the nation's largest health insurers announced that they will begin to immediately implement a major health care reform initiative to allow young adults to stay on their parents' coverage until they turn 26. The law gave companies six months to prepare for the Young Adult Healthcare provision, but many health insurers, starting with UnitedHealthcare, Well-Point Inc., Blue Cross Blue Shield, Humana Inc., and Kaiser Permanente, said they will not wait until Sept. 23, the start date outlined in the legislation, to implement the Young Adult Healthcare provision of health care reform. The decision to immediately implement this provision will provide choices, stability and security to the most uninsured age group in America when seeking quality, affordable health insurance, and I hope more companies will continue to follow their lead.

- **Economic Recovery -- not quite there, but making progress**

California was just one of seven states to have experienced three consecutive months of growth in private-sector employment, according to a report released by the United States Congress' Joint Economic Committee (JEC) in April. The report, entitled "Understanding the Economy, State by State Snapshots," features key economic indicators in California, showing that California's private workforce gained more than 36,000 jobs in the months of January, February and March, averaging more than 12,000 new jobs per month. As the economy continues to recover, the Joint Economic Committee projects that service-providing industries will add the most jobs in California between 2008 and 2018, with the largest gains in professional and business services, education, health care and social assistance, and State and local government.

- **Eliminating Billions in Wasteful Government Spending Passes House**

We cannot allow a single taxpayer dollar to be wasted on overpayments or careless accounting mistakes. On Wednesday, April 28, I voted to save taxpayers up to \$98 billion by curbing waste, fraud and abuse in government spending due to poor oversight on the part of federal agencies. As a co-sponsor of the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act, I believe this bill will help identify, reduce and eliminate improper payments, as well as recover lost funds that federal agencies have improperly disbursed. Specifically, the bill contains provisions to increase transparency by lowering the improper payment threshold for agencies, requiring agencies to develop action plans to avoid future waste, recovering overpayments, and holding agencies accountable. This legislation is one of several bills aimed at rooting out waste and increasing efficiency by auditing government agencies, and assessing their progress in reaching their objectives.

● **Eliminating Waste, Fraud and Abuse in the Defense Acquisition System**

Also on Wednesday, April 28, I voted to ensure that our brave men and women in uniform have the equipment they need by eliminating the waste, fraud and abuse that has plagued Defense Acquisitions for years. The IMPROVE Acquisition Act will ensure that we continue to have the resources we need to properly equip the brave men and women who put their lives on the line to protect our country, by not wasting resources on a flawed acquisition process. Based on recommendations developed by the Panel on Defense Acquisition Reform issued in March, the IMPROVE Acquisition Act is also estimated to save American taxpayers \$135 billion. This legislation is part of an ongoing effort to clean up wasteful defense spending, reform our weapons acquisition system, and provide our men and women in uniform with the equipment they need when they need it.

● **Combating Arson to Protect California Communities and Wildlife**

Arson has caused some of the most destructive fires in California, yet less than 20 percent of arsonists are held accountable for their crime. In August last year, the Station Fire, which investigators believe to be caused by arson, burned more than 160,000 acres in Los Angeles County and the Angeles National Forest, taking the lives of two brave firefighters. The Station Fire exemplifies the kind of damage and devastation that arson can cause to both life and property.

On Thursday, April 29, the Senate Judiciary Committee passed S. 1684, the Senate version of legislation that I proposed with Rep. Bono Mack, which passed the House of Representatives with overwhelming bipartisan support and is aimed at preventing arson across the country. The Managing Arson Through Criminal History (MATCH) Act will create a comprehensive, nation-wide database for law enforcement to track convicted arsonists. The MATCH Act, much like a Megan's Law-type registry, will provide valuable tools for law enforcement officials to catch arsonists, prevent additional fires, and keep our communities safe. I commended the Senate Judiciary Committee for passing this important legislation and look forward to further action on this bill in the Senate.

● **Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act to be Sent to the President**

Freedom of expression cannot exist where journalists are not safe from persecution and attack. I believe that our government must promote freedom of the press by putting on center stage those countries in which journalists are killed, imprisoned, kidnapped, threatened, or censored.

I am proud that on Thursday, April 29, the Senate unanimously passed H.R. 3714, the

Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act, which will now go to the President to be signed into law. The Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act is named in honor of former Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl who was kidnapped and murdered by terrorists in Pakistan, just four months after the September 11th attacks. Provisions in the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act will spotlight governments that seek to silence media opposition. Specifically, the measure calls upon the Secretary of State to greatly expand its examination of the status of freedom of the press worldwide in the State Department's Annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. The legislation requires the State Department to identify countries in which there were violations of press freedom; determine whether the government authorities of those countries participate in, facilitate, or condone the violations; and report the actions such governments have taken to preserve the safety and independence of the media and ensure the prosecution of individuals who attack or murder journalists.

As co-chair of the Congressional Caucus for Freedom of the Press and co-sponsor of the House-passed bill that is being sent to the President, I hope this legislation will help the United States work with other nations to better protect reporters serving on the frontlines in the fight for greater accountability and transparency.

● **Providing Tax Credits for Home Energy-Efficiency, Clean-Energy Job Creation**

On Thursday, May 6, I voted for H.R. 5019, the bipartisan Home Star Energy Retrofit Act, to provide immediate incentives for consumers who renovate their homes to become more energy-efficient. The Home Star Jobs Bill will: provide a much-needed shot in the arm for our manufacturing, construction and retail industries; lower monthly expenses for hard-working families; and make our nation more energy

independent.

The legislation features two levels of rebates: the Silver Star program, which will provide up-front rebates of up to \$3K for the installation of proven energy-saving technologies, like insulation, duct sealing, window and door improvements, air sealing, and advanced water heaters; and the Gold Star program, which rewards homeowners with up to \$8K for conducting a comprehensive energy audit and substantially reducing their energy use at home.

Increased demand for energy-saving products as a result of this legislation will rapidly create nearly 170,000 jobs in the manufacturing, construction and retail industries. Additionally, renovations to make American homes more energy-efficient will reduce our dangerous dependence on foreign oil by cutting the use of natural gas and home heating oil in an amount equivalent to nearly 7 million barrels of heating oil in 2011. Furthermore, it is expected to save an estimated 3 million families across America \$300 to \$500 annually on their energy bills, totaling \$9 billion over 10 years.

I look forward to providing you with another Congressional update in next month's ACT newsletter. Until then, please find more useful information on constituent services and recent news by visiting my Web site: www.schiff.house.gov. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office to tell us your thoughts or let us know if there is any way we can be helpful to you: (626) 304-2727 or (202) 225-4176.

Sincerely yours, Congressman Adam B. Schiff

Rep. Schiff is the co-founder of the Democratic Study Group on National Security and a member of the House Appropriations Committee, the House Judiciary Committee and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. He represents California's 29th Congressional District, which includes the communities of Alhambra, Altadena, Burbank, East Pasadena, East San Gabriel, Glendale, Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel, South Pasadena and Temple City.

Democratic County Central Committee Recommendations

Every two years, Democrats in the 44th Assembly District elect 7 delegates to the L.A. County Democratic Central Committee. This year, there are 14 candidates running for those 7 seats.

Nine of those candidates have a consistent history of support for, and participation in, local Democratic clubs and headquarters. The Steering Committee believes any of those nine candidates would be effective members of the County Central Committee.

Those candidates are, in alphabetical order, Gail Burns, Mary Garripoli, **Mark Gonzalez**, **Clarice Knapp**, **Bobbie McGowan**, Mary Rose Ortega, Kathy Patterson, **Karen Wingard**, and William Zuke. Candidates in bold are, or have been, members of ACT and the Arroyo Democratic Club.

Recap of ACT Recommendations on Propositions

Prop. 13: Seismic Retrofit

Research Committee recommends YES by 10 - 0 - 0 vote. Steering Committee recommends YES by 14 - 0 - 0 vote

Prop. 14: Open Primaries

Research Committee recommends NO by 10 - 0 - 0 vote. Steering Committee recommends NO by 11 - 3 - 0 vote

Prop. 15: Public Financing of Elections

Research Committee recommends YES by 10 - 0 - 0 vote. Steering Committee recommends YES by 10 - 2 - 2 vote

Prop. 16: 2/3 Vote for New Municipal Power Agencies

Research Committee recommends NO by 10 - 0 - 0 vote. Steering Committee recommends NO by 12 - 0 - 0 vote

Prop. 17: Auto Insurance Persistency Discount Rules

Research Committee recommends NO by 10 - 0 - 0 vote. Steering Committee recommends NO by 11 - 0 - 1 vote

(For more detail, see www.ACTPasadena.org)



Judicial Candidate Recommendations

Superior Court Judges are elected for 6-year terms on a countywide basis. Most judges run unopposed. This year, of about 160 seats, only 6 are contested, with three seats having no incumbent.

The Steering Committee is making no recommendations, but as a service to our members, we have compiled a variety of data to assist you in making informed choices. Incumbent judges are noted ("inc."). Also, for each candidate, we list the L.A. County Bar Association's evaluation -- Not Qualified (**NQ**), Qualified (**Q**), Well Qualified (**WQ**), and Exceptionally Well Qualified (**EWQ**).

Further, we list which candidates are endorsed by the L.A. County Democratic Party (**CDP**), the **L.A. Times**, and the Metropolitan News (**Met News**, the legal profession's daily newspaper). Lastly, we list prominent endorsements each candidate has received. Additional information can be obtained from the League of Women Voters web site at <http://smartvoter.org/2010/06/08/ca/la/judicial.html>. (Also, copies of this list can be downloaded from ACT's website at www.ACTPasadena.org.)

Note that some elected officials have endorsed more than one candidate in a single race.

Office 28:

Mark Ameli: **Q; CDP**; endorsed by Sheriff Baca and Congressman Waxman.

Chris Garcia: **Q**; endorsed by Sheriff Baca, City Att. Trutanich, County Fed. of Labor

Randy Hammock: **Q; L.A. Times**; endorsed by Sheriff Baca and District Attorney Cooley

C. Edward Mack: **Q**

Elizabeth Moreno: **Q**

Edward Nison: **Q**; endorsed by District Attorney Cooley, by Association of District Attorneys, and by a number of sitting judges

Kendall Read: **NQ**

Kim Smith: **NQ**; endorsed by District Attorney Cooley

Office 35:

Suzanne Bruguera: **inc.; WQ; CDP; L.A. Times; Met News**; endorsed by Sheriff Baca and District Attorney Cooley

Douglas Weitzman: **NQ**; (also ran in 2008, and was rated as **NQ** then as well)

Office 73:

Laura Matz: **inc.; WQ; L.A. Times; Met News**; endorsed by District Attorney Cooley and the Presiding Judge of the County's Superior Court

Marvin Fischler: **Q**

Office 107:

R. Stephen Bolinger: **WQ**; endorsed by Congresswoman Diane Watson and Assemblymember Tony Mendoza

Tony De Los Reyes: **WQ; L.A. Times**; endorsed by District Attorney Cooley and by County Public Defender Michael Judge

Valerie Salkin: **Q; CDP**; endorsed by Sheriff Baca, District Attorney Cooley, Mayor Villaraigosa

Office 117:

Thomas Griego: **NQ**; endorsed by Sheriff Baca, Mayor Villaraigosa, and Assembly Speaker Perez

William Margolin: **Q**

Alan Schneider: **WQ; CDP; L.A. Times**; endorsed by District Attorney Cooley, Public Defender Michael Judge, and 90 sitting judges

Patricia Vienna: **NQ**

Office 131:

Jim Baklayan: **NQ**

Maren Nelson: **inc.; EWQ; CDP; LA Times; Met News**; endorsed by Sheriff Baca and District Attorney Cooley

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From State Senator Carol Liu...



Sacramento Update May 10, 2010

The State Legislature's April 23d policy committee legislative bill deadline is now behind us. Bills not passed out of policy committee by April 23 are now considered "dead" for this session. Of course there are always exceptions, but, for the most part, if the policy committee didn't pass a measure onto Appropriations Committee or to the "house of origin" floor, it will need to be introduced again in the new session next year. With new members coming to the Senate and Assembly and a new state administration in 2011, our expectations for

what kinds of legislation have a chance to become law will change. The state of the economy will also be a major factor.

My bills that passed out of their policy committees include:

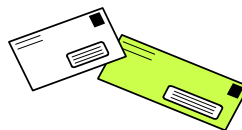
- **SB 969** to stabilize the up-and-down student fee increases that have made it more difficult for students and their families to afford a college education.
- **SB 1084** to establish an Economic Security Task Force that will identify programs and new policies to create pathways out of poverty.
- **SB 1126** to help students earn their Early Childhood Education degrees so they can teach in preschools or other pre-kindergarten programs. Currently, these students are required to retake courses they have already passed when they transfer from community colleges to the State University or University of California to complete their degrees.
- **SB 1143** to alter the community college funding formula to create an incentive for the colleges to help students complete their courses, certificates, and degrees.
- **SB 1186** to streamline the California public school governance system, for which authority is currently spread among the state Board of Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Governor's Secretary for Education.

Now these bills must pass out of Appropriations Committee, which will consider their cost impacts. The Senate floor is the next hurdle and then the process begins again on the Assembly side.

The Senate and Assembly Budget Committees have been holding hearings on the state budget proposed by the Governor in January. As Chair of Senate Budget Subcommittee on Education, I have been delving into the intri-

cacies of K-12 and higher education finance and accountability and student access, enrollment, financial aid, and completion rates. We will continue hearings to consider the Governor's May Revise that reflects the disappointing revenue returns from April income tax filings. I'll be holding a Town Hall to discuss the budget on Saturday, May 22 at the Glendale Public Library, 222 East Harvard Street from 2:30 to 4:00 pm. Contact my District Office for more information. I hope to see you there.

Senator Carol Liu represents nearly 850,000 people of the 21st District, which includes Altadena, Burbank, Glendale, Pasadena, La Cañada Flintridge, San Gabriel, Temple City, several City of Los Angeles communities and portions of cities and communities stretching West to Reseda. Visit www.senate.ca.gov/LIU.



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Calendar

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|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| <p>May 21
Friday
8-9 a.m.</p> | <p>Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group at Conrad's Restaurant, NW corner Lake & Walnut, Pasa. Call Inman Moore for info at 626-795-2201. FMPDG meets on 1st & 3rd Fridays.</p> | <p>June 3
Thursday
7 p.m.</p> | <p>ACT Steering Committee and ADC meeting at home of Wendy Gordon and Michael Gottlieb, 1535 Ontario Ave., Pasa. All members are welcome and urged to attend. Coffee at 7 p.m.; meeting follows at 7:30. ACT & ADC meet on 1st Thursdays.</p> |
| <p>May 24
Monday</p> | <p>Last day to register to vote in Primary Election.</p> | <p>June 4
Friday</p> | <p>Friday Morning Discussion Group. (Details same as 5/21.)</p> |
| | | <p>June 8
Tuesday</p> | <p>California Primary Election. Polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.</p> |
| | | <p>June 18
Friday</p> | <p>Friday Morning Discussion Group. (Details same as 5/21.)</p> |
| | | <p>July 8
Thursday</p> | <p>ACT Steering Committee and ADC meeting. Location TBD.</p> |



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