



The Official Publication of ACT

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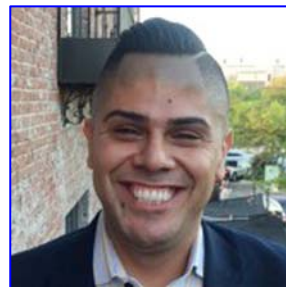
Volume 46
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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

ACT/ADC Welcomes LACDP Chair Mark Gonzalez

Los Angeles County Democratic Party Chair and former Judy Boggs Intern, Mark Gonzalez, was the featured speaker at the February ACT Steering Committee Meeting. Mark interned at the 2006 United Democratic Headquarters (UDH) in Pasadena. He came back in 2008 and served as Field Director for the UDH in that historic Presidential election. Mark registered 3,423 new voters that year!

Mark discussed the important work the party is doing to elect Democrats to office by working with Democratic clubs and reaching out to groups like Indivisible and Swing Left. He thanked ACT for all the great work we do and indicates that the party will match our \$3,000



(his intern stipend in 2006) so that we can take on an additional Judy Boggs intern in the 2020 Presidential election.

Mark is so thankful that we had faith in him back in 2006. He stated that the \$3,000 made all of the difference, in helping to pay for books and other costs, while he was in college. He says the stipend we pay our interns can make a huge difference in someone's life, not to mention the experience they get by working in a headquarters.

Thanks Mark. We love you!

— Bill Hackett

Adam Schiff Tweets Donald J. Trump

Mr. President, I see you've had a busy morning of "Executive Time." Instead of tweeting false smears, the American people would ap-

preciate it if you turned off the TV and helped solve the funding crisis, protected Dreamers or...really anything else.

--Congressman Adam B. Schiff, 2/2/20

Maria Luisa Isenberg

We are sorry to note that our friend Maria Isenberg died on December 26 at age 75. Maria was an early ACT member and energetic community activist. She was a founder of El Centro de Acción, the important resource for Hispanics in the Pasadena area. She worked tirelessly for Latino and progressive causes including at the Senior Center and at our local Democratic Headquarters. We will miss her.

Services were held January 27 at St. Elizabeth's Church in Altadena.

We extend sympathy to her family members and many friends.



Research Committee Schedule

The Research Committee will meet on the last two Saturdays in March, March 24 and March 31, to consider four state ballot measures, County wide offices (Sheriff and Assessor), Superior Court judges, four PCC Trustee races: Areas 1 (Ross Selvidge, incumbent), 3 (Berlinda Brown) 5 (Linda Wah), and 7 (Anthony Fellow.) Research Committee recommendations will be reported at the April Steering Committee/ADC meeting.

Chair Marilee Marshall asks ACT and ADC members to submit suggested questions for candidates for the various offices to her at mmlegal@sbcglobal.net.



Participate Pasadena Panel Discussion

Pasadena Heritage will host an exciting panel discussion on the topics of Mansionization and Specific Plans on Wednesday, March 14, from 6 p.m. till 8:30 p.m. in the Skyroom at

Lake Avenue Church in Pasadena. This is the second in a series of meetings called Participate Pasadena. Admission to this fun, informative event is free. There will be plenty of free parking, coffee and cookies. Come learn about these important topics. R.S.V.P. to billhacket2002@yahoo.com.



Get-Out-the-Vote Postcard Campaign

Tired of hearing that Democrats are energized and knowing that action opportunities for California Democrats don't begin until after our June primary? Thousands of Democrats nationwide have been active for months and you can be too. Elections are happening across the nation all the time. Virginia last November, Alabama in December, and Pennsylvania currently culminating in a special Congressional election on March 13. Special elections for state legislative districts in gerrymandered states where new districting begins after the 2020 census are happening all the time.

We're sending out 'Get Out the Vote' personal post cards with amazing results. We elected a Democratic slate in Virginia and sent a Democrat to the Senate from Alabama. Currently we're trying to flip the 18th district in Pennsylvania. Would you like to help? Would you like to party while helping? Contact me, Ron Garber at ronagarber@yahoo.com to get the details and start as early as tomorrow. Let's turn Congress Blue.

— Ron Garber



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

Joan & Andreas Aebi, Pasadena
 Connie & Glenn Garrison, Pasadena
 Bobbie & Henry Moon, Altadena

Wonderings and Wanderings

By Inman Moore



A Squirrel Bit Me

A few weeks ago something happened to me that has never happened before. A squirrel bit me. Talk about biting the hand that feeds you! That was exactly the case here. For several months now I have been feeding squirrels at Del Mar Park Assisted Living where my wife now resides due to various health problems. Outside the window of her room there is a wall running the length of the property. It is a concrete wall about eight inches thick with a flat surface on top. Several squirrels run along the top of the wall going back and forth to some foliage at each end of the wall. So I began leaving some nuts on top of the wall at a spot where both Nellie and I could see the squirrels eating the nuts from her bedside. Soon the squirrels learned what was happening and started getting braver about my presence. On this one occasion they looked into the window and saw I was coming with nuts. One of the squirrels now bravely waited for the nuts. As I arrived at the wall I was a little slow in getting the nuts out of my bag. So one of the squirrels thought I should speed up the process and reached over and bit me. He bit the hand that was feeding him!! You simply don't do that!!! Of course that meant for me a medical visit where I was given a shot, some prepared bandages, and a series of pills.

Now, with all that inconvenience, not to mention the pain, you would think I had learned my lesson and would quit feeding the squirrels. But no! I am still feeding the squirrels. But I do take more precautions.

Which leads me to say that our country has been "bitten" by a con artist named Donald

Trump, and we need to take a lot of precautions. When he starts off by words like "The Greatest, The Most, The Largest, or The Best," be prepared for a fake ride into the wild blue yonder. You would think that we know better than to be taken in by a huckster like Trump. But there he is as big as life. Short of impeachment, we are stuck with him.

Tom Steyer, a millionaire, largely using his own money, is circulating a petition to impeach President Trump. He has well over one million signatures to date. He also is considering a run for California Governor or a Senate seat.

Just as I applied medical procedures to conquer infection from my squirrel bite, we must be about whatever procedures it takes to move Trump and associates right out of the White House. Here's to a greater tomorrow for our state, our country, and our world!

— Inman



March Meeting

Thursday, March 1, 7 p.m./7:30 p.m.
at the home of
Tim and Joanne Wendler
951 N. Hudson Avenue, Pasadena

Program: **Pasadena Tenants' Union Rent Control Initiative** presentation.

Socializing at 7 p.m., with the meeting following at 7:30 p.m. Come and bring a friend. Everyone is welcome.



Upcoming Meetings

April: Research Committee recommendations for June 5 election races and Steering Committee and ADC deliberations on those races.

May: League of Women Voters on proposed Split Roll Initiative.

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Sunday, February 4.

For the last week, the “Nunes memo” has dominated the political news. It was supposed to be a bombshell. It certainly broke nearly forty years of precedent and fundamentally changed the relationship between the Intelligence Community and its Congressional overseers. In fact, though, it was pretty much a dud. Despite the hoopla, little new information was revealed, although some of the hard right pundits asserted, without any factual backup, that it was a smoking gun proving bias by the FBI and the entire Justice Department.

The essence of the memo was the assertion that the evidence justifying wire-tapping a member of the Trump campaign (who incidentally was disparaged by the campaign, at various times, as an unpaid volunteer of minimal import) came overwhelmingly from the dossier

compiled by a former British intelligence agent. Worse, the memo argues, the Justice Dept. intentionally and purposefully hid the fact that the Clintons paid that agent to build the dossier, making the dossier inherently biased and therefore untrustworthy.

Yet the memo itself, apparently intentionally and purposefully, ignores multiple related facts: that the dossier was not the only, and not even the main, evidence justifying the wiretapping warrant; that the target of the warrant had been a subject of FBI interest since 2013; that the warrant was approved in the summer of 2016, and then renewed three times – once in 2016 and twice in 2017 – long after the election was over; that a whole gallery of FBI and Justice Dept. officials reviewed and repeatedly approved the warrant applications; and that the Intelligence Court likely would not have approved repeated renewals without some evidence that the wiretaps were generating information with national security relevance.

Our own Congressman Adam Schiff, the ranking minority member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, has been meticulously playing by the rules, and not divulging the classified information that would rebut the Nunes memo, while at the same time trying publicly to give a sense of why the memo was so disingenuous. It must be incredibly frustrating as the Republican majority on the Committee vote to release their version but simultaneously refuse to release the Democratic response. But he’s doing the right thing – we play by the rules, even if they do not. In the end, I absolutely believe that will redound to our benefit.

Meanwhile, the Republicans are undermining their own credibility with the law and order community – yet another piece of the traditional GOP coalition that is slipping away. The President’s popularity in the polls has re-

bounded a bit – the tax cut, the State of the Union address, his trip to Europe all showed him acting as we typically think a President should. Yet the challenges remain – DACA is still unresolved, another government shut-down looms on Thursday, Feb. 8, the market and the economy are looking a bit less rosy as inflation fears are gathering. So I remain solidly convinced that Democrats will take back both the House and the Senate and that the November mid-terms will be a dramatic repudiation of President Trump's style, behavior and policies.

In the short term, keep an eye on Pennsylvania's 18th Congressional District. My guess is this will be the first Congressional special election where we flip a district from red to blue. The special election is on Tuesday, March 13, less than a month away. The Democratic candidate, Conor Lamb, just reported raising \$560,000 as of December 31st. (The next report is due on March 1, covering the January 1 through February 24th period.) Most of the money

(\$349,000) came from itemized contributions (over \$200), but over \$112,000 came from non-itemized contributions – those under \$200, which typically come from web site contributions and e-mail appeals. He spent \$148,000 during that period, leaving him with over \$400,000 in cash at the end of the year.

In shocking contrast, the GOP candidate, Rick Saccone, reported raising only \$214,000 during that period. Of that, \$55,000 came from itemized contributions, but only \$8,000 came from non-itemized contributions. There could hardly be a more telling contrast between the enthusiasm of grass-roots Democrats versus Republicans.

Saccone's other money came from other com-

mittees (\$97,000), transfers from another committee he controls (\$42,000), and personal loans from himself (\$11,000). However, he spent only \$11,000 during the period, leaving him with nearly \$200,000 at year end.

It is rare to have a Democrat outraise the Republican opponent, and rarer still to have a two-fold margin. Saccone was getting help from Speaker Ryan and the Vice-President, who are schedule to attend fundraising events for him. But he's also getting some unwanted publicity. Apparently, Mr. Tea Party anti-government spending ran up bills of \$435,000 in his expense account in the Pennsylvania

House of Delegates, well in excess of nearly all his colleagues. This included a bill of \$117,000 for renting office space from a campaign contributor.

This has been a traditional Republican district, with no Democrat even running in 2014 and 2016 against the former GOP incumbent. But with the former incumbent resigning in disgrace, all bets are off. The district has nearly 70,000 more Democrats



than Republicans, but it is semi-rural and conservative; coal mining is a significant industry in the area. The Reps, as usual, will try to tie Lamb to Nancy Pelosi, whom they presume to be unpopular with their rural and exurban voters. However, Lamb has publicly said he would not support Pelosi for election to Speaker; his argument was that the whole leadership of the House, Democratic and Republican, was too old and stale, had failed to achieve much, and needed to be replaced. This may be the least offensive way, vis a vis liberal Democrats, for Lamb to dissociate himself from Pelosi while holding fast to the Democratic label.

Even this stance, however, causes angst among many of the Democratic grass-roots

coalition. Yet, one has to recognize that not all districts are the same, and we have to allow Democrats (like Sens. Joe Manchin from West Virginia or John Tester from Montana) some leeway to fit their districts or states. Lamb, a former Marine and former Assistant U.S. Attorney, is a more centrist candidate, but probably fits his district better than nearly anyone else we could have nominated. Winning that seat would be a huge statement, coming on the heels of Virginia, Alabama and the special State Senate election in Wisconsin. It would energize the party, amp our momentum, and make taking back the House significantly easier. So I would encourage folks to contribute, notwithstanding any qualms about re-electing Representative Pelosi as Speaker.

In another telling development, New Jersey Congressman Rodney Freylinghuysen announced his retirement. This was really a blockbuster. Freylinghuysen is the current Chair of the House Appropriations Committee – possibly the most powerful position in Congress next to the Speaker. Several other Committee Chairs have announced their retirement, but they had all served the 3 terms allowed under GOP caucus rules, so even if the Reps keep control of the House they would have to give up their Chairmanships. But Freylinghuysen has been Chair for only two years now – he would have had another 4 years in that premier position. To give up that power and prestige must mean that he sees his re-election is difficult and perhaps even dubious. His district – New Jersey's 11th – has been one of the most reliably Republican districts in the Northeast for 35 years. Freylinghuysen has been in office since 1995, routinely winning with 60% margins. Yet President Trump carried the district by a mere 1%, and this is exactly the type of suburban district where the GOP is bleeding badly.

Undoubtedly, Freylinghuysen didn't make this decision by gut feel. Surely he polled his dis-

trict and found disturbing results – bad enough to make him decide it wasn't worth the fight. This is pretty clear confirmation that the GOP is losing support among its traditional coalition, and that the damage is deep and likely irreparable. So on to November (realizing that an awful lot can change in 9 months!).

One other note of interest on the national side – in Arizona, GOP Congresswoman Martha McSally joined the race for Sen. Jeff Flake's Senate seat. That opens up her 2nd Congressional District, and Ann Kirkpatrick has announced for that seat. Kirkpatrick formerly represented Arizona's 1st CD, giving up that seat to run (and lose) a state-wide race against John McCain in 2016. Kirkpatrick moved to Tucson (and into the 2nd CD) to help care for two prematurely born grandchildren. Of further local interest, Kirkpatrick is the niece of ACT member and PUSD Board Member Liz Pomeroy. With McSally as an incumbent, the seat was rated as a Likely Republican; now, as an open seat, it is rated as Leans Democratic. This could be yet another key flip in our effort to retake the House, so watch for news from Kirkpatrick.

On the local scene, one of the most interesting new developments percolating along is Mayor Terry Tornek's proposal for a local sales tax of $\frac{3}{4}$ of one cent, with the revenue shared equally among the City General Fund for operating purposes, its Capital Fund, and the Pasadena Unified School District. This tax would require the approval of the City's voters by a 50% margin, and the Mayor is suggesting that it be on the November general election ballot.

This sales tax would generate a bit over \$20 million each fiscal year, so the general fund, the capital fund and the school district would each receive about \$7 million a year in additional funding. This would fill a critical gap that is already hitting the schools and is projected to hit the city within a few years. The

primary culprit is a steadily increasing charge for the state retirement systems (CALPERS, which supports municipal and law enforcement employees and CALSTRS, which supports teachers). Since the 2008 – 2009 recession times, the City has cut \$19 million and 123 positions from its annual budget. Although this year's budget was balanced, next year's City budget is looking at a \$3 – 4 million deficit, which would have to be covered by cuts in personnel. There is, in truth, little left to cut, especially as city residents are looking for more services in areas like recreation, parks, the Arroyo, youth services, programs to combat homelessness and efforts to promote jobs and opportunity in the Northwest.

The School District similarly is facing substantial deficits, although their problems are more immediate. The District is looking to make cuts of over \$10 million in its annual budget and save at least \$4 - 5 million in this fiscal year (which is almost over). The District, in addition to being hit with CALSTRS assessments, is also coping with declining enrollments and reduced special funding. Curiously, as the percentage of students eligible for free and reduced lunches has fallen over the last two years (which one might think is good news, that fewer of our students are poverty-stricken), the District has been hit hard as its entitlement to supplemental funds (aimed at helping those impoverished students) has fallen disproportionately.

The Mayor's colleagues on the City Council reacted quite cautiously at last week's meeting, asking for more information on alternatives (like property taxes) and details on how the funds for the PUSD would be monitored. The Mayor is also likely to organize community forums to discuss the proposal, and allow organizations like the Chamber of Commerce to air their concerns.

In reality, there are few other options for increased revenue. The sales tax increase is

about the only option that requires only a 50% majority. Parcel taxes (like Measure CC which the PUSD tried to pass in 2010) require a 2/3 majority. And the need for additional revenue, both for the City and the School District, is unarguable. Further, the fates of the City and the School District are inextricably linked; the City cannot succeed without a strong public school system.

So when you hear about community forums to discuss the sales tax proposal, please make a special effort to attend and voice your support. Write to your Councilmember and let them know of your support. This is a critical issue that needs open and vocal public support now to overcome the natural reluctance of Councilmembers to raise taxes on their constituents and their local businesses. In reality, this tax increase is pretty minimal; on a purchase of \$100.00, it would add 75 cents – an added cost small enough that it is unlikely to lead a customer to go elsewhere. And the cumulative impact on the city and schools is quite substantial. It would support needed services and finance needed capital improvements, things we want and expect from our City and schools. So kudos to the Mayor for advancing a controversial and courageous measure and for preparing us for what will happen five and ten years from now.

— Jon Fuhrman



Really special thanks to Benefactors

Susan Kane & Jon Fuhrman
Greta Pruitt

Special Thanks to Sustaining Members

Joan & Andreas Aebi
Marguerite Cooper
Richard & Nancy Esbenshade
Sandra & Mark Esensten
Joan & Jeffrey Palmer

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Darla Dyson

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Field

Corresponding Secretaries: Beth Gertmenian,
Monica Hubbard

Treasurer: Ed Washatka

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Anthony Portantino, Dale Gronemeier,
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Ed Washatka, Felicia Williams,
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Note: All former ACT Co-Chairs are Steering
Committee members. Some of them are not
listed here.

2018 Arroyo Democratic Club Officers

President: Bill Hackett

Vice-President: Tim Wendler

Secretaries and Treasurer: Same as ACT

*Our list has grown very long in these 40+
years. Please let us know of any mistakes –
especially in your committee assignment(s). Or
if we have left off your name!*

*Also please let us know if you would like to
serve on an ACT committee (and thus become a
Steering Committee member.) Contact Execu-
tive Director Jon Fuhrman at
jon.fuhrman@charter.net.*



Flipping the 39th

As you know, ACT and ADC have joined
with Swing Left in the campaign to turn the
39th Congressional District from Republican to
Democrat. We all rejoiced when 39th CD in-
cumbent Republican Ed Royce announced he
had decided to retire. But that is just part of
the battle. Lots of hard work lies ahead if we
hope to send a 39th CD Democrat to Congress.
(The 39th includes Diamond Bar, Fullerton,
Hacienda Heights and surrounding commu-
nities.)

Swing Left, together with other pro-Demo-
cratic groups, has scheduled four canvassing
events for February: Saturday, 2/10, and three
Sundays, 2/11, 2/18 and 2/25. To sign up to
help and get full details go to Swing Left's
calendar at swingleft.org/district/CA-39/cal

[endar](#) or access the calendar through ACT's webpage, ACTpasadena.org. Your help is urgently needed. Please sign up to help today.

At the event you will receive materials and training to go out with a partner to talk to targeted households. Bring water, comfortable shoes and a fully charged smartphone. (If you don't have a smartphone you will be partnered with someone who does have one.)

Note: ADC President Bill Hackett at 626 705-2180 or billhackett2002@yahoo.com may be able to facilitate ride-sharing.

P.S. If you haven't heard of it, Swing Left is an online network that helps people find their closest Swing District in Congress and connects them with actionable volunteer opportunities to support progressive candidates in that District. The goal is simple: flip the House in the 2018 midterm elections and put a check on the Trump agenda. Sign up and learn more at SwingLeft.org.



Community Leaders Call for Justice and End to Police Violence

Leaders from various Pasadena and Altadena activist and faith-based organizations met with Pasadena City Manager Steve Mermell and Police Chief Philip Sanchez to discuss demand submitted by the community in the wake of the brutal beating by Pasadena Police of Chris Ballew, an Altadena African-American young man, at an Altadena traffic stop on November 9, 2017. (See the video at <https://goo.gl/kpgNBD>) The six demands presented by the 34 community leaders in attendance are as follows.

1. Require an independent investigation of the Chris Ballew beating incident, as well as of any Use of Force incident resulting in great bodily injury or death.
2. Direct Chief Sanchez to discipline the officers to the maximum of the law.

3. Review and revise Pasadena PD policies on Use of Force, Racial Profiling, and Stops, to protect residents and visitors.
4. Adopt an Independent Police Auditor with subpoena power.
5. Require annual public reports to the City Council listing financial payouts for police misconduct complaints.
6. Direct Chief Sanchez to implement the Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) in 2018 to collect newly required data on all police stops.

Although the meeting was held off the record without any press coverage so that both sides would speak candidly, it can be said that Mermell and Sanchez rejected all six demands except for considering to possibly start the implementation of the Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) in 2019, three years ahead of the mandated start date in 2022.

Regarding preparing reports of financial payouts, Mermell stated that they are a public record and he does not have the staff time to prepare another report. He said citizens should just submit a request for such information to his office.

Community activists will continue to put pressure on the City Council, City Manager and Police Chief regarding the other demands. For example, requests have been made for the two officers to be taken off patrol and put on administrative assignment pending the internal investigation. The request has been rejected by the Chief because of staffing concerns, even though actual officers on patrol has increased over the past two years.

The meeting was co-sponsored by the Coalition for Increased Civilian Oversight of Pasadena (CICOPP) of which ACT is a member organization, along with the Pasadena Chapters of the NAACP and ACLU of Southern California, Pasadenans Organizing for Progress (POP), All Saints Church, Pasadenans and Altadenans Against Police Violence, and San Gabriel Valley Progressive Alliance.

— Ed Washatka

Progressive Discussion Group

PDG meets every first and third Friday of the month from 9-10 a.m. in the back room of Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S. Lake Avenue, Pasadena. Park in the big lot behind the restaurant off Shopper's Lane.

Everyone is welcome. Order breakfast, coffee, etc., or not. (If you plan to order breakfast, please plan to arrive a bit early.) Contact Dale Gronemeier dlg@dgronemeier.com for details.



March Phoenix Deadline

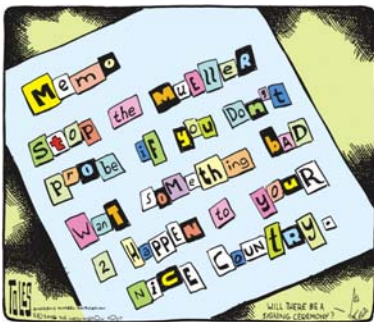
The deadline for the March *Phoenix* is Sunday evening, March 4. Please send items for publication to Editor Chuck Hains on or before the deadline at hains27@sbcglobal.net.



Check out ACT's Webpage

ACT's webpage, www.ACTpasadena.org is a handy source of political news. The current on-line edition of *The Phoenix* (in color and often with items that couldn't be fitted into the print edition) is always available on our webpage.

Bruce Wright, our website manager, asks for photos for the webpage. Please submit ideas and photos to him at brucewright@sbcglobal.net.



From 25th District State Senator Anthony Portantino



Dear ACT Members,

So much going on these days. Very happy to announce that after several efforts, a bill to expand autism treatment options has passed the Senate. In past years, this issue has faced stiff opposition from insurers and it stalled. We've passed a major hurdle and I'm optimistic about its prospects and very happy that families with autistic children may soon have more paths to care for them.

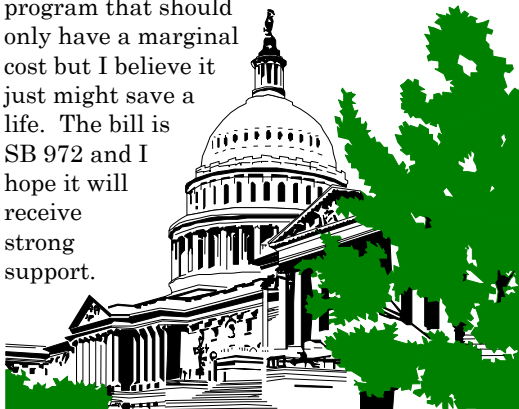
AB 403 & SB 419 - Whistleblower Protection -- Many of you know that seven years ago I made two attempts to extend whistleblower protection to legislative staff in an effort to improve the Sacramento work environment. I have some excellent news to share. After six tries, two from me and four from Melissa Melendez, AB 403 will soon be heading to the Governor. Upon being sworn in to the Senate, Assemblymember Melendez asked me to be an original Principal Co-Author of AB 403 which I was happy to do. Many of you also know that I try to govern through the lens of a father of daughters. Bella and Sofia's influence helps me every day to see the importance of creating a capitol work environment that protects the women and men who work there, free from retaliation and intimidation. A movement started by 150 courageous women in the capitol to bring attention to harassment became an unstoppable force that demanded action and they succeeded. Generations of women will thank them for their activism and commitment.

I also recognized that as important of a bill that AB 403 is, there are other protections

that need to be put in place. SB 419 complements Melendez's efforts and further extends protection against retaliation for anyone who does business in the capitol. It also requires both houses of the legislature to maintain records for a minimum of 12 years. Senator Connie Leyva, the Vice Chair of the Women's Legislative Caucus, is the Joint Author of SB 419. SB 419 also passed the Senate this week with bi-partisan support and is now in the Assembly.

Pasadena Humane Society Needs Your Help – 54 cats ranging from 6 months to 5-years-old were rescued from a house in Pasadena and desperately need loving homes. The Humane Society was offering some relief of charges for the first few days of adoption. I don't know if they are continuing that program but I do know that anyone looking for a kitty might want to contact them. The Humane Society is located at 361 S. Raymond Avenue in Pasadena. Here is a link to their web page: <https://pasadenahumane.org/>

Suicide Prevention – Mental health and student wellbeing continue to be important priorities for me. Last week, I introduced a bill to require all high schools and colleges in California to print the suicide prevention hot-line number on all student ID's. It's a small program that should only have a marginal cost but I believe it just might save a life. The bill is SB 972 and I hope it will receive strong support.



Ballot Order – As cities around the state are being forced to consolidate their elections with county, state and federal elections, there is a concern that our local elections will get lost in the new, longer ballots. In response, I've introduced SB 25 which will change the ballot order featuring local elections first. To me, it only makes sense that our most immediate and local issues should get top focus. Folks will go "down ballot" to vote for the President and Governor so I think this is a prudent protection to keep the local focus where it needs to be.

Family News – Folks in the district have been very understanding this year as I've tried to attend as many of Bella's soccer games as I can make. She's sixteen and soon will have her driver's license which will un-tether her from our home. So, it's been very important for me to spend as much time with her as possible. I've also been taking her out for driving practice which has been pretty fun. I enjoyed Sofia being home over the holiday but miss her much now that she is back in New York.

Warmly,

Anthony



Special Thanks to Our Patrons

John & Susan Caldwell,
Kevin Ennis, Pasadena
Bobbie & Henry Moon
Elizabeth & Tom Polenzani

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

Marguerite Cooper, Pasadena
Bobbie & Henry Moon, Altadena

**From
41st District
Assemblymember
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

In the last week of January, Governor Jerry Brown gave his annual State of the State. It was a typical Jerry Brown speech mixed with optimism and pragmatic thinking in terms of how we view our challenges. He spoke of the need for us to come together and find solutions to the problems we face in California and globally.

I believe he has shown prudence in his approach to governing from creating the now \$13.5 billion rainy day fund to extending California's Cap and Trade Program. I also applaud his passionate leadership and commitment to protecting the gains California has made on our progressive values, and lending a voice to the millions of Californians who are adversely affected by the current federal policies. Governor Brown understands Californian's unique role as a beacon of hope and change, and knows the world is looking west for leadership.

He also mentioned some new challenges we face that pertain to our community. Pasadena, and communities throughout the 41st Assembly District, are in high risk areas for forest fires and subsequent mudslides. I look forward to working with my colleagues to take action now in order to protect our communities and families from these perils as we continue to see the impacts of climate change that are raising temperatures and producing more extreme weather patterns in California.

In my capacity as Chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus, I was proud of work to organize the successful annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day breakfast "Black Voices: Reclaiming Our Influence" in Sacramento.

Donna Brazile, former Chair of the Democratic National Committee delivered a dynamic keynote addressing the importance of unity, activism, and voter engagement within the current political climate. I also had the opportunity to recognize the 41st Assembly Districts "Unsung Heroes" Ruthie and Joe Hopkins for their long-standing leadership in the San Gabriel Valley.

Earlier in the month we kicked off our 3rd Annual Young Legislators Program at the Rose Bowl Stadium. I had the pleasure to speak with the students about the importance of civic engagement and giving back to your community. This year, we have 18 high school students from all over the 41st Assembly district. It's going to be an exciting year for this program that will provide students an opportunity to learn about the legislative process, and how to make difference in their communities.

January 27th marked the 45th anniversary of Roe vs Wade decision that made it constitutional for women to choose. I'm proud to have joined the Planned Parenthood's rally at the steps of the Capitol to rally for women's reproductive rights and access to vital medical and social services.

Lastly, I hope you can join my public safety panel discussion focused on Propositions 47 and 57 (and Assembly Bill 109, the Public Safety Realignment Act) on Thursday March 1st, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Monrovia Community Center (119 W. Palm Ave., Monrovia). I'm bringing together subject matter experts in public safety, probation, parole, and reintegration for this educational event to provide up to date information on these ballot initiatives and to answer questions from the community. Please RSVP for this event by emailing me at

Assemblymember.Holden@assembly.ca.gov

Sincerely,

Chris R. Holden

Annual Membership Drive

Time to renew your annual membership in ACT and the Arroyo Democratic Club. Look for your membership appeal to arrive in the mail in a week or two; or you can just use the form below to send in your membership, or join / renew on line at www.actpasadena.org. However you do it, we deeply appreciate your continued support as we fight for progressive ideals in the Foothills area.



Thank you to everyone who has already renewed. Your generous response is heartwarming!

P.S. If you have any questions about your membership contact Jon Fuhrman at 626-795-5255 or at jon_fuhrman@charter.net.

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

\$40 Single	\$70 Single Sustaining
\$25 Each additional member per household	\$90 Double Sustaining
\$15 Student or limited income	\$150 Patron
	\$275 Benefactor

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

\$35 Single	\$60 Single Sustaining
\$20 Each additional member per household	\$85 Double Sustaining
\$15 Student or limited income	\$125 Patron
\$20 Gift Membership (NEW!)	\$275 Benefactor

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

\$35 Single	\$60 Single Sustaining
\$20 Each additional member per household	\$85 Double Sustaining
\$15 Student or limited income	\$125 Patron
	\$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 provided will be available to other members and endorsed candidates upon request.

Feb Mar

Calendar

- February 13 Tuesday 7:30 pm Two-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, political analyst Ronald Brownstein speaks on "Prospects for Dems & Repubs in mid-term elections" at the Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center. RSVP to [facebook.com/events/206981319863675/](https://www.facebook.com/events/206981319863675/)
- February 16 Friday 9-10 a.m. Progressive Discussion Group at Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena. Msg Dale Gronemeier for more info at dlg@dgronemeier.com. Also 3/2 and 3/16.
- February 17 Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Black History Parade and Festival, Robinson Park.

- Feb. 23-25 Fri - Sun California Democrats State Convention, San Diego Convention Center. For details see cadem.org/convention.



- March 1 Thursday 7 p.m. ACT Steering and ADC Meeting at the home of Joanne & Tim Wendler, 951 N. Hudson Ave., Pasadena. Program is Pasadena Tenants' Union Rent Control Initiative. Socializing at 7 p.m.; meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.
- March 19 Monday 7 p.m. UDH Steering Meeting at the home of Karen Wingard, 737 Magnolia, Pasadena.



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