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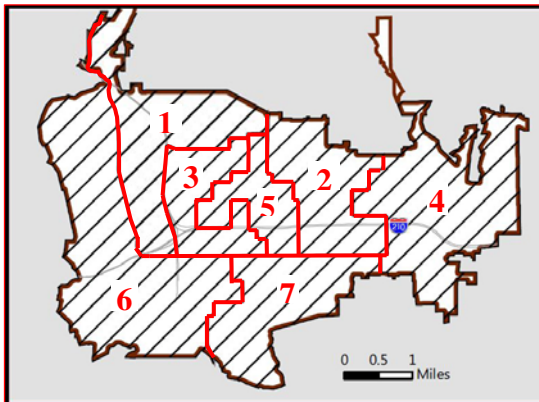
ACT Endorsement Ballot

Pasadena City Council and PUSD School Board Races

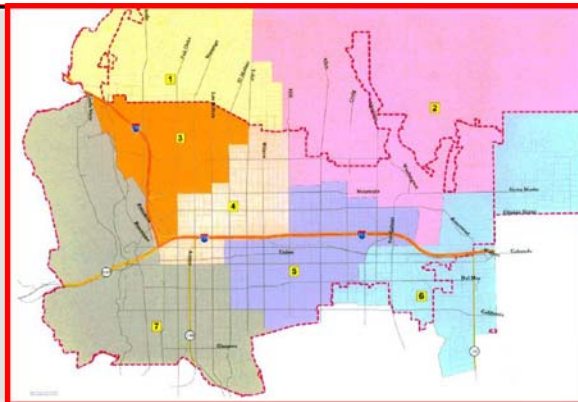
ACT's Research Committee has completed its interviews of local candidates; their write-up starts on page seven. Your Endorsement Ballot starts on page nine, with recommendations from both the Research and Steering Committees. The Steering Committee voted on its recommendations after the Jan. 17th Candidate Forum at PCC.

This is the first time that PUSD School Board candidates are being elected by "sub-District". However, all ACT members, regardless of where you live, may vote in all the endorsement elections. Ballots are due back by Monday, February 4th.

If you want to see the boundaries of the City Council and School Board districts, those maps are available on the web at www.cityofpasadena.net/CityClerk/2013_Election/ (both city and school district maps are available at that site).



Pasadena Districts



PUSD Districts

Wonderings and Wanderings

By Inman Moore



Greatness

He was an educated man. He had an earned PhD from Boston University.

He was a non-violent man. He lived non-violently and taught non-violence. Though some of his followers urged the use of violence, he condemned it and was largely successful in keeping his cause non-violent, a cause that ultimately ended segregation.

He was a courageous man. He lived every day with danger. At the height of his career, he received hundreds of letters every day denouncing him. Many of them had veiled threats. His house was bombed in January of 1956. Though he was thrown into jail 12 times in his life, he never became bitter.

He was a brilliant writer. His *“Letter from Birmingham Jail”* is a classic and ranks right up there with the letters of Paul found in the New Testament of the Bible. His book, *Strength to Love*, a compilation of his sermons, is very moving.

He was an eloquent speaker, listened to by thousands personally and millions over the air waves.

He was a dreamer. He dreamed of a world where all races and all classes of people would be treated equally.

He was a man of faith and was an ordained Baptist Minister.

He was a martyr, gunned down in Memphis, on April 4, 1968, at the height of his career by a man filled with hate.

He was, without doubt, the greatest prophet of the 20th Century and one of the great men of all times. As long as humans are alive the

tablets of history will bear his name. As long as memory exists he will be remembered. As long as love, goodness, and justice are revered he will be revered. His name was Martin Luther King, Jr. out of Montgomery, Alabama. This January we again celebrate Dr. King’s birthday (January 21). It gives us a wonderful opportunity to reflect on greatness and what one person can do to make life better for all of us here on Planet Earth.



Sidney Albert

Sidney Albert, a noted authority on the life and works of George Bernard Shaw and a long time ACT member, died on January 9 at age 98. Dr. Albert was professor emeritus of philosophy at Cal State LA. He received his AB from Syracuse University and a PhD in philosophy from Yale. After military service he did postdoctoral work under the GI Bill. He was a founding member of the International Shaw Society (ISS) and founded the statewide emeriti faculty organization CSU-ERFA. His extensive Shaw collection is now housed at Brown University. His book, *Shaw, Plato, and Euripides: Classical Currents in Major Barbara*, was published by the University Press of Florida last year.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his family and friends. They have suggested that any memorial contributions be made to the CSULA Philosophy Department, CSU-ERFA, or the ISS.



Phoenix Deadline

The February *Phoenix* deadline will be **Sunday, February 10**. Send items to Chuck Hains at Hains27@SBCGlobal.net. *The Phoenix* will be prepared for mailing on Thursday, February 14. (Volunteer mailers please call Ellen Coles at 626-798-2402 for time and place.)

The San Gabriel Valley Democratic Women's Club

The San Gabriel Valley Democratic Women's Club meets at 10 a.m. on the second Friday of every month, September through June, usually at the Altadena Public Library. A program or speaker follows the brief business meeting. Everyone is welcome. (Men, too.) Please see *ThePhoenix* Calendar on the back page for information about the next meeting.



Steering Committee Calendar

The ACT Steering Committee and the Arroyo Democratic Club meet on the first Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday of the month in rotation. Socializing begins at 7 p.m. with the meeting following at 7:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome and urged to attend these meetings. Check out our website at <http://www.ACTPasadena.org> for meeting locations.



Welcome New & Returning ACT Members:

Vania De La Cuba, Pasadena
Gabo De La Cuba, Pasadena
Cheryl Kane, Pasadena
Gerry Kreger, Pasadena

Special Thanks to Our Sustaining Members

Richard & Nancy Esbenshade, Pasadena
Jim & Ginny Heringer, Pasadena
Janice Nelson & Douglas Hayes, Sierra Madre
Felicia Williams, Pasadena

And Special Thanks to our Patron

Kevin Ennis, Pasadena

41st District Delegates

Here are the voting results for the California Democratic Party Representatives for the 41st Assembly District, from their meeting held on Sunday, January 13th:

Females (6)- Darla Dyson (72); Julianne Hines (71); Teresa Lamb Simpson (67); Joanne Wendler (67); Alex Zucco (61); Talat Khan (57)
Runner ups: Sandy Hester; Roohe Ahmed

Males (6) - Tim Wendler (74); Joseph Salas (65); Gar Byrum (64); Levon Kirakosian (52); Hoyt Hilsman (48); Ivan Light (45)

Runners up: Sahag Yedalian, Peter Baker

Executive Board: Darla Dyson (38)

Runner Up Talat Khan (36)

Here is a photo of most of the winning delegates, left to right: Sandy Hester, Joe Salas, Teresa Lamb Simpson, Joanne Wendler, Tim Wendler, Chris Holden, Gar Byrum, Darla Dyson, Julianne Hines, Peter Baker



Friday Morning Discussion Group

The Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group meets on first and third Fridays at **CoCo's Bakery Restaurant, 77 N. Lake Avenue, Pasadena** (west side of Lake, below Union) at **9 a.m.** See the Calendar on the back page for upcoming dates.

Everyone is welcome. You may order breakfast, coffee, etc., or not. For additional details check with Inman Moore at 626-795-2201 or in-man@pacbell.net.

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Monday, January 14.

So we stepped off the fiscal cliff, or maybe more of a fiscal stool, resolving taxes somewhat and punting on most of the other issues. Republicans lost the will to fight on this one, with 80 House Republicans voting with Democrats to accept the President's compromise. Democrats gave some ground, with increased tax rates starting at higher income levels, and estate taxes with higher exemptions and lower rates than most wanted, but we achieved the core goal: raising marginal rates for the wealthiest, thereby increasing both revenue and equity.

We postponed the larger fight over expenditures, with House Republicans willing to tackle that when the debt ceiling expires, which they believe gives them tactical leverage over the President. But the President has been arguing -- and rightly so -- that the debt

ceiling is not where this discussion belongs. The debt ceiling simply implements spending decisions already made by the Congress. It's like taking out a mortgage and then, six months later, saying you don't want to pay the monthly bills. Well, at that point, it's too late -- the decision was up front, whether or not to take out the mortgage in the first place, rather than whether to pay the bills you owe for the mortgage you already negotiated.

So, will House Republicans be willing to shut down the government, imperil our credit rating, stop Social Security payments, to gain \$2 trillion in spending cuts to offset the increase in the debt ceiling? My guess is that, when push comes to shove, enough caucus members won't want to play chicken. Of the 80 House members who voted to approve the tax bill, the President needs only 20 or so to join with House Democrats to gain a majority. With Northeast Republicans furious over the handling of relief spending for Hurricane Sandy, the President could very well pick off that number of center-right Reps (less than 10% of their caucus). My guess is that Speaker Boehner will recognize the insecurity of their position and find a way out, however inelegant it may be. That also means the Administration needs to be more aggressive, and adept, at soliciting support from individual Representatives, something the President has never been particularly good at.

If the President does succeed at getting the debt ceiling lifted, he will still face huge battles over the budget and regular appropriations bills for the next fiscal year. But at least that is where the fight ought to be had. The President may gain some advantage if the economy picks up steam over the next months. An increase of just 1% in the estimated growth rate over the next several years has a stunningly huge impact in restraining the projected annual deficit and aggregate federal debt, so any significant economic improvement

would give the President a whole lot of running room. Further, this spring is likely to see the Congress in major fights on immigration reform and gun controls; in both cases, the President and Democrats have the high ground, so the Reps could be feeling somewhat beaten down by the summer.

Here in Pasadena, we are in the midst of our local elections, and we are starting to work through the impact of switching from at-large PUSD School Board elections to using "sub-districts" where voters choose only the one Board member running in their particular geographic area. This change may have significant impacts on the racial and ethnic diversity on the Board, and it may have a somewhat unanticipated impact on voter turnout.

With at-large elections for designated seats, our community had been able to maintain consistent African-American and Hispanic representation on the school board. That depended upon a sort of informal backroom dance, where individual candidates chose particular seats to run for, with community groups working to find strong minority candidates who could draw broad support and to avoid fratricidal campaigns pitting minority candidates against one another. But with "sub-district" elections, that system has gone out the window. Now, the community has to rely primarily on the varying demographic characteristics of each district to ensure diversity on the Board, but those hopes don't always mesh well with where particular candidates happen to live.

PUSD's District 1, for example, covers most of western Altadena, has the largest percentage of African-American voters, and was designed to preserve African-American representation on the PUSD Board. But the likely winner in



that district is incumbent Board member Kim Kenne. Kenne has shown an impressive grasp of district issues and the details underlying those issues, while her African-American opponent, Dean Cooper, is new to elective politics and somewhat naive about both the political process and District governance issues. He may be motivated primarily by his experience suing PUSD twice over past years concerning employment discrimination issues. Clearly, Cooper is not the sort of candidate around whom community groups would have coalesced under the old system.

PUSD's District 3, in contrast, has the highest number of Hispanic voters. It covers much of Northwest Pasadena, and no current PUSD Board member lives in that district. Of the four candidates, two are Hispanic and two are African-American. Ruben Hueso and Tyron Hampton seem to be the two best organized and most serious candidates, and they could well meet again in a run-off election if no candidate receives an absolute majority in the March primary. While Hueso is

probably the early front-runner, particularly since he has been a teacher for 20 years and will likely have strong union support, Hampton appears to be running a serious campaign and his family has deep community ties, while Hueso has not been involved much in Pasadena community affairs.

In District 5, incumbent Elizabeth Pomeroy is running for re-election, and she happens to have lived for the past 30 years within the boundaries of the new district (which includes central Pasadena and the Cal-Tech / PCC neighborhoods). Opposing her is Stella Murga, who has been a leader in the Hispanic community, particularly working with Hispanic youth (who constitute a strong majority of the

PUSD's student population). Yet District 5 has only a small number of Hispanic voters, and most residents are likely unaware of Murga's work with Hispanic youth. She would have been a particularly strong candidate for District 3, but happens to live in District 5, thus forcing her to run somewhat of a long-shot race against an incumbent with deep roots in the District and who is generally seen as having served with dedication and competence.

Finally, District 7 includes Linda Vista, East Arroyo, San Rafael, and the Madison Heights areas of southwest Pasadena. Incumbent Scott Phelps is running in this district, and he is opposed by newcomer Luis Ayala. District 7 has few Hispanic voters, so Ayala will be running against a well-known incumbent who has been working that district for at least six months. Phelps has some baggage, having been reprimanded by the PUSD Board, but he also brings a certain anti-establishment cachet.

So, will voters defy and transcend traditional demographic labeling and elect Hispanic Board members from Anglo districts, an African-American Board member from the Hispanic district, and an Anglo Board member from the African-American district? Or might we end up with substantially less diversity on the Board and, in 2015, if incumbent Renatta Cooper chooses not to run or is not elected, perhaps a Board without any minority representation?

Compounding this problem is the potential effect of "sub-district" elections on voter turnout. The PUSD districts are not coordinated with City Council districts. Thus, for example, Linda Vista, San Rafael, and the Allendale sections of Pasadena fall in PUSD District 7, which holds elections this year, and City Council District 6, which has its next election in 2015. Hence, all those voters will have only

one item on the ballot -- the PUSD District 7 election. Under the old system, at least those voters could vote for all four PUSD Board members up for election, and perhaps one candidate or one issue in at least one of those races might attract voters. Now, with just one race with two candidates, how many will bother to vote? Turnout for local races is already lamentably low, typically in the 10 - 20% range. Will this reduce turnout to under 10%, even in the affluent areas like Linda Vista?

What will happen in West Altadena, where again there will be only 1 race, instead of 4, on the ballot. Will turnout sink from 6% down to 2%? In PUSD's District 5, a fair piece overlaps with City Council District 7, but since incumbent Councilmember Terry Tornek is unopposed, again that one school board race will be the only item on the ballot.

Parts of PUSD District 3 overlap with both City Council District 3 and 5, so there may be more interest there, and voters in those City Council districts will at least have a school board race in addition to the City Council race. But my guess is that turnout will be substantially depressed, perhaps as low as half what we saw in the 2011 Mayoral, City Council and PUSD races. If so, and particularly if we end up with less minority representation on the Board, don't be surprised if there is a movement to return to at-large elections for PUSD.

-- Jon Fuhrman



ACT City Council Interviews Dec 15, 2012

Attendance for City Council interviews: Bill Creim, Jon Fuhrman, Beth Gertmenian, Ralph Hurtado, Jeanette Mann, Roberta Martinez, George Van Alstine, and Felicia Williams. Write up and interview scheduling was done by Ralph Hurtado and Felicia Williams.

Questions for all City Council Candidates

1. Tell us about yourself and why you are running for City Council?
2. With long-term rise in property values in all areas of Pasadena,, what strategies would you suggest for making sure the City still provides affordable housing for lower income working people, who crucial to the economy?
3. How would you have voted, , and why, on the EIR which would allow more large events in the Rose Bowl?
4. What will you do about cost overruns on the Rose Bowl construction?
5. In the light of recent effort to cut pension costs and benefits, do you think Pasadena should restructure its pension plan and benefits? What solutions do you see for the growing contribution and retirement costs?
6. Have you supported the preservation of the City's natural resources (e.g. Arroyo/Hahamonga watershed, groundwater, open space, Master Street Tree Plan), in your community work. How?
7. Would you support adding to the General Plan an 8th Guiding Principle high lighting the importance of public education? What should be the relationship between the City and the PUSD?
8. What resources do you have available for your campaign, such endorsers, community organizational support, campaign consultants, Treasurer and anticipated budget?
9. The City is becoming more diverse, how

do you intend to address this issue in your staff? Have you decided on a District Director?

10. Do you have any questions of us?

Pasadena City Council District #3

Nicholas Benson arrived late and was unable to do the complete interview. He was asked to tell about himself and his three main issues. He is Pastor of Summit Evangelical Church, Vice President of the Ecumenical Council of Pasadena Congregations, and Chair of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance. He has been on the Fair Oaks Project Committee. He learned about the health issues of the Northwest during his tenure as Chair of the Pasadena Community Health Project. He is a minister and an immigrant himself. His three main issues for running are as follow. 1) To educate people and teach them how to survive and take care of themselves. 2) Empowerment, he wants people to understand the power within themselves. We now live in a multi-cultural community with many new immigrants and he wants everyone to feel comfortable in their neighborhood. 3) He is concerned about the poor in Northwest Pasadena and feels more collaboration is needed to solve the problems of the neighborhood.

John Kennedy is a long time ACT member recruited by Marge Wyatt. He has been a nonprofit executive, business owner, deputy police, management consultant, corporate manager, and longtime community leader. He headed the local NAACP and is currently is an executive with the LA Urban League.

1. **Reason for Running** – Twenty five years ago he was thinking affordable Housing for City Council but decided to support Chris Holden. He has always wanted serve the community on the City Council and feels the time is right now since the seat is vacant. He is 54 years old and does not

feel he should wait anymore.

2. **Affordable Housing** – Since the State abolished the legislation setting up redevelopment and “robbed” the funds the usual set aside to create affordable housing has been destroyed. It is going to be extremely difficult to get public funding because in these hard times there are competing resources. He believes this is an absolute priority and will try to deal with the opposition.
3. **Rose Bowl NFL EIR** – He would have voted to support it because it would provide jobs for young people, veterans and those newly released from prison. It could be a pathway to better jobs. He understands the criticism by Arroyo resident and he is one himself. The congestion is an annoyance but should be tolerated for the community good.
4. **Rose Bowl Renovation Costs** – Most Projects these days run over but everyone should be held accountable. Who ever made the estimates should be held most accountable. The problem starts in the beginning of the process and this should be examined. He realizes some of the new money needed has to come for additional use of the facilities.
5. **Pension Costs** – Some city employees are treated differently. The police and fire people for instance. We must Grandfather in current employees into a system and all new hires, including police and fire should be treated the same to equalize the system.
6. **Natural Resource Preservation** – Pasadena Heritage and other architectural interest groups have restored many homes. “I live in one myself.” He was Chair, of the Community Development Commission and Hahamonga has come to the group and hr strongly supported preservation. He also supported it when he was President of the

NAACP. He also has been very involved in Outward Bound in the past.

7. **8th Guiding Principal and PUSD** – Supports it. But educational pathway to success requires family involvement first. Community involvement is important all levels, but the key to real change is getting the State to help more. When he was a child the State was #1 in spending and now is 47th. We need to start a statewide movement.
8. **Campaign Viability** – His campaign manager is his sister Lena Kennedy. He is endorsed by Renata Cooper, Jeanette Mann, Delano Yarbrough, Randy Ertel, Alma Stokes, Fannie Brown Porfrio Frausto, Jaime Regalado, Bill Paparian and he plans to raise \$100,000. His Treasurer is Tina McKennor.
9. **Diversity** – Has not selected a District Director. He has grown up in the community and understands the diversity. He speaks Spanish.
10. **ACT Questions** - None

Ishmael Trone is a second generation Pasadena resident, a product of the PUSD system and graduated from PHS. He also graduated from Cal State Northridge. He owns a local tax preparation business. He has worked in neighborhood associations. He has two daughters who are products of PUSD. He has been Chair of the Jackie Robinson Master Plan Oversight Committee, Vice Chair of the Community Development Committee and a member of the Rose Bowl Hiring Committee.

1. **Reason for Running** - He feels everyone in Northwest Pasadena should live in a beautiful community and he wants to enhance the quality of life in the community.
2. **Affordable Housing** – Need to find a way to replace Redevelopment Agency. The City

- needs to create jobs that will allow people to afford rents and create home ownership possibilities.
3. **Rose Bowl NFL EIR** – Would have voted in support of temporary use of facility. Would have supported an amendment to increase “sunshine” so people could understand what was going on.
 4. **Rose Bowl Renovation Costs** – The major problems were up front, plans were not specific enough, and way too many sub-contractors. Would have had one contractor, with 29 contractors the change orders and coordination requirements are overwhelming.
 5. **Pension Costs** – It is a major problem but employees must be involved in the solution. But a larger contribution by employees is needed.
 6. **Natural Resource Preservation** - Have to make construction environmentally friendly. Jackie Robinson Park for instance utilizes rain water. All new City construction should be energy efficient.
 7. **8th Guiding Principle and PUSD** - Attended many of the meetings and supported the principal. He believes the City can help more afterschool via the use of libraries and recreation facilities.
 8. **Viable Campaign** – He has been working on the campaign for 2-3 months. William Sims is his consultant. He has had multiple fundraisers and his Treasurer is Luna Petty. His organizational endorsements include the Pasadena Fire Fighter and Operating Unions. His individual endorsers include Al Moses, Assemblyman Chris Holden and Susanna Porras. He said “I am committed to a clean campaign. Martin Truit is not hired by me but you know Martin does what he wants to do. My Mother lives here and I would not like to get her upset.”
 9. **Diversity** – He understands the diversity of the District and would like to ask the City if the Field Representative position can be divided into two part time jobs. He met Susanna Porras in the campaign and their goals are very similar. He would like to have her and possibly a Mandarin speaking Field Rep.
 10. **ACT Questions** – Trone said an article appeared in the latest Pasadena Weekly about his gun charge. He was a bail bondman and was going to a very dangerous neighborhood up north. He forgot he had a gun in his briefcase and was arrested. It was a very stupid thing and he owns up to it.
- The committee recommended to endorse John Kennedy (5-3).**
The Steering Committee recommended endorsing John Kennedy (10 - 5 - 2)
- ### **Pasadena City Council District 5 Candidates**
- Israel Estrada** – Israel is a long-time resident of Pasadena who attended PUSD schools and joined the Marine Corps after graduation. He completed the Leadership Pasadena program, and founded the not for profit Pasadena Forward that does the Pasadena Marathon to raise funds for local charities.
- 1 **Reason for Running** – The current City Councilmember is non-responsive to the community. Changes need to be made in the City because the City Council feels that the community is here to serve them, not vice versa. The example he gave was the City Council ignoring the wishes of the community by voting to approve the Rose Bowl EIR for the NFL.
 - 2 **Rose Bowl NFL EIR** – He would have voted “no” because it won’t create as many jobs as people are expecting. If the community doesn’t want it, the City Coun-

cil should listen and represent the districts. Based on his limited discussions with District 5 residents, they don't want the NFL.

3. Pension Costs – This is a tough issue and a long term issue, but don't have an answer on how.
4. Natural Resource Preservation – Pasadena Marathon Rose Bowl Renovation Costs – We should take the opportunity to look at other stadiums and examine the ability to use the golf course for revenue opportunities. Either way, the residents must compromise somehow.
5. created a partnership to plant trees and more should be done. No development on open lands, especially in Hahamongna. Freeway overpass park is a good idea, and more open space land should be created.
6. 8th Guiding Principle and PUSD – City should adhere more to the existing Guiding Principles, and the 8th should be added. City should create more partnerships with PUSD by offering internships and training.
7. Campaign Viability – Estimated budget of \$30k, \$1k raised so far. Lyle Kan (former VP at Ventura Foods) is Treasurer; no consultant. Planning 4 mailers and lots of precinct walking. Support (not endorsements) received from: Robin Salzer, Gordon Squires, Mark Gordon.
8. Diversity – Israel is bi-lingual and will look for multiple language staffers who focus on responsiveness and service. The demographics of District 5 are young south of the 210; affluent and older north of the 210; along the 210 is very mixed; and around Lake is Hispanic.
9. ACT Quest – He asked about the process.

Victor Gordo (incumbent) – Victor was born in Mexico then moved to District 5 Pasadena and attended PUSD schools along with PCC. Through the support of mentors he went to college and eventually law school. He is currently an attorney for the Laborers International Union and is running for his fourth term.

1. Reason for Running – Building community is complex and requires sound judgment and good leadership. The community needs to be able to trust its representative both in open and closed session. He has a strong commitment to the City and District 5 where he has lived most of his life. It's about people, projects, and building community one parcel at a time. He believes in the City's rich history and he understands the City, which is why he voted to oppose the 710 freeway tunnel because it is a failed strategy and the 210 extension has only increased traffic.
2. Affordable Housing – In the last 4 years, all affordable housing projects in the City have been built in District 5 and he and his constituents have supported them. The projects have helped the neighborhood and we need to be creative now that RDA funds are gone and partner with non profits.
3. Rose Bowl NFL EIR – He supported the EIR because the City has a fiduciary obligation to ensure the viability of the Rose Bowl. His vote allows for the NFL as a *possibility*; he voted in the past to end negotiations with the NFL because it was not a good deal. We need to be respectful of the City and neighborhoods. The subtlety of the ordinance has been lost: additional large events at the Rose Bowl are allowed as long as the City Council makes findings to support them, so the ordinance amendment actually just gave the community more certainty on how many events would

be there. Saying “no” to the NFL would also send a message to non-NFL tenants and that would hurt the Rose Bowl’s viability.

4. Rose Bowl Renovation Costs – The NFL is not related to the Rose Bowl renovation project and technically they are not “cost overruns”. The original estimates were inaccurate and they are currently in negotiations and will come back to the City Council with a proposal. The project will pay for itself without support from the City. Future generations will be proud of our efforts to support the Rose Bowl.
5. Pension Costs – The City has restructured its contracts in a very responsible way to avoid the public fights seen in other cities. EPMC employees were asked to contribute more, and employees haven’t received a raise in 4 years.
6. Natural Resource Preservation – He has worked to preserve the parkland around the Rose Bowl and is encouraging City staff to find an alternate site for the Hahamonga soccer field.
7. 8th Guiding Principle and PUSD – Supports the 8th principle with two caveats (1) need to follow up with measurements to ensure implementation; and (2) should apply to all schools. Overall, the City’s contributions to PUSD haven’t been recognized by the community. Wants PCC, Caltech and the School of Design also included. He does realize actual money can only go to public schools.
8. Campaign Viability – His budget is \$25 – 35k and he has begun fundraising. He has received 70 – 90% of the vote on his last three campaigns, which he ran himself and he will run this one as well. He plans to run on his record, and has the support of neighborhood leaders, including the

Mayor, but does not feel it’s appropriate to get endorsements from his fellow council members.

9. Diversity – District 5 is the most diverse district and is split both racially and socio-economically.
10. ACT Questions – He asked about timeline for endorsements.

Research vote to endorse Victor Gordo 7 yes, 0 no and 1 abstention.

The Steering Committee recommended endorsing Victor Gordo (17 - 0 - 1)

In District 7, the incumbent, Terry Tornek, is unopposed and was not interviewed.

ACT PUSD Board Interviews Dec 15

The ACT Research Committee met on Saturday, December, 2012, with eight of the ten candidates for PUSD district elections on March 5, 2013. Deirdre Duncan (District 3) never responded to numerous attempts to contact her. Scott Phelps (District 7) was unable to meet with us because of a family medical issue, but he submitted a list of his goals for the next four-year term.

Each candidate was allotted 25 minutes to answer the following ten questions:

Questions for all PUSD Board Candidates:

1. Tell us some things about yourself, your education, career and life experience, that qualify you to serve on the PUSD Board. How have you been involved in PUSD schools?
2. If there are further reductions in State funding, where would you make cuts in the PUSD budget? If the State provides more funding, what would be your first priority in restoring

programs? If schools must be consolidated, what criteria should be used to determine which schools?

3. Do you think there should be an expanded role for charter schools in PUSD's future? How should the Board monitor charter schools and hold them accountable?
4. How would you address the gap in the readiness of children from various ethnic and lower income categories as they begin their school experience?
5. Teachers seem to be under more and more pressure to "teach to the test" – from State API ratings of individual school performance, from the Federal "No Child Left Behind" standards and from administrative evaluation of their personal performance. Do you think that, in the long run, this will provide children with a better education, or will it tend to stifle creative learning?
6. Recently, certain Measure TT staff, consultants and contracting firms have been terminated or suspended because of misuse of funds. Though none of us knows all the facts yet, do you have any thoughts about how the PUSD can do a better job of protecting and effectively using taxpayers' money?
7. Is there one school located in your District that needs particular attention? If you are elected to the school board, how will you advocate for its improvement?
8. As you begin this campaign, what resources do you have? A campaign Manager? A Treasurer? Some people who have endorsed you, signed your petition? How much money do you think you'll need to run an effective campaign?
9. Do you have any questions to ask us?

Following is a summary of candidates responses to the questions, the Committee's discus-

sion of candidates for each district and the Committee's vote of recommended endorsement for each district.

PUSD DISTRICT 1

Dean Cooper spent 17 years in Pasadena's public schools, graduated from Reno University in Psychology and Correction, became a teacher and did graduate work at Cal State LA and Pepperdine. He is a member of the Governor's Commission on Children and Youth and has an information technology business in Altadena.

Faced with budget cuts, Cooper's approach would be to look for the causes of Pasadena's declining public school enrollment and ensure that assets stay close to the students, mastering content and producing jobs. He is not an advocate for charter schools and believes they should be held accountable just as the other public schools. To remedy the gap in achievement by some students he would strengthen pre-K educational resources and reach out to involve the home and government agencies.

Cooper indicated that he was in the early stages of creating his campaign and does not yet have a campaign manager, treasurer or consultant, nor endorsements. He will rely on support from his family, friends, his church and others in the community.

Kim Kenne, a school board incumbent, has children in Pasadena's public schools where she has been an active member of the PTA. She has a business background, including a Bachelor's degree, an information technology business, and experience in finance and data management.

Kenne did not think that budget cuts for schools would necessarily involve their consolidation but would, instead, advocate for more information in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of PUSD's limited resources. She believes that charter schools'

claim that they would most benefit low-performing students has not materialized as high-performing students predominate, nor have they produced innovations useful for public schools. Open enrollment needs to be part of the whole choice for parents but so far it has been far too small. She would like to see the number and type of programs expanded. Like Cooper, Kenne believes that more pre-kindergarten programs are needed. She said she has worked extensively on this issue and believes that specially trained teachers need to work with parents to reduce the achievement gap of African-American and Latino students.

Kenne's campaign manager is Martin Truitt, and she is her own Treasurer. She admitted that she had only recently learned that she had an opponent and has not yet acquired any endorsements.

The Research Committee voted 7 to 5 to recommend that the Steering Committee make NO ENDORSEMENT in District 1. the Steering Committee recommended No Endorsement (16 - 2 - 0)

DISTRICT 3

Dierdre Duncan was not able to meet with the Research Committee.

Tyron Hampton has lived in Pasadena all his life and attended Cleveland, Washington, and John Muir in Pasadena, then graduated from Cal Poly Pomona. As the youngest candidate in the race, he argued that no one else has grown up in the tech era, giving him an edge in understanding how best to incorporate technology into our classrooms. He believes our high schools are not doing well, while elementary and middle schools are doing better. If necessary, he would consolidate schools based on test scores and infrastruc-

ture, focusing on the oldest, out of date schools first. He does not support an expanded role for charter schools. A key factor in the gap in readiness among children, in his opinion, is the language barrier; he believes all children should be bilingual. He argued we place too much reliance on standardized tests which stifle creative learning. He suggested more oversight was needed, and specifically noted sole source contracts are not good. He believes open enrollment is good to an extent, but it can hurt some of the smaller schools. In his district, he believes Cleveland Elementary school in particular needs more help, noting that enrollment has dropped significantly.

He was just beginning to set up his campaign. His wife is his Treasurer, and William Sims is his campaign manager. He anticipated spending around \$6,000 and would self-fund as necessary.

Guillermo Arce is a parent with 3 children in PUSD, of whom 2 are special needs children. With degrees from the Univ. of Puerto Rico and USC, he works for Los Angeles County helping the developmentally disabled; he is currently a Dep. District Director for DPSS. He noted in particular his leadership in fighting HMO's for coverage for autistic children; his efforts, in part, led to the passage of SB946 requiring coverage for behavioral therapy for autistic children. He believes PUSD does not do well in providing for the needs of special ed students. As we face budget cuts, he believes we must ensure equity, with the east side sharing the burden rather than District 3 paying the whole price. Rather than close schools, we should make them better. That approach might also prevent the growth of charter schools. In addressing the performance gap among student groups, he believes we must hold teachers accountable, and perhaps move good teachers to schools performing more poorly. In discussing the role of standardized tests, he noted that while

some schools are doing well, teachers need to be held accountable for teaching our children. In terms of financial oversight, he believes that nobody is watching the purse strings and that the district is not being proactive; he suggested an auditor or ombudsman might help restore accountability to the system. Within his district, he thought Cleveland, John Muir and Washington are all schools in particular need.

So far, he is organizing his campaign on his own. He has no Treasurer, campaign manager or consultant. He is getting some help from LULAC (League of United Latin-American Citizens), but seemed to have little understanding of what a campaign entails or what his budget might be.

Ruben Hueso has lived in Pasadena for a number of years after graduating from Santa Monica City College and UCLA. He has 2 daughters who have attended Webster, Marshall and PHS. Ruben has been active in the PTA and school-focused activities while working as a teacher in the LA Unified District. He has mostly taught 4th grade, and now also serves as Vice-Principal, and he has also served as a chapter President for UTLA (the LA teachers' union). He noted that we're looking at a \$12 million deficit for next year, and he would try to keep any cuts away from the classroom and protect teachers. Ultimately, he would like to see class size reduced and encourage teacher-led reform efforts. In particular, he would like to see a fair evaluation method for teachers, perhaps adopting the model being tested in LA Unified. Rather than close schools, he would look at boundaries and innovative programs to balance attendance. He believes charter schools hurt us, and charters should be held accountable to the same measures as regular schools. In discussing the achievement gap, he argued that pre-K and Kindergarten are the most important grades in school; if we can beef up

early childhood programs and attack the readiness gap at that early stage, then we can set the stage for equal achievement. He argued that standardized tests stifle creative learning because they force teachers to focus on language arts and math to the exclusion of the rest of the curriculum. To improve financial oversight, he would have more frequent audits and work for more transparent reporting. He noted that in his district, Cleveland and John Muir are the two schools that probably need the most help.

Ruben is probably the most politically astute of all the candidates we interviewed, at least in part because his brother, Ben Hueso, is an Assemblyman from San Diego, currently running for a newly-vacant State Senate seat. Ruben has a treasurer and is getting campaign advice from Sen. Gil Cedillo. He is looking toward a budget of around \$10,000.

The Research Committee voted 8 to 3 to recommend endorsing Ruben Hueso in District 3.

The Steering Committee recommended endorsing Ruben Hueso (17 - 0 - 1)

DISTRICT 5

Elizabeth Pomeroy currently holds Seat #1 on the Board of Education but because she resides in new District 5, she is now running to represent that District. Dr. Pomeroy graduated from Stanford University, she studied education at Harvard and she received a Ph.D. in English from UCLA. After teaching middle school and high school for several years, Dr. Pomeroy has more recently taught English at Pasadena City College and several other institutes of higher learning in Southern California. As a current board member, Elizabeth says she spends a lot of time in schools and with her ear to the ground. She is a reading partner at Washington and she makes a point

of visiting schools to talk with principals and teachers are their needs. In terms of the budget, Elizabeth believes there are economies of scale to be had and perhaps some staffing cuts and restructuring that can be accomplished in the district offices. She doesn't necessarily believe that closing more schools will achieve significant financial savings, although it might make sense academically to consolidate and be able to provide more robust programs in larger school settings. In discussing the role of charter schools within district boundaries, Elizabeth would be interested in possibly having a charter take over a struggling PUSD school, to re-shape it and live within the PUSD system rather than competing with it – although she didn't have a response to how union teachers would be handled in such a take-over. Nevertheless, she believes that there are lessons to be learned from innovative charters. To address the "readiness gap", Elizabeth indicated possible opportunities for taking over a Head Start license or allying with Pacific Oaks to promote early childhood education. In talking about the district's open enrollment program, she felt that the current system is working well for offering choice to parents; imbalances in school attendance might be addressed by re-drawing attendance boundaries and perhaps reallocating resources to offset inequities created by the imbalances. As most of the other candidates, Elizabeth thinks that too much emphasis on high-stakes testing is problematic. Rather than teaching to the test, we should be teaching to the standards. Although we must somehow evaluate learning, she envisions a day when the signature accomplishment of a school is its programs, not its API score. For her campaign, Elizabeth has identified a treasurer and a campaign consultant and she has begun to garner endorsements. She has lived at different locations within her sub-district boundaries for 37 years, so believes she will have substantial community support. She

anticipates needing to raise \$20-30K for the campaign and believes her challenge will be in demonstrating her accomplishments in the past four years and her close work with the Latino community.

Stella Murga and her family have lived in Pasadena for 36 years. Stella earned a B.S. in Business & Management from the University of Redlands and a M.S. in Public Administration from CSU, Los Angeles. Stella managed her own vocational rehabilitation consulting business for over 20 years. In 2001, she established the Pasadena Youth Center (PYC), a non-profit where she serves as Executive Director and vocational counselor. In addition to her professional work, Stella volunteers on numerous boards and advisory councils, the majority of which are dedicated to the bettering the lives of young people in the Pasadena community. Stella was selected as one of eight Pasadena/Altadena individuals "Making A Difference" in the lives of teens by the Pasadena Weekly in 2006. In addressing PUSD's budget challenges, Stella would look for savings by reviewing contract services and she would seek greater budget accountability from administration and staff. In considering possible school closures, she would look at where students at potential closure sites are coming from and where the greatest needs are so that closures don't have disproportionate negative impact on high-need students; she would look to close schools that have structural/safety concerns; and she would look for other uses for those schools that might eventually be closed. Stella is concerned about the proliferation of charter schools, although she recognizes that some of them meet needs that are not currently being met by PUSD schools. In the long term, she feels that there would be less interest in charter schools if PUSD schools were better and more inviting to parents. She sees graduation rates as one way that existing

charter schools can be held accountable. To address the readiness gap, Stella start at pre-K or earlier; she would try to engage parents in their children's education, impressing on them the concept of lifelong learning. She is a proponent of the community schools concept as a way to bring young children into the school environment. Stella drew a strong link between closing the readiness gap and closing the achievement gap that is prevalent in the later grades, a point also made by Elizabeth Pomeroy. In talking about open enrollment, Stella sees the interest in choice coming from the perception that some schools are not "great" enough – and therefore need to be avoided. Although parents have a right to choose which school is best for each child, she hopes for a day when more schools are perceived as high quality schools. Similar to her opponent, Stella believes that too much emphasis on API scores and testing will tend to stifle creative learning. She believes that students are not being exposed to everything they need to learn in order to succeed in life, to be a "complete" person. For her campaign, Stella has received advice but has not yet finalized working with a particular consultant. She has a treasurer and has identified a strong volunteer base. She expects to spend about \$30K on the campaign and has contributed \$10K of her own money to the cause so far.

The **Research Committee** felt both are strong candidates, with Elizabeth Pomeroy bringing experience as an educator and four years of solid service on the Board and Stella Murga bringing a strong connection to the community – students and their families – and demonstrated success in the small business and non-profit sectors.

The Research Committee first voted 3-4-4 to recommend endorsing Stella Murga (motion failed) and then voted 5-2-5 to recommend endorsing Elizabeth

Pomeroy (motion passed).

The Steering Committee recommended endorsing Elizabeth Pomeroy (13 - 3 - 2)

DISTRICT 7

Scott Phelps currently holds Seat on the PUSD Board but resides in and is seeking election in the new District 7. He had a career teaching secondary science courses in the District before retiring to run for office. He indicated that he could not attend the interview sessions because of a medical issue in his family, but he said he'd be glad to answer our questions. The ten questions were not released to him for security reasons, but he was invited to share in writing his goals for the next term, should he be elected. Here is his list of goals:

1. Help the board improve relations with the district's bargaining units, with the goal of increasing collaboration and staff professional development opportunities, growing internal leadership and improving our service for our families and students.
2. Help the board balance the budget in a way that preserves our signature programs and initiatives.
3. Help the board grow enrollment through support and development of our signature programs, such as Dual Language Immersion programs and other magnet-like programs that attract families who have not previously used PUSD schools. This includes supporting the administration and PEF's initiatives such as STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) Academy at Washington middle School, and working towards the re-opening of Linda Vista Elementary as a PUSD school.

4. Help the board develop the relational culture of our communities called for in our strategic plan outreach that I chaired. For example, help the board and district administration develop more partnerships with private and non-private institutions to leverage more training and expertise for PUSD staff, especially in special education.
5. Help the board review its facilities oversight model and develop a better model.
6. Continue to develop lease revenue streams for our vacant sites.

Luis Ayala is an attorney specializing in immigration law, with offices in Boyle Heights. He also is a part time teacher of adult ed and ESL courses. He and his wife have two daughters, one in college, another at Sequoia School. He thinks that safe, attractive schools with excellent programs will sell themselves, and people will send their children to them. Budget-cutting in the District is difficult because 83% of the costs are for personnel. Regarding the questions about Measure TT spending, he believes that all TT projects should be stopped until an outside professional audit is done. He doesn't believe in charter schools because they cherry-pick better achieving children and leave the District even more impacted. The increasingly strong emphasis on teaching-to-the-test does not result in real education; children are being trained just to be excellent test-takers. The Open Enrollment program resulted in a bad experience for his family, and he would prefer a return to more of a neighborhood school model.

Luis already has a campaign manager, Darla Dyson. He has been endorsed by Ken Chawkins and Ed Honowitz. He is aware that he's running against a strong incumbent, and he anticipates a winning campaign will require the expenditure of \$30,000 to \$35,000.

The Research Committee voted to recommend endorsing Luis Ayala for election in District 7, by a vote of 10 - 2 with no abstentions.

The Steering Committee recommended endorsing Luis Ayala (17 - 0 - 1)



**From
41th District
Assemblymember
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

Happy New Year! The Governor's budget proposal really does make for a happier outlook in 2013. For the first time in several years, California is not facing drastic cuts to important services and that is very good news. California is back on the road to financial stability; we aren't there yet, but the outlook is promising.

I am especially pleased that the Governor's budget offers more money for public education, colleges and health care. These are areas that were severely affected by sharp reductions in funding over the past few years and can really use the additional money. I am still concerned about the financial state of our public schools and colleges, but am relieved that the Governor's budget plan appears to provide sufficient funding to avoid tuition increases at the University of California and the California State University systems.

I am also excited about the Governor's plan to convene a working group that focuses on the state's transportation and infrastructure needs and explores long-term funding options for transportation projects. As many of you

know, I have worked for years to promote light rail in the Foothills region and will continue to address the transportation needs of our district that now stretches from Altadena, Pasadena, South Pasadena, Sierra Madre, and Monrovia in the west to La Verne, San Dimas, Claremont and Upland in the east.

The Assembly will convene committee hearings addressing the proposed budget over the coming months, and we will work with the Governor to craft a final budget.

Even though I will be in Sacramento during the week, I will continue to be active in the 41st District when I return on Fridays, but I need your help. We must work together and be a part of creating positive change in our communities. Surveys show that one of the key components of happiness is the quality of leadership and a strong sense of community -- the ability for us to plug into our neighborhoods and contribute.

Feel free to contact my district office at 626-577-9944, or my Capitol Office at 916 319-2041 to be a part of this new beginning. Your thoughts are greatly appreciated.

-- Chris Holden

Assemblymember Holden can be reached by Email:

<https://lcmsubcontact.lc.ca.gov/PublicLCMS/ContactPopup.php?district=AD41>



From State Senator Carol Liu...

Sacramento Update
25th District,
January 2013



Happy New Year! So far, California is off to a good start! With voter approval of Proposition 30 and the earlier rounds of cuts in state spending, the Governor has announced a 2013/14 budget without a projected deficit, with projected balanced budgets in years ahead, and a focus on paying down the "wall of debt." The state built up debt over several years of borrowing money to balance the budget. We also deferred payments owed to school districts, local governments, special districts and special funds. According to the Governor's projections the "wall of debt" will be at less than \$5 billion by 2016-17, down from \$35 billion in 2010-11 and \$28 billion in 2012-13.

The Governor's budget emphasizes public education spending and the Governor proposes a \$2.7 billion increase in spending for K-12 schools and \$1.3 billion for higher education: UC, CSU and the community colleges combined. The Governor also called on the universities to hold the line on tuition increases.

The Governor has made some changes to the "weighted-pupil formula" he proposed last year to distribute funds to K-12 schools and renamed it "Local Control Funding Formula." This approach is intended to take into account specific challenges to educational success, such as whether or not a student is an English-language learner. This proposal will generate much discussion, public testimony and review in policy and budget committees.

Another area of the budget that is likely to evolve and receive a lot of attention as the year moves forward is the state's implementation of changes prescribed by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), including the expansion of health care to the uninsured. The Legislature expects to convene a special session by the end of January to address eligibility and enrollment changes to Medi-Cal, the state's Medicaid program that serves low-income children and families, seniors and persons with disabilities. The Governor's proposed budget includes a \$350 million General Fund placeholder for these costs. The budget also proposes to expand health care coverage authorized under the ACA to persons at 138 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) threshold. The Governor offers two different approaches on how to fund the expansion and calls for implementation of the expansion as part of the budget process.

I am pleased and honored to have been named Chair of the Senate Education Committee. I will continue to serve on the Senate Human Services Committee, which I chaired for the last four years. In addition I will sit on the Senate Transportation, Governance and Finance, and Public Safety. Please know that I have moved to a new office, Room 5097 in the Capitol. The phone number is 916-651-4025. My District Office remains in Glendale and the number is unchanged. Best wishes to everyone and thank you again for your hard work in the 2012 election year.

-- Carol Liu



State Assemblyman

Mike Gatto

Conversion Therapy Controversy about More than Just the Law



In 1974, following protests led by civil-rights leader Frank Kameny, the American Psychological Association (APA) officially abandoned the position that sexual orientation could be a mental disorder. In addition to fighting to change the classification of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people in the APA's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, Mr. Kameny also fought to allow LGBT people the right to serve openly in the military. Fifty years after beginning his fight, Frank Kameny sat in the oval office, as President Obama signed the repeal of "Don't Ask Don't Tell." Frank Kameny died just one month after the repeal went into effect, but must have died happy, knowing how successful his fight for human rights had been.

I mention Frank Kameny and his lifelong struggle, because despite his success, his fight to ensure that all people are treated as fully human continues today. A legal controversy has been stewing in recent weeks over the ability of licensed therapists to perform "sexual-orientation-change" efforts on minors. The controversy began after the California Legislature passed SB 1172, which prohibited the "therapy" from being performed on minors because they could not give informed consent to the potentially harmful practice. Basically, a group of people who wish to continue the practice, sued for that ability.

I voted in favor of SB 1172 because I believe that protecting the physical and emotional welfare of children is more important than

preserving bigoted and scientifically unfounded biases. It is extremely offensive to suggest that being LGBT is a “mental illness” or “disorder” in need of a “cure.” The APA abandoned this position more than 35 years ago, and credible science has shown that in fact, it is the so-called “reparative” therapies that often create harmful mental anguish and lead to depression, anxiety, or suicide. In my opinion, the only disorder in need of a cure is the one which leads otherwise good-hearted people to treat others as less than human. This is especially true when those people are children who have no voice in the matter and no legal recourse to protect themselves. I believe that the court will see the harm that comes from telling someone that their very identity is somehow a pathology.



Calendar

Feb 1 Friday Morning Progressive
Friday Discussion Group at CoCo's
9:00 a.m. Restaurant, 77 N. Lake Ave., Pasa.
 Call Inman Moore for info at 626-
 795-2201.
 We meet on 1st & 3rd Fridays.

Feb 5 ACT Steering Committee and
Tuesday ADC Meeting at the home of
7 p.m. Jeanne and Fred Register, 2345
 Midlothian Dr., Alta. Program:
 Pasadena Dist 7 Councilperson
 Terry Tornek. Coffee at 7 p.m.;
 meeting follows at 7:30 p.m.
 Everyone is welcome.

Feb 8 San Gabriel Valley Democratic
Friday Women's Club Meeting at the
10 a.m. Altadena Library, 600 E. Mariposa
 St., Altadena. Program: Planned
 Parenthood update.

Feb 10 ThePhoenix deadline. Send
Sun. eve items to Hains27@SBCGlobal.net.

Feb 15 Friday Morning Discussion
Friday Group. (Details same as 02/01.)

Mar 5 Local Elections. Tuesday.



Send Email Addresses to Jon

We need email addresses for all ACT and ADC members. Please send yours to Jon Fuhrman at jon_fuhrman@charter.net. Many thanks.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED