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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

Donate to the Judy Boggs Internship Fund

Four great reasons to contribute to the Judy Boggs Memorial Internship Fund!

1. Make a critical contribution to the success of our local United Democratic Head-quarters! Judy Boggs Interns play a major role in helping UDH win local, state and national races.
2. Honor the memory of a wonderful person: ACT's late Executive Director, Judy Boggs.
3. Help outstanding local young people learn the art of grassroots organizing.
4. Re-invigorate the Democratic Party by training the next generation of leadership.



Any amount will help, but we need to raise \$10,000 – so please give generously! Use the enclosed envelope to mail your gift today! Make checks payable to ACT - Judy Boggs. Or contribute on-line at <http://www.actpasadena.org/page/donate.html>.

Thank you, Tammy Godley!

Thank you to Tammy Godley, for her very informative program for ACT and ADC on May 6, telling of Threats to Public Education. She is a co-founder of Public Funds Public Schools (PFPS), which is working to combat the privatization of our public schools. They have already accomplished some important victories and are still taking on new challenges on this front. Pasadena public schools are benefitting from Tammy's skills and dedication.

Also, ACT members should be aware that Tammy is a valued Board member of the Pasadena Educational Foundation and is making plans to honor PEF's 50th anniversary. Thank you, Tammy!

~ Elizabeth Pomeroy, PUSD Board member

Visit the Public Funds Public Schools website at www.pfps.org.



Next ACT and ADC Meeting – June 3, 7 p.m. Via Zoom

with

Patrice Marshall McKenzie on Pasadena Redistricting

We are pleased to announce that Pasadena Redistricting Task Force member and ACT member, Patrice Marshall McKenzie will be our guest speaker at the June 3 meeting. She will help us understand the redistricting process, providing details and answering our questions.

Background: The Pasadena Redistricting Task Force is formed (through city council member appointments) every 10 years - in line with the U.S. Census. It is tasked with redrawing the boundaries of the seven city council districts, based on the new Census data (that should be received by the City in late September or early October) to account for population change. This process happens at all county, state and federal levels of elected office.



The process includes the city's hiring of a professional redistricting consultant and demographer, who guides the task force.

The City Council will review the Redistricting Task Force's Final Report and its recommended plan. An approved report and plan are due by a December 15 county deadline.

We urge members to join ACT and ADC at the June 3 Zoom meeting on this vital topic. Find the Zoom link for the meeting on the ACT webpage <http://www.actpasadena.org/>.

Socializing begins at 7 p.m. with the meeting following at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.



California Democratic Convention 2021, Virtual Style

By Tim Wendler, Arroyo Democratic Club President

For my 31st state Democratic convention, it was an experience like no other – Virtual! This meant that events could be spread over four days without increased hotel costs and no one was rushing to leave on Sunday to catch a plane. Delegates no longer had to negotiate accessibility challenges. We had more opportunity to share our thoughts in chats that could be seen by all delegates rather than heard only by people sitting next to you. This had



an effect on the resolutions session which ended up being significantly extended by a greater amount of discussion and resolution refinements and a more time-consuming vote counting process. I also heard from some delegates who felt at times they were not as 'present' as in an in-person convention (it's easy to be distracted by things going on at home) and that it was challenging to try to attend two caucuses that were running in parallel on Zoom (at an in-person convention, you could go back and forth between two caucus rooms that might be next door or close).

One key business of the convention was electing officers, though since the voting was by mail, the results were announced in advance: Rusty Hicks was re-elected Chair by 2/3rds over former State Superintendent of Education, Delaine Eastin. All other officers were newly elected: State Controller Betty Yee and David Campos for Vice Chair, Melahat Rafiei for Secretary, and April Verrett for Controller. Our Regional Director, Mark Ramos was re-elected without opposition. It seemed that our officer elections and the convention in general was missing some of the acrimony seen in past conventions between Bernie and Hillary

supporters – a lot more common ground and trust seems to have developed.

Saturday was almost entirely devoted to speeches by Vice President Kamala Harris, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senator Alex Padilla, Governor Gavin Newsom, former Governor Jerry Brown, CA Speaker Anthony Rendon, and many others. On Sunday, the focus was on resolutions and legislation support. In a great local showing, out of 13 adopted resolutions, two were authored by 41st Assembly District delegates, condemning police violence against lawful protestors (by Josue Barnes) and supporting student debt cancellation (by Char Bland and Sam Berndt). Other resolutions opposed the filibuster, denounced Asian attacks and discrimination, opposed the Republican recall of Governor Newsom, supported a single payer health care system, and supported sharing vaccines with developing countries.

Overall, I was happy to be joining the convention with fellow Arroyo Democratic Club/ACT members, Tina Fredericks, Peggy Renner, Char Bland, Jacque Robinson, Bobby Nelson, Patrice Marshall McKenzie, and Anthony Portantino, but missed the usual comradery of attending sessions and events with them.



Calling All Postcarders!

It was wonderful to celebrate our victories in November and January but if you've taken a well-deserved break from your political activities, it's time to get going again!

UDH continues to work to take our country back and we're asking you to join us. *Last year our volunteers in San Gabriel Valley wrote more than 111,000 postcards to voters all over the country.* In just the last two weeks we've distributed over 16,000 postcards to our writers to help get out the vote by keeping people engaged.

Considering the craziness with the Arizona "re-count" and all the lies spread by the Republicans we just can't rest. **Will you join us?** If you haven't written before, start with twenty and see if it's for you. You can do it alone at your leisure, with family, or involve your friends and do it together. We provide the postcards, addresses, and short scripts. You supply the writing, the \$.36 stamps and mail them in early July.

To get started, control-click on this URL to sign up to be a Volunteer Postcarder:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdLGRr81t0fQN44iaT-kxDWg5eEbou_zvM2w-gvbwnnnWV9utw/viewform

We have porch pickup in South Pasadena and Sierra Madre. We have limited volunteers who will deliver the postcards in San Gabriel Valley if porch pickup is a hardship for you. If you have any questions please contact us. We look forward to working with you,

~ Karen and Katie

Karen Rowinsky -

karen@karenrowinsky.com - 626-483-1135

Katie Dempster -

kdcjic@earthlink.net - 323-363-2602



Attention: Facebook Users



Please visit the ACT Pasadena [@actpasadena](https://www.facebook.com/actpasadena) Facebook page and click the 'thumbs up' button to 'like' our page. ACT and the Arroyo Democratic Club post meeting announcements and candidate endorsements on our Facebook page as well as on our main website. Thanks!

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Tuesday, May 11.

There's been a great deal of handwringing and doomsday forecasts about the return of former President Trump and his dominance within the GOP. Further, there is a general consensus that the structural advantage Republicans already have in Congress will be exacerbated both by the Census results and by in-state redistricting, particularly in states controlled by GOP Governors and legislatures.

Some of the pessimism may be misplaced, particularly the degree to which the former President can continue to dominate the GOP sphere. These worries don't take into account the continuing investigation of the President's taxes and financial dealings by the Manhattan District Attorney, and the likelihood that the Trump Organization's long-time CFO may cut a deal with prosecutors. Nor does it take into account the continuing investigations in Georgia on Trump's attempt to interfere with the Georgia election administration, nor the continuing investigations of the Capitol rioters, nor the continuing investigation of Rudy Giuliani and his actions in the Ukraine, presumably at the behest of the

President. Further, without Twitter and Facebook and his other social platforms, the President is losing his megaphone. My guess is that by this time next year, he may still be a factor, but a greatly diminished one.

There is already some early evidence both that Trump is losing his clout and that the GOP occasional voters, who boosted Trump's popular vote to nearly 72 million and probably rescued many down-ballot GOP candidates, are drifting away. A Georgia Public Broadcasting report, comparing the November and January results, found that the decline in turnout from November to January was more pronounced on the GOP side, particularly among rural white voters – precisely the source of the “hidden” Trump vote.

In Wisconsin, one of the tightest of the swing states, the Democratic candidate in an April, state-wide election for Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jill Underly, won with a 58% margin – a huge win way exceeding expectations. Her opponent, Deborah Kerr, was endorsed by GOP former Governor Scott Walker, and even had some cross-over support – she ran as an independent and had the endorsement of Arne Duncan, President Obama's Secretary of Education (she was one of Duncan's high school teachers, so apparently the personal connection outweighed partisan factors). Further, the Wisconsin State Democratic Party had a Local Candidate Support Program, and over 25 of the down-ballot progressive Democrats helped by that program won elections to local offices across the state.

Typically, in off-year, special elections, Democratic turnout plunges. GOP turnout also decreases, but not nearly as much as on the Democratic side. But now, that consistent historical trend seems to be turning on its head. Democrats seem both energized and still outraged about the Trump years. But the Trump universe seems to be flagging; without Trump constantly stirring the pot, the outrage seems to be fading. And President Biden just doesn't give them something to get apoplectic about. Quite simply, Biden is just a hard person truly to hate. Further, if the Trump hangers-on look around, all they see is a booming economy, a rising stock market, an epidemic being brought under control, schools reopening, jobs returning, travel coming back, masks disappearing, relief checks arriving. It's harder to get really angry, with all those things going right, than it was in 2020.

Another example was the recent Congressional special election in Texas. Turnout was a pathetic 16%. Less than 50,000 GOP voters cast votes, compared to 180,000 who voted in November. Susan Wright, the widow of the deceased incumbent, was endorsed by President Trump and much of the GOP establishment, yet she got only 19% of the GOP vote. Less than 1/3 of the GOP voters from November bothered to vote, and the Trump candidate got only 1/5 of those votes -- hardly suggestive of a Trump chokehold on the party.

Lastly, the Virginia GOP had their primary last weekend, which was actually more like a drive-through convention with 39 separate ballot-collection sites around the state. Rank-order voting was used, to obviate the need for a run-off election, and delegate counts were allocated by county, in a way that favored strongly GOP rural counties. Over 53,000 people registered as delegates, but only 30,000 raw votes were actually cast -- less than one-tenth of the votes cast in the 2017 primary. Among the seven candidates, Amanda Chase, a former state senator, was seen as the "Trumpiest" candidate, with endorsements from Roger Stone and Michael Flynn. Yet she ran a distant third, with former CEO Glenn Youngkin ultimately winning with 55% of the vote after six rounds of elimination under the rank-ordering process.

Youngkin was quick to adopt the Trump language, and received Trump's endorsement after winning the primary, but there didn't appear to be much evidence for a Trump-controlled lock-step voting by the convention voters, who typically represent the most committed and most passionate of the party cadre. Nor was there an impressive turnout of GOP faithful.

So, I think the fear that the former President now

has, and will continue over the next two years to have, a chokehold on the party, may well be overstated. On the other hand, the impact of Redistricting is quite real.

There are two parts to the puzzle here. First, the Census Bureau has determined how many Congressional seats each state shall receive in the new Congress. Some states gained a seat or two, some lost. Overall, states that voted for Trump will gain 2 seats. This has a pretty negligible impact on Electoral College counts, but when the House is controlled by a margin of nine seats (222 to 213, once all vacancies are filled), two seats could make a critical difference.

Then, once states know how many seats they receive, each state must redraw their Congressional boundaries (and also state legislative boundaries). The rules vary from state to state, with some states having more open, non-partisan systems (like California) and others leaving the task to their state legislatures (with the Governor typically, but not always, having veto power over the map drawing). That means that in states like Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, GOP-controlled

legislatures are somewhat constrained by Democratic Governors. But there are a number of key states -- Florida, Georgia, Texas and Arizona -- where both the legislature and the Governor's office are controlled by the GOP. They are colloquially called "trifectas", where one party controls all three levers of power.

In those states (with Texas gaining two seats and Florida gaining one seat), Republicans can redraw districts with purely partisan motives and disproportionately disadvantage Democrats. (Of course, Democrats -- in New York, for example -- can do the same on our side.) To some degree, Democrats are protected because those states had



already, pretty much to the maximum degree, drawn districts to the disadvantage of Democrats. They can't really make things much worse than they already are. But a change in just 3 seats, combined with the Census-driven shift of 2 seats, could tilt the House back to GOP control.

That's why you will be seeing so much attention paid to some of the House seats that Dems won in 2018 but lost back in 2020 – seats like CD-25, with GOP incumbent Mike Garcia just to the north of us, or CD39 and 48 in Orange County. If Democrats can win back a few of those seats, we can probably protect our House majority.

Of course, one could envision a scenario where Dems significantly increase our margin in the House – and the Senate – if the election is effectively nationalized and President Biden is riding a wave of popularity after the country has defeated the COVID epidemic, gotten back to work, and all our schooling and entertainment are back to normal. That's actually not particularly hard to imagine – in fact, it might just be the odds-on most likely scenario. At least right now, all signs do in fact point to an economic boom of substantial proportions. Non-partisan observers, like most of our major investment banks and Wall Street forecasters, are all looking for record growth over the next year.

Even with the best of economic results, though, the 2022 mid-terms will be a tough election cycle. The GOP is banking on a repeat of historical patterns, where the party that controls the White House nearly always (but not absolutely always) loses Congressional seats, and where Democratic turnout suffers more than GOP turnout. So settle in, save your money for 2022, and be prepared for numerous hard-fought House and Senate campaigns.

~ Jon Fuhrman



Who's Next Door?

Building Bridges: Solutions to Homelessness Thursday, May 20, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

A Webinar on the Critical Need for More Bridge Housing for Unsheltered Folks in Pasadena

Union Station Homeless Services, Pallet, Pasadena for All, and Making Housing and Community Happen are hosting the webinar on Thursday, May 20, 2021, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. It is called "Who's Next Door? Building Bridges: Solutions to Homelessness." The purpose of the webinar is to provide information to our community about homelessness in Pasadena and the critical need for more bridge housing for our unsheltered folks as they move forward on a path to wellness and permanent housing.

The fantastic, knowledgeable speakers are: Laurie Craft of Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission; Patrick Diller of Pallet Shelters; and Shawn Morrissey, Teresa Eilers, Cynthia Kirby, all of Union Station Homeless Services. We are hoping to build community support for more bridge housing in our City.

Learn the facts about homelessness and the critical need for more bridge (interim) housing for people

experiencing homelessness in our community. Learn about Pallet Shelters, an innovative, cost-effective way to provide housing and on-site intensive, supportive services for unhoused individuals awaiting permanent housing. Find out how YOU can help our city provide more bridge housing for our unhoused neighbors and help them successfully transition to permanent housing.

Mark your calendars. Together, we CAN end homelessness in our community. **The registration link is: unionstationhs.org/whosnextdoor.**

~ Sonja Berndt

*Making Housing and Community Happen,
Pasadena For All*

**From
25th District
State Senator
Anthony
Portantino**



Dear ACT Friends,

Hope all our moms had an enjoyable Mother's Day last Sunday. Bella and I did our best to make the day special for Ellen. Sofia is still working in Germany until fall which made the mood in the house a little bit different this year. Like many of you, our family is adjusting to life now that Los Angeles County is reopening and getting back to something that resembles normal.

I had the opportunity to visit Jackson Elementary School last week with Superintendent McDonald and Principal Esposito. I've always had a soft spot for Jackson, have held events there and been inspired by its administration, teachers and students for years. My visit this time was just as special. I spoke with students who were extremely excited to be back on campus. I was impressed with the safety protocols put in place by the PUSD and the passion of the teachers in the classrooms I visited.

I was also excited to continue my partnership with PCC on our 14th annual Foster Youth Town Hall. In addition to promoting programs at PCC and other service dedicated to foster youth we focused on entrepreneurship and e-commerce. A number of inspirational former foster youth, who have created successful small businesses during the pandemic, were featured and folks from eBay were on hand to help us navigate the business space.

May is Mental Health Awareness month. Perfect timing for a state that is on course to return to a

more normal situation after fourteen months of intermittent lockdown. Mental health challenges don't recognize demographics or geography. Hopefully, we can all take a breath and focus on the health and wellbeing of our family and neighbors as we ease into our new routines. A goal of mine is to take mental health out of the shadows and make the issue a common and welcomed discussion. I've authored SB 14 to train fifty percent of all school employees in some form of a recognized mental health first aide class. I've also introduced SB 237 to create an age-appropriate curriculum for K-12 students to take. Peer to peer relationships are critical for students. Understanding the mental health challenges we face individually or in others is critical for a healthy school environment.

I've also been heavily promoting SB 15, a bill that seeks to repurpose dormant retail space into affordable and workforce housing. I'm also authoring a bill to expand autism treatment based on a doctor's recommendation and to screen all K-2nd graders for dyslexia. A recent study of a prison out of Texas had 70% of its inmates recognized for having dyslexia. It's three times cheaper to properly address dyslexia in the second grade than it is in the 8th grade and its four times easier to do it in the early grades as well.

The dad in me continues to focus most of my legislative efforts on our children and education. Whether its fighting for more funding for special education or K-12 budgets in general and endeavoring to tackle a broad perspective of education legislation it's where my passions and perspectives come together. It's also where my position gives me the ability to put them to good use.

Warmest and Best,

~ Anthony

Senator Anthony Portantino represents California's 25th State Senate District, which includes Sunland/Tujunga, to Claremont.

**From
41st District
Assemblymember
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

It was a busy month with legislation needing to pass through their first policy committees before deadline. I'm proud that my bills addressing social and racial justice made it out of their policy committees and are in a good position for the next set of hurdles. These bills include police reform (AB 26), upward mobility (AB 105), and appraisal reform (AB 948).

Many of us were relieved to hear last month's conviction of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin in the death of George Floyd. It was certainly a step towards justice. The jurors saw what the world saw in that video, which was murder. But justice still has not been served as there were three other officers who did nothing to stop Chauvin who have yet to be tried. It was the fact that those officers just stood and watched that led me to introduce my police reformation legislation, AB 26 that would require officers to intervene when witnessing excessive force, and clearly establishes when an officer has in fact attempted to intercede. While the cases for those officers move forward in the courts, we will continue our efforts at the state level to strengthen our laws around police accountability and responsibility.

As you all know, racial and social justice isn't just about police reform. Dismantling systemic racism requires changing the existing structures that maintain the status quo. In addition to police reform, I am also focusing my efforts to address barriers to upward mobility as it is an integral part to achieving racial justice. Unfortunately, our own state agencies and commissions fail to create inclusive workplace environments, and

hinder qualified individuals to move on up within their department simply based on the color of their skin. AB 105 would require diversity on all state boards and commissions that have volunteers, and also reform processes that hinder upward mobility for people of color in the civil service system, giving attention to compliance, the appeals process, and annual parity goals for upward mobility.

Lastly, my legislation, AB 948, addresses discrimination in the real estate appraisal process. Black homeowners in predominately white neighborhoods are getting their homes appraised for far less than their neighbors. It's just another example of how bias, whether explicit or implicit, creates inequity for Black Americans. This is redlining 2.0. AB 948 would require the Bureau of California Real Estate Appraisals to gather data on demographic information of sellers of real estate property and compile data of homeowners from protected classes who file complaints based on low appraisals. The legislation also requires appraisers to take anti-bias training when renewing their license.

In the district (but virtually), I held a 'Lunch and Learn', Small Business Virtual Town Hall on Facebook Live for small businesses in our community. The virtual event brought small business advocates and experts from the Small Business District Centers in the area to help small businesses move past the COVID-19 pandemic and into a better future. The one-hour discussion can be found on my website and is a great resource to share with many small business owners.

I look forward to keeping you up to date in the next newsletter.

Sincerely,

~ Chris R. Holden



We are all mortal until the first kiss and the second glass of wine.
~ Eduardo Galeano

My Two Cents

By Ron Garber



In last month's edition I penned a letter chiding Felicia Williams on her vote to oppose hero pay to essential workers for a period of time not to exceed 120 days. In the very same edition, she defended that vote by pointing out that she attempted to bring all parties together by a compromise that would, as she put it, "expand city assistance programs." That is an admirable endeavor but failing to bring the parties together she was left with two options. One, progressive and the other, decidedly conservative. She chose the latter and she provided the same disingenuous reasoning that we hear from Republicans every time they vote against social safety net programs and claim said programs hurt the poor rather than help them. There's nothing wrong with voting the way you believe best serves your community, but I don't believe denying essential workers bonus pay for a fixed period of time during a pandemic matches the progressive ideals of our club. The vote was 4 to 4 so this particular council makeup is going to be contentious. Her vote may be the deciding one on lots of issues. We will need to closely monitor the upcoming issues and remind her of our 'Progressive' interests if she wants to continue to rely on our support.

It's not too early to think about next year's elections. In the House, the party in power traditionally loses seats and our current hold is tenuous at best. Locally we lost three seats over the last cycle while recapturing the House. I find it to be ironic that the Republicans in returning those seats ran a Latinx male and two Korean females, but more power to them. It will be interesting to see what shakes out on the Democratic side of

next spring's primary election, but I suspect UDH will be heavily involved with those November contests.

On the National scene there are some Senate opportunities in the Mid-West in Wisconsin, Ohio and Pennsylvania which I guess is actually the East. There should be some great post card writing opportunities like we had in Georgia in December/January. I'm going to monitor these races and report on them in more detail as we get closer to 2022.



A little advice for anyone wanting to lose a large number of pounds, write a column that probably is read by a handful of people, but goes out to an audience in excess of 300. You don't want to fail in public. To that end, as of April 29 I'm down 72 pounds in 16 months, with another 33 pounds and hopefully not months to go. While I am being careful about what I eat, the loss has come predominantly from a concerted walking program which I started seriously tracking on October 1 last year. I'm staring at a map of the U.S. in which I have placed pins representing my monthly progress from Duarte to New York. The walking itself occurs on a circular road around my townhouse that is a little over 1/4 mile. At the end of October, I was at the California-Nevada border, Nov. - Northeast Nevada, Dec. - South Central Colorado, Jan. - Western Kansas, Feb. - Western Missouri, Mar. - Central Illinois and, as of the end of April, I was in Ohio. I'll hit my initial destination of New York City in early June, at which time I think I'll embark for Seattle and then Miami before I come home to Duarte (10,000 miles total) probably at the end of 2022. Anyone interested in learning about how calories figure into weight in regards to both food intake and exercise burn, feel free to contact me. I'm more than willing to share the information I've accumulated during this weight loss journey.

~ Ron out

Affordable Housing Coalition Seeks ACT Support

by Ed Washatka

Pasadenans Organizing for Progress (POP!), Making Housing and Community Happen (MHCH), and Abundant Housing LA Pasadena Chapter, have joined to create the **Pasadena Affordable Housing Coalition (PAHC)**, a broad-based, inclusive campaign to insure safe and affordable housing for all Pasadenans.

The Coalition, founded in early January 2021 to solicit community input into Pasadena's Housing Element, is reaching out to ACT to join the alliance to help incorporate affordable housing policies into the Housing Element. It must be submitted to Sacramento in October.

The Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), adopted by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), states that Pasadena has to build 9,400 additional units of housing, of which 6,000 must be affordable to very low to moderate income households in the coming years. The housing element is the comprehensive plan required by state law for how Pasadena realistically intends to make it possible to build that quantity of units over the next eight years.

The City's current housing policies have not resulted in sufficient quantities of affordable housing being produced for the very low to moderate income households. The Coalition seeks participation from a broad spectrum of the community affected by this shortage.

Recently Mayor Victor Gordo appointed a fifteen-person Housing Task force, chaired by

former Mayor Bill Bogaard. The results of Coalition's work will be forwarded to the Housing Task Force and City Staff for incorporation into the final draft of the Housing Element.

These Housing Element decisions affect literally everyone in Pasadena. For example.

- Where will new housing be built to ensure that affordable housing is incorporated throughout the city?
- How will we ensure that the new housing isn't just luxury condos and apartments?
- How will we ensure that affordable housing developments are built throughout the city in all neighborhoods?
- How can we stem the displacement of longtime residents, especially among communities of color?
- Will essential workers (for example, teachers, nurses, public safety and grocery employees) be able to live locally or have to commute an hour or more to work?
- Will you be able to retire in Pasadena – or have to move far away?
- Will closed retail stores sit vacant – or be turned into needed housing?
- How can we end homelessness in our city?

The Coalition has developed a **Statement of Principles** to guide its organizing efforts to help shape affordable housing policies and practices in the coming months. Members are expected to actively support policies, programs and funding requirements needed to:

- Meet the housing needs of all Pasadena's residents.
- Promote housing equity throughout Pasadena.
- Protect Pasadena's tenants from unaffordable rents, arbitrary evictions, and predatory housing policies and practices.
- Prevent displacement of longtime residents,



particularly minority communities, and encourage the return of those who have been displaced, ensuring that people can stay in their communities and enjoy a high quality of life.

- Provide pathways to housing security, including social housing models, affordable and safe rental housing, home ownership and generational wealth building.
- Address the systemic social, economic and racial issues that contribute to homelessness, discrimination and poverty and that leave affordable housing beyond the reach of working families and vulnerable residents of our community.

Join in the discussion about the level of ACT's participation in the coalition via Zoom at the next ACT Steering Committee meeting Thursday, June 3, at 7:30 p.m.

Go to this link to view the Webinar the coalition held in January about Pasadena's Housing Element. <https://www.poppasadena.org/2021-housing-element-forum.html>.



The Fight for Democracy

‘Democracy is like a streetcar.

When you come to your stop, you get off’

~ Recep Tayyip Erdogan

This quote from the autocratic leader of Turkey sums up the authoritarian view of the democratic process from Caesar to Mussolini and Hitler. They exploit the machinery of democracy to achieve power, then set about to dismantle that machinery. Today, we see the same tactics from the Republican party.

Voter suppression is the most obvious attack on the democratic process. Using the vocabulary of

democracy – words like “election security” and “preventing fraud” – they whittle away the foundation of any democracy – the right to vote. But it is not simply the overt voter suppression, gerrymandering and misinformation that are a threat to our democracy. Their attack pervades every issue in the public sphere in the drive to hop off the streetcar of democracy.

Whether it is the pandemic, vaccinations, gun control, abortion, systemic racism, climate control or virtually every other social or political issue, the Republicans are defending largely unpopular positions and exploiting the culture wars. Large majorities of the population support vaccines, reduction in gun violence, climate control measures and measures to counteract historic racism. Even on the highly controversial abortion issue, large segments of the public support reasonable access to abortion services.

Faced with large opposition to all their pet causes and fighting a rear-guard action in the culture wars, how does the Republican party respond? By working to jettison the democracy, while using the democratic processes of a free society to do so. The real reason behind the Republican abandonment of our democratic traditions is power, pure and simple. The demographics of the country are changing. The latest census reports a population growth of 25 million – 95% percent of whom are people of color. Young people are considerably more progressive than older Americans, and the suburbs have become increasingly diverse – and less Republican.

It doesn't take a political genius to see what is happening – in the “us versus them” calculus of today's political climate, there are fewer of “us Republicans” than “them – Democrats”. Even the growing number of independents skews more Democratic. It should come as no surprise that the Republican party wants to step off the streetcar of democracy, even though it is a betrayal of centuries of the great American experi-

ment. Apparently, the commitment to a narrow xenophobic nationalism is greater than the commitment to democracy.

So, what does that mean for us – progressives and Democrats in the deep blue bastion of California? Simply put, it means we are in a fight for democracy, not only in our own communities, but across the state and the nation. The campaign to recall Governor Newsom is the first battle in this fight. It is a clear example of the Republican strategy of tossing out the results of an election. We can't take this recall election for granted -- expect misinformation, dirty tactics and a drive to suppress turnout – not to mention unexpected events that play into Republican hands.

Looming large after the recall are the 2022 elections. With gerrymandering, voter suppression and the traditional loss of seats in a midterm election for the party in power, the Republicans have considerable advantages going into the midterms. The House Democratic majority is thin and certainly endangered. However, in Southern California we have an opportunity to reverse the tide of Republican House victories. Congressional Republicans Mike Garcia, Michelle Steel and Young Kim all won their seats by tiny margins and are vulnerable in 2022.

The 2022 midterms will be almost entirely decided by turnout, which is a function of grassroots enthusiasm and effort, as well as the success or failure of the national party. Turnout is greatly dependent on local organizations like UDH and others who organize text and phone banking, canvassing, voter registration and all the other efforts that go into a successful campaign. What will be extraordinary about the coming year and a half is that we will not simply be fighting for a particular candidate or a set of progressive issues, but the future of democracy itself.

~ Hoyt Hilsman

Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Susan Bosch, Altadena
Cynthia Cannady, Pasadena
Haik Kosoyan, Pasadena
Nina Sharky, Los Angeles

Special Thanks to Sustaining Members

Bobbi Abram
David & Lyssa Axeen
Janet Bartel
Catherine Caton
Al & Harriet Koch
Norri & Betty Sirri
Laura Treister

Special Thanks to Patrons

Sandra Greenstein
Councilmember John Kennedy
Margaret & John McAustin
Carolee Winstein & Kip Thorne

Really special thanks to Benefactors

Ray & Jackie Fisher
Paul Hunt & Gina Frierman-Hunt
Councilmember Steve Madison,
Julian Madison, & Steve Madison Jr.
Carol Liu & Michael Peevey

Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Operating Account

Bob & Maureen Carlson
Ray & Jackie Fisher
Councilmember Steve Madison,
Julian Madison, & Steve Madison Jr.

And Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Political Account

Councilmember Steve Madison,
Julian Madison, & Steve Madison Jr.
Carol Liu & Michael Peevey



Calendar

- May 20
Thursday
5:30–7 p.m. Homeless solutions webinar
“What’s Next Door?” See item
on page six for registration link.
- May 22
Saturday
3 p.m. Pasadena Affordable Housing
Coalition, Zoom meeting. JOIN
other Pasadena-based organiza-
tions to discuss the work of the
Coalition and input to the Pasa-
dena Housing Element.
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8891
2593698](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88912593698)
- June 3
Thursday
7 p.m. ACT and ADC Meeting via
Zoom. Program: Patrice Mc-
Kenzie on Pasadena Redistrict-
ing. Socializing at 7 p.m.; meet-
ing, 7:30 p.m.
- June 14
Monday UDH Steering Meeting via
Zoom. 5:30 p.m.

May is:



ACT’s and ADC’s Website

Bruce Wright, our website manager, asks you to send him items for the website calendar and links to important viewpoints and commentary. Reach him at: brucewright@sbcglobal.net. Count on Bruce and Marcus Green to continually keep the site updated.



And remember, you can always find the current *Phoenix*, plus a newsletter archive on the website at www.ACTpasadena.org.



June Phoenix Deadline

We expect the deadline for the June *Phoenix* will be Monday evening, June 7. (Note that this is our usual deadline - the first Monday night after our monthly meeting.) Please send items for publication to Chuck Hains or [Sally Beer](mailto:Sally.Beer@gmail.com) at: hains27@sbcglobal.net or sally.beer125@gmail.com. (Chuck will continue to contact regular contributors with a deadline reminder.)



Who’s the Radical?

“Here you are, you’re a liberal, you probably define peace as the absence of conflict. I define peace as the ability to defend yourself and blow your enemies into smithereens.”

~ Sean Hannity (Fox News, 13 October 2009)

2021 ACT and ADC Membership Renewal

Is there a **Red Check (✓)** on your address label on this *Phoenix*?
If there is, it is to remind you that we are still eagerly looking for your 2021 ACT and/or ADC membership dues!

Please renew today! You may use the form below, or renew online at www.actpasadena.org.



If you have any questions about your membership, contact Executive Director Jon Fuhrman at jon_fuhrman@outlook.com or 626 864-5255. And grateful thanks to all the folks who have renewed already!

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

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

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Single | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Single Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Each additional member per household | <input type="checkbox"/> \$85 Double Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student or limited income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Gift Membership (NEW!) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$275 Benefactor |

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Single | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Single Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Each additional member per household | <input type="checkbox"/> \$85 Double Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student or limited income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Patron |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$275 Benefactor |

Extra Contribution

- \$ _____ Political Account (for endorsed candidates and issues)
 \$ _____ Operating Account (for organizational costs) \$ _____ **Total enclosed**

Name

Home Phone

Address

Office Phone

City

ZIP

Email address

Mail to ACT, P. O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074

Information you provide will be available to other members and endorsed candidates upon request.