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## ACT Endorsed Candidates Sweep Local Elections

Candidates endorsed by ACT swept to victory in Pasadena School Board and City Council races last week. PUSD incumbents Kim Kenne (District 1) and Elizabeth Pomeroy (District 5) (both ACT members) were re-elected easily, with 60% and 70% margins respectively. In perhaps the most surprising result of the night, challenger Michelle Richardson-Bailey (District 3) defeated the appointed incumbent Adrienne Mullen (also an ACT member) with a 60% margin. Richardson-Bailey narrowly won the absentee votes and won decisively among the election-day ballots cast. ACT made our largest donation to Richardson-Bailey's campaign.



In the City Council races, incumbent Victor Gordo (District 5) was decisively re-elected, winning both absentee and election-day ballots and carrying every precinct in the District.

The District 7 race, however, was quite tight. Appointed incumbent Andy Wilson, whom ACT endorsed, led by 58 votes on Tuesday night; but by Friday, that lead shrank to a mere 15 votes, giving Wilson 43%, to 42.5% for Phil Hosp. Hosp outpaced Wilson among absentee ballots and in one precinct (#108, around the Langham Hotel), while Wilson outperformed among election-day ballots and carried the other three precincts.

Since no candidate received over 50%, there will be a run-off on April 18 between Wilson and Hosp. This will be the only race on the ballot for Dist. 7 residents, so if you live in the District, be sure to get your absentee ballots in.



### Measure H Squeaks By

Measure H is the ¼ cent increase in sales tax throughout Los Angeles County dedicated to supporting homeless individuals and preventing further homelessness. Our Steering Committee recommended a YES vote on this measure, which needed a 2/3 majority to pass.

Initially, on Election night, the absentee results

didn't look good – it had only a 61% margin, not nearly close enough to pass. But by the night's end, the measure had eked out a 67.5% margin, but there were still lots of absentee ballots to be counted. Now, after the Friday update, the margin actually increased slightly to 67.62%, which looks safe enough a margin to ensure its passage.

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Preliminary results for some of our area cities are shown below, both absentee and Election Day votes. They show the consistently more conservative, and tax-hostile, bent of absentee voters compared to those who vote in person on Election Day.

City		Election Day	Absen-tee	Total
Pasadena	Y	76.9%	65.1%	70.8%
	N	23.1%	34.9%	29.2%
Altadena	Y	77.3%	70.5%	74.0%
	N	22.7%	29.5%	26.0%
South Pasa.	Y	77.2%	65.2%	70.7%
	N	22.8%	34.8%	29.3%
San Marino	Y	46.2%	43.4%	44.2%
	N	53.8%	56.6%	55.8%
Arcadia	Y	51.4%	50.3%	50.8%
	N	48.6%	49.7%	49.2%
Sierra Madre	Y	67.0%	59.3%	62.8%
	N	0%	60.7%	37.2%



## Andy Wilson Campaign Needs Volunteers

Andy Wilson is in a runoff election for Pasadena City Council. He really needs your help. Wilson is endorsed by ACT. At the March 9 meeting the ACT Steering Committee voted to contribute \$2000 to his Pasadena Council District 7 runoff election campaign, (20-0-1).

If you would like to help make some calls or walk a neighborhood for Wilson, please contact Vicki at [vicki@wilsonforcitycouncil.com](mailto:vicki@wilsonforcitycouncil.com) or msg [bill@wilsonforcitycouncil.com](mailto:bill@wilsonforcitycouncil.com). We need to ensure that our endorsed candidate wins this seat.

Check out [wilsonforcitycouncil.com](http://wilsonforcitycouncil.com) for more information about him. He is the founder and volunteer board member of Innovate Pasadena. He is endorsed by former Mayor Bill Bogaard and Pasadena Fire Fighters Local 809. Just two or three hours of your time will make all the difference.

## John Kennedy and Scott Phelps to speak at Next ACT Meeting

The next ACT and Arroyo Democratic Club meeting is on Thursday, April 6 (back on our regular 1st Thursday meeting schedule) at the home of Marilee Marshall and Bruce Wright at 654 S. Madison Avenue, in Pasadena. Pasadena Councilmember John Kennedy (District 3) and PUSD Board member Scott Phelps (District 7) will be our guest speakers. Come for coffee and conversation at 7 p.m., with the meeting following at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome and urged to attend.



## POP! Event to Support Immigrant Friends and Neighbors

Saturday, March 18, 3-5 pm:

POP! (Pasadenans Organizing for Progress) will hold an informational meeting on ways for non-immigrant opponents of the Trump administration plans for mass deportation to concretely support our immigrant friends and neighbors. It will also be an opportunity to meet Lizbeth Mateo, POP's full-time organizer who started working March 1 (right after taking the bar exam). The meeting to make connections to resist Trump's planned mass deportations will be from 3-5 pm at the Pasadena Job Center, 500 N. Lake Ave.

## March in Support of Immigrants

Monday, March 20, 4 pm and 6:30 pm:

The successful mass march to Pasadena City Hall on Monday, Feb. 27, will resume on March 20, re-assembling at All Saints Church around 4 pm for a concert and speeches, then moving to City Hall for the 6:30 pm City Council meeting. The City Council heard our voices on Feb. 27 advocating the POP!/NDLON/CLUE proposal for a sanctuary city policing policy. They will discuss sanctuary policies.

## Wonderings and Wanderings

By Inman Moore



### “Racism”

Am I a racist? The true answer is “I really don’t know.” I try not to be and have spent much of my adult life fighting racism. But I was born into a racist society in Mississippi with totally segregated schools, churches, civic organizations, public restaurants, motels, and hotels. Through various procedures blacks were kept from voting. Sometimes I am not sure I am fully free of those early prejudices.

Of course Mississippi was not alone. All of the Southern States were segregated at one time or another. And there were vestiges of racism all over America. We are a much more integrated society today and struggles continue to make it more so. Amen!

However, I sometimes sit down and wonder what blacks think of the white race as a whole. I also ask myself are all blacks and all whites strong advocates of civil rights? And are we in the civil rights movement, black or white, reminding ourselves that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., our great civil rights leader, was a strong advocate of non-violence and would never condone some of the riots and burnings surrounding some civil rights gatherings.

In any event we know in our heart of hearts that we must continue to work for the peaceful integration of all the races in all ways possible. We must continue to receive immigrants from other countries of all races, colors and religion. There is a wonderful passage in the New Testament of the Bible that comes from the writings of Paul. It states that in the eyes of God, “There is neither Jew nor Greek; slave nor free; nor is there male and female, for you are all one.”

However there continue to be forces which would like us to go backwards in our attempts

to integrate all society. President Donald Trump seems to be in that camp. He has been greatly influenced by the alright movement and one of its leaders, Steve Bannon, who now seems to be his principal advisor. Bannon was once editor of Breitbart News a far right-wing publication. It definitely has a racist streak.

“Let’s Make America Great Again” is Trump’s big slogan. It comes directly out of the alright movement. For some it seems to be a code word meaning “Make America White Again.” The alright movement was incensed by Barack Obama, a black man, being elected President. They by action and words are insinuating that now is the time to return leadership in America to the whites where it rightfully belongs and truly “Make America White Again.” Unfortunately Donald Trump seems to have sympathy for these feelings.

In the past we get inklings of this when he and his father “redlined” the applications of blacks as tenants in their apartment buildings. When Obama was first elected President Donald Trump became one of the leaders in the “birther movement” in America stating that Obama was not a citizen because he was born in Kenya of a Kenyan father. Even after Obama’s birth certificate was presented showing his mother was a white American Citizen, and an announcement of his birth appeared in a Hawaii newspaper of that time, many “birth-ers” continued on. Others were saying that Obama never went to Occidental College, Columbia University, or Harvard Law School, even though Obama was made Editor of the Harvard Law Review. I have a casual friend in Glendale who went to classes with Obama at Occidental.

While President Trump has recently said that he now accepts the fact that Obama was born in the United States, he has never divorced himself of all this racial nonsense of “Let’s

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## Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Monday, March 13.

After nearly two months, President Trump is starting to find his footing. Most of his Cabinet nominees have been confirmed, with the notable exception of the hapless Andy Puzder (a Labor Secretary who employed undocumented laborers and lamented minimum wage hikes apparently was a bridge too far even for some Republican Senators). The President is beginning to exert authority deep into the workings of Cabinet Departments and is now turning to critical policy issues.

The President still has substantial organizational work to complete. He hasn't even made nominations for most sub-Cabinet positions, to say nothing of getting those nominees confirmed. In fact, key Secretaries, like Mattis of Defense and Tillerson at State, have had their picks vetoed by the White House, and have in turn been blocking White House suggestions

for their top staff. Neither Mathis nor Tillerson suffers fools gladly, and they're not about to be saddled with key deputies who are not up to the job. (You don't succeed at running Exxon-Mobil by tolerating senior executives who are not up to the challenge.) But the alternative seems to be to leave those posts unfilled, which leaves the Secretaries in an untenable position. My guess is that by about the end of April there will be some showdowns at the White House over these key sub-Cabinet jobs, and if the White House (read Steve Bannon) refuses to back down, I wouldn't be shocked if one or both threaten to resign or actually resign.

Meanwhile, the White House is starting to turn to real policy, with health care and the budget at the front. A preliminary budget should be out later this week (unless it's delayed by the snowstorm barraging the East Coast this week). The health care bill is already out, and today the Congressional Budget Office weighed in by confirming what pretty much everyone already suspected – lots of folks are going to lose their health care under the repeal/replace bill.

The essential aim of the Affordable Care Act was to tackle the issue of uninsured individuals and families. One of the forgotten details is how successful it has been: the uninsured rate has fallen nearly in half, from almost 17% to about 9%. That's a dramatic change, affecting 25 – 30 million people. Not surprisingly, to extend coverage to that many people costs money, in fact a lot of money. Some of those costs were offset by increased taxes on upper income taxpayers, and some were recouped by premium increases, and some caused an increase in the budget deficit.

But the central point is that a lot of people now have health insurance who didn't have it before this bill. For us who view health care as a fundamental right, this is a dramatic achievement, the culmination of decades of ad-

vocacy and political effort. But the Republican repeal/replace alternative is mostly a repeal, with not much of a replace.

Further, it would only exacerbate the drift to inequality that we've seen over the past two decades. The Republican bill eliminates the taxes on investment income on the upper income, and it eliminates the subsidies for low income taxpayers. It replaces the subsidies with refundable tax credits, which are pegged to income levels, so the lowest income earners get the lowest subsidies. (The subsidies do phase out at modestly high income levels, so it's not a total giveaway.)

One of the key insights of President Obama's legislation was that for insurance companies to be able to cover more sick people, they needed more healthy people to buy their insurance. Obama tried to achieve this with the individual mandate – the requirement that all people buy health insurance or pay a fine through their annual income tax filing. This mandate drove the Republicans crazy. But their hatred of the mandate doesn't invalidate

the basic insight. So instead of a mandate, the Republican bill allows insurance companies to levy a large surcharge on people who allow their insurance to lapse and then try to reacquire insurance (for example, when they get sick). There is little functional difference between a mandate and a surcharge system – both aim to drive a larger number of healthy people to carry insurance to pay for a smaller number of sick people. (Somehow, the fact that this is exactly the same principle behind buying fire and liability insurance for our houses never seemed to bother Republicans, but I guess that's neither here nor there.)

With no subsidies, lower tax credits and a

weaker mechanism to increase those buying insurance, premiums are forecast to rise and the number of insured is forecast to fall. The fact that 14 million people who now have insurance might well lose that insurance by 2018 has real implications – both for those families and for the politicians who represent them.

There is already a significant block of Republican Senators who have signaled their unease or flat out opposition to the bill. Sen. Tom Cotton, from Arkansas – hardly a centrist – has outright told House Republicans that the bill is dead in the Senate, so there is little

sense in risking political fallout supporting a bill that will not go anywhere. The Tea Party caucus in the House is bitterly opposed. So, by the way, are many centrist groups, like the AARP, hospital associations, other medical providers, and most insurers.

Speaker Ryan is working hard to corral his troops, but that looks like a tougher task every day now. Interestingly, apparently President Trump has begun making off-hand comments to the



effect that perhaps we should just let the Affordable Care Act fail of its own accord. Perhaps this is an early indicator that the President knows he lacks the votes for the bill and doesn't want to get enmeshed in all the dirty details trying to find an acceptable compromise. He would have a tough task. Moving to the right, to appease the Tea Party caucus, would make it flatly unacceptable to many centrist Republican Senators and Governors (especially in those states. Moving to the left, to attract some Democratic support, would further alienate both the Tea Party caucus and conservative Republicans, and it would be a symbolic surrender of one of the GOP's fun-

damental tenets. So the President may find that doing nothing, and criticizing the Democrats for the pickle he's in, may be the easiest course of action.

As the President rolls out the new budget, all the traditional targets of GOP criticism are really on the carving board. The only hope to maintain funding for critical "soft" activities is the support for them from GOP centrists. Even Sen. John McCain and Lindsey Graham, for example, have been explicit in their support for continued funding for State Department development and aid programs. They fully understand how "soft" power is an absolutely essential complement to our "hard" power in the Defense Dept. Other favorite targets of GOP criticism – like the National Endowment of the Arts or of the Humanities, or public radio, or indigent defense – may find their funding at best severely cut, if not zeroed out entirely. Even if the Congress funds these activities, it's not clear that the Trump Administration will be willing to spend any money on them. So, to me, it looks inevitable that we'll see huge cuts in the artistic, cultural, esthetic, scientific, and educational areas previously funded by the government, all in the name of budget discipline. Unfortunately, the President is likely soon to realize that even with all these cuts, the impact on the budget is relatively trivial.

Turning closer to home, we had our local municipal elections last week. The turnout was, sadly, pretty typical. Even in the most hotly contested race – City Council District 7 – the turnout was under 22%. In PUSD races, it varied from 10 to 14.3%. There is a recently enacted state law that requires low turnout districts to move their election date to June or November of even numbered years, in an attempt to increase turnout. It is unclear if this mandate applies to charter cities; even if it doesn't, this will be on the agenda of both the city and the school board in future months.

In the hottest contest – City Council District 7 – Andy Wilson, the ACT-endorsed appointed incumbent, has at last count a 15 vote edge on Phil Hosp (who is also an ACT member). Since neither got a 50% majority outright, a run-off election will be on April 18. Run-offs typically favor the more conservative candidate – in this case Phil Hosp – since turnout tends to drop and those most likely to continue voting are older, whiter, more conservative homeowners. Each candidate will eventually have access to the list of who voted, and who automatically gets or has requested an absentee ballot, so the campaign will turn into a door to door battle of who can get their supporters out, one more time. Remarkably, even after all these years, many voters don't really understand our electoral system, and the fact that there is a run-off comes as a surprise. Further, this will be the only race on the ballot, and the only race in the Pasadena area, and very possibly the only race in Los Angeles County on that day. So the publicity is likely to be sparse, which only heightens the challenge each candidate faces.

Yet the impact of this race could be quite significant. There is a real ideological gap between the two candidates, even though both are Republicans. Wilson has taken a distinctly centrist, non-ideological and data-driven approach to local government, while Hosp, judging from his literature and campaign statements, is much further to the right. Particularly on issues like the minimum wage and police oversight, his vote might fundamentally change the balance of power on the Council, and he would certainly be a vocal advocate for those more conservative policies.

So a lot is at stake in this race, despite the lack of publicity or public awareness. Of course, that forces candidates to rely even more heavily on direct mail, which drives up the costs of campaigning (particularly on a per-vote or per-capita basis). The fact that

Wilson received the Star-News endorsement may help him more in the run-off than in the primary, since the endorsement came relatively late in the primary campaign (after quite a few absentee votes had already been cast), and it could change some votes in the run-off. (Though the Star-News has dramatically lost circulation, District 7 run-off voters are exactly the type of people who still subscribe.)

Three other candidates – two Democrats and one Republican – got small numbers of votes, but the run-off election could well be decided by small number of votes. One would think that of those voters who vote again, the Dems would likely vote for Wilson, and the Reps for Hosp. That would give Wilson a modest advantage – but that depends on those people voting again. Their most likely response is not to bother again, which probably hurts Wilson just a little bit more than Hosp.

So if you're a District 7 resident, be sure to vote! It will be a close one. My guess: Wilson by a whisker!

Jon Fuhrman



## Update on Police Oversight in Pasadena

The Pasadena City Council is moving toward implementing increased civilian oversight over our Police Department. They have engaged a well-respected consulting firm to report back to the City Council, at the end of March, on alternative structures and approaches that might work for Pasadena.

One of the critical issues is whether the “auditor” would have independent investigative authority. That would mean that the Auditor could independently investigate an incident if the Police Department was not asking the right questions or collecting relevant evidence. That independent investigation could include questioning both civilian witnesses and police

officers involved in the incident.

Some advocates believe that, without that independent authority, the Auditor would be unable to help the community find the truth behind incidents where police conduct is questioned. Others don't believe the Pasadena community as a whole, and the City Council in particular, is ready to create a second, internal police authority outside the control of the Police Chief. They believe the Auditor should do just that – audit and review the conduct of the police, reporting to the Chief, the City Manager, the City Council and ultimately to the citizens when the Auditor finds police conduct outside of established policy or when they believe Departmental policies or procedures need to be changed.

Look for public hearings on this important issue to be held by the City Council in late March or early April.

Dale Gronemeier



**The United Democratic Headquarters**



The United Democratic Headquarters is still up and running, and an active part of the resistance against Trump. We just had our first Social Event of the year with our 2017 Beer Summit held at Golden Road Brewery in Glendale. Of course, we talked politics; the insanity of the Trump Regime, and of course how to fight back.

We just didn't meet old friends from the UDH, we also met a lot of new people from the area, as well as new Indivisible Groups working in the area. People came from as far as Monrovia and Hacienda Heights to attend. But to keep these activities going, we need your support. We need your financial support. Visit our Donate Page at [pasadenademocrats.com](https://pasadenademocrats.com), or donate monthly, visit us at Act Blue: <https://secure.actblue.com/entity/fundraisers/11425>.

### Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Margaret Power, Altadena  
John & Ida Hitchcock,  
Pasadena

Mary M. Scribner, Monrovia  
Edward & Teresa Munoz,  
Arcadia

Harry Lieberman,  
South Pasadena

### Special Thanks to Our Sustaining Members:

John & Betsy Blue  
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Edward & Teresa Munoz  
Elizabeth & Tom Polenzani  
Elizabeth Pomeroy

June Thurber & Garrett Paine  
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Mae Gautier  
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### And really special thanks to Our Benefactors:

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### And Thanks to Members for Additional Contributions to ACT's Operating Account:

Bill & Claire Bogaard  
Pixie Boyden  
Roberta Cole

Ellen Coles  
Larry Eggers  
Cheryl Kane  
Al & Rose Marie Lowe

Gloria Reynolds  
Marta Stern  
William Tully

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

Bill & Claire Bogaard  
Pixie Boyden  
Robert & Maureen Carlson

Larry Eggers  
Jim Haight  
Cheryl Kane  
Al & Rose Marie Lowe

Gloria Reynolds  
Frieda Stahl  
Marta Stern

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## ACT's Webpage

ACT's webpage, [www.ACTpasadena.org](http://www.ACTpasadena.org), has links and activities to help us to resist troubling Trump administration policy. Note that the current on-line edition of The Phoenix (in color and often with items that couldn't be fit-

ted into the print edition) is always available on our webpage.

Contact website manager Bruce Wright with suggestions at [brucewright@sbcglobal.net](mailto:brucewright@sbcglobal.net).



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



Dear ACT Members

Events and decisions out of Washington continue to cause concern and outrage for many of us. Our good friends at Planned Parenthood are on edge and many folks who garnered healthcare coverage through the Affordable Care Act are hoping that the disarray inside the GOP will spell a reprieve from the angry rhetoric coming from inside the White House. We are lucky to have congressional representatives Adam Schiff and Judy Chu who have provided terrific leadership on national security and domestic policy. Like many, I find myself checking CNN and Politico multiple times a day and I'm glad that Adam and Judy are providing the voice of reason desperately needed.

In Sacramento, I was proud to add my vote to a resolution opposing the Muslim travel ban and one to protect students at school. Locally, Planned Parenthood was subject to a recent protest and responded in the rain some 200 activists strong. If there is a silver lining in this madness, every day I'm contacted by a new activist galvanized by the latest mean-spirited executive order. The local passion and sheer number of people coming together is sending a message and giving all of us elected and civic leaders a shot in the arm.

Legislatively, I've introduced a number of bills. One is intended to help Caltrans divest the state of the surplus SR 710 properties as affordably as possible. Our County Assessor, Jeff Prang, needed a clarification in tax code to help tenants who want to purchase homes from the State. It was the spirit and intent of

the 1979 Roberti Bill to make these properties affordable. We are also working with foster youth advocates on a bill to help minors released from juvenile custody integrate into educational opportunities. A handshake shouldn't be all these young people get as they endeavor to move out of the system. You may have also read about efforts to follow recommendations from pediatricians and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the appropriate time to start high school. Yes, tests scores go up and drug use goes down just by starting the school day a little bit later. I'm also working on more sensible gun control. On the family front, Bella completed her JV soccer season, helping to complete an 11-1-2 record and a conference championship. After attending a recent comedy sports program at her high school she wanted to watch some stand-up comedians with me. We shared a night of watching Gabriel Iglesias, Sam Kinison and George Carlin. I'm glad Ellen was out because not all the routines were G-rated and I would have gotten into major trouble. One Carlin routine on today's parents "over parenting" had Bella in stitches. Sofia keeps me up to date on the latest movies and I continue to love being a dad. Being a Senator *ain't* bad either.

All the best,

Anthony

Contact: <http://sd25.senate.ca.gov/contact>.

SD 25 connects the Los Angeles County foothills from Sunland-Tujunga in the City of Los Angeles on the west to the City of Upland in San Bernardino County on the east. It includes the cities and communities of Sunland-Tujunga, Glendale, Pasadena, Altadena, Atwater Village, La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Montrose, South Pasadena, San Marino, Sierra Madre, Monrovia, Duarte, Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, Claremont, San Antonio Heights, and Upland plus most of Burbank.



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



Dear ACT Friends,

My legislative package for this year is now complete. As the newly appointed chair to the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee, I am committed to advancing policy that brings us closer to our ambitious clean energy goals. I'm proud to be a joint author of Assembly Bill 378 that will confirm and enhance California's authority to meet the 2030 climate change target established last year by Senate Bill 32 and Assembly Bill 197. Assembly Bill 378 also requires the California Air Resources Board (ARB) to consider and account for the social costs of greenhouse gas emissions particularly in the states most disadvantaged communities who are disproportionately impacted.

I have also introduced two bills that help households participate in our collective effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Assembly Bill 726 gives families more information about their energy usage so they won't be surprised by high bills and can make smart conservation decisions and Assembly Bill 1239 makes electric vehicle charging stations more accessible in multifamily housing buildings to ensure everyone has access to this new technology as it evolves.

Assembly Bills 279 and 959 are ideas from my Special Needs Advisory Committee. Assembly Bill 279 will require Regional Centers to increase wages for employees to align with local minimum wage increases, not just state increases. Assembly Bill 959 will educate parents about their rights and empower them to use the vendors they prefer through their local Regional Center.

As you may already know I have also introduced bills based on needs expressed here at home. Assembly Bill 287 will stop construction of a tunnel and start a different kind of dialogue for the 710 freeway extension corridor. Let's put a stop to the inevitable deadlock the tunnel proposal would bring and start thinking about a community focused solution.

Please take a look at my entire legislation package: <https://a41.asmdc.org/2017-legislation>. I look forward to your support on these efforts and will keep you up to date as the legislative session progresses.

It was a pleasure to see some of you at my annual open house celebrating Women's History Month where I had the honor to recognize Jaylene Mosley as the 41st Assembly District Woman of the Year and nine other women as Women of Distinction. The women were honored for their service and work that has made a positive impact in their community.

Jaylene has been a force of impact for North-west Pasadena and West Altadena for more than 30 years through her leadership of the Flintridge Center. Under her leadership, the Flintridge Center is a catalyst for community empowerment, with a focus on reintegration. The identity statement of the Flintridge Center, "Relentless Commitment, Transformed Lives," is the core spirit of Jaylene as she has dedicated her life's work to break the cycle of violence and create opportunities for every Pasadena and Altadena resident to become a productive, fulfilled, self-sufficient member of the community.

Women of Distinction from throughout the district include Jacqueline Collier (Altadena), Elizabeth Bingham (Claremont), Dr. Beatriz Gonzalez (La Verne), Gayle Montgomery (Monrovia), Christy McKinzie (Rancho Cucamonga), Margie Green (San Dimas), Rachele Arizmendi (Sierra Madre), Carol Calandra (South Pasadena), and Alcuyn Pitts (Upland).

## Immigrant 'Dreamer' to Lead POP!

The new multi-issue organization in town known as Pasadenans Organizing for Progress, or POP!, announced that its efforts will be led by an immigrant “Dreamer” who has made a name for herself fighting to give the working class community a voice in local government from Southern California to Washington D.C.

Lizbeth Mateo is the face for the newly formed POP! and brings over ten years experience organizing community groups to stand up for their rights regarding immigration, housing and policing.



POP! was organized by leaders of the triumphant minimum wage campaign that succeeded in getting an ordinance passed raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2020.

“We realized that the campaign was successful because we brought together a broad coalition of organizations and people and we figured we could apply that same influence to lots of different problems and issues in Pasadena,” explained Peter Dreier, Professor of Politics and Chair of the Urban & Environmental Policy Department at Occidental College and Co-founder of POP!.

“My hope for POP! is that we can create a large enough network and a powerful enough network that POP! will be the go-to place for people who are looking to organize on issues within the community. We want to be as well connected and as powerful as we can with the help of the community – always leading with the community in mind,” said Mateo. Mateo, who said she meets all the requirements for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) except for traveling to Mexico for 13 days in 2013, graduated law school in May and took the California bar exam in February. She says “there are several issues that POP! is

going to focus on.”

“There’s a large number of tenants in Pasadena who are experiencing issues with landlords who are essentially raising rent amounts in very arbitrary ways so we’re going to be looking into that,” explained Mateo. Police brutality and overall policing in the community is another main area of focus for the organization, according to Mateo.

“There’s already a group of folks who have been organizing around that issue so POP! is essentially going to function as a coalition of organizations that already exist in Pasadena to have a more coordinated effort,” explained Mateo.

“One of the big gaps in Pasadena is the lack of a strong voice by working class and poor people in our community. We want to organize people to have a stronger voice in the centers of power in the City,” said Dreier.

Currently, POP! is pressing the City Council to pass an ordinance that aims to protect the local immigrant community from being targets of the police department, which many fear could turn over information to federal agencies.

The proposed policy outlines main topics that commit the police department to refrain from collecting information about the immigration status of Pasadena residents that they come in contact with, that the police don’t share information that’s going to be used for immigration enforcement, and that no local resources are used in any way to support federal immigration enforcement.

“What we want is something that is more permanent, that’s an actual policy in writing that the community can turn to that policy to protect the City and the community,” explained Mateo.

Ed Washatka

Edited by Ed Washatka from the Pasadena NOW article of March 6, 2017.

*Inman, Continued from page three*

Make America Great Again” by returning to some point in the past where all was peaches and cream. My friends we have been and presently are a great country which can continue to be better in the future. And one of the great things we have done in the past is to elect a black man as President.

I keep looking for a keener understanding by Trump that America must truly integrate, but at last look I see that he nominated Jeff Sessions as Attorney General and the Senate has approved. Sessions has a very spotted record where civil rights are concerned, and I fear he will continue along this same course as Attorney General. This appointment by Trump is a very serious setback for race relations all over America and, for that matter, all over the world.

So, President Trump, I respectfully ask you to change your motto of “Let’s Make America Great Again” to “Let’s Make America Greater Today Than It Was Yesterday!”

Inman Moore



## Progressive Discussion Group

Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group 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 Ave., Pasadena. Parking is available in the big lot behind the restaurant off Shopper’s Lane. You can always count on a lively discussion of a current political topic.

On Friday, April 7, Pasadena historian Roberta Martinez is organizing a Progressive Discussion Group panel discussion on the mass deportation of Latinos in Pasadena, Southern California, and nationally in the late 1920s-early 1930s. As we resist the Trump administration plans for mass deportations, the oft-suppressed history of this earlier mass depor-

tation involving the “repatriation” of Pasadena Latinos – mass deportations that decimated the local Latino population and led to the closing of Pasadena’s 2 segregated Latino elementary schools -- needs to be revisited as we say “never again.”

Come and join the discussion. Everyone is welcome. Order breakfast, coffee, etc., or not. Check with Dale Gronemeier at 323 254-7600 or [dlg@dgronemeier.com](mailto:dlg@dgronemeier.com) for additional information.



## Democracy Wise Series

Vroman’s is proud to announce Democracy Wise, a non-partisan speaker series designed to educate on topics of key importance to our democratic system, community, and country.

Thursday, March 30, 7:00 p.m.

How to Run for Office

Whether you’re hearing the call to represent your community and make a difference in our community or just interested in learning more about the process, join us for a discussion about opportunities to run for office, the best first steps, and what it really means to serve.

Lindsay Bubar, Southern California Program Director of emerge California, will be joining us for this session. She is a Los Angeles-based political consultant who is best known for her work recruiting, training and advising women and progressive candidates as they run for office. <http://www.emergeca.org/>

If you plan to attend one or all events, please RSVP to [rsvp@vromansbookstore.com](mailto:rsvp@vromansbookstore.com). Send your name, number of guest(s) and note the title of the event(s) you will be attending.

If you would like to submit a question for the speakers ahead of time please email your question to [jramos@vromansbookstore.com](mailto:jramos@vromansbookstore.com) with the session title in the subject line. the speakers will do their best to address the

questions during their talks; however, depending on the amount of questions received they may not be able to get to them all.

If you have ideas for future topics for our Democracy Wise series please email:

[jramos@vromansbookstore.com](mailto:jramos@vromansbookstore.com)



## **Fake News and the First Amendment: How to tell fact from fiction**

Tuesday, April 11, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at the Crawford Family Forum

What is “fake news”? The answer depends on whom you ask. Since the 2016 presidential election, there’s been a sharp rise in the use of the term “fake news” across political and journalistic spectra. But it’s clear not everyone is necessarily working from the same definition. Journalists, social media creators and news consumers are divided on what it means, its impact and what – if any – legal implications arise from the publication of fake news. How should the media best do its job during such times? Does the government have any role to play in regulating fake news? Does the First Amendment protect fake news the same way it does real news?

Join KPCC and the First Amendment Coalition for a discussion on fake news and the First Amendment.

What are the potential impacts of fake news? How can individuals and news organizations stop the spread of misinformation? And what tools are being developed to help people identify fake news for themselves? Tickets are available now for KPCC’s event, “Fake News and the First Amendment: How to tell fact from fiction,” on Tuesday, April 11 from 7-8:30 p.m. 474 South Raymond. Seating is limited. Reserve your spot here:

<http://www.scpr.org/events/2017/04/11/2270/fake-news-and-the-first-amendment-how-to-tell-fact/>.

## **48 Hours in Atlanta, Georgia**

I flew out Thursday afternoon, 2/23/7, to volunteer for my candidate for DNC Chair, Rep. Keith Ellison (D. MN). I was in Atlanta for 48 hours. I paid for my own meals and transportation. I was fortunate to be a guest of a voting member of the DNC.

As a Sanders primary voter in the California, I consider myself firmly within the Warren Wing of the Party. However, I then voted for Clinton in the General Election. As you some of you know I flew out to North Carolina the week before November 8th. I am deeply concerned and in opposition to the current toxic policies coming from the White House and their enablers in the Congress.

I did not care for the L.A. Times story, “‘Democrats’ new leader moves to unite the party”, Evan Halper, 2/26/17, [Los Angeles Times](#).

The lead greatly oversimplified the nature and motivation of the DNC voters and the DNC Candidates (most especially for Chair) as well as their passionate supporters.

For a full list of who won and other coverage, check out [www.demlist.com](http://www.demlist.com).

I question the source and significance of the claim that Perez was put up to run by self interested people with “lucrative contracts” with the Party. Some may have been acting thusly. However, based on my interactions and observations, most in Atlanta had higher motives in supporting him. I think the article’s concluding paragraph was poorly sourced and inaccurate.

More to the point, Interim Chair Donna Brazile terminated all but two contracts as one of her final acts leaving the incoming Chair free to spend as the Party saw fit. Thus, the LA Times writer appears to have been unaware or misinformed.

The story suffered from other problems as well.

Both Perez and Ellison had strong union support. To imply otherwise is again a gross oversimplification. Both had progressive support as well.

As I did during the campaign, I reject the notion that everything said or tweeted by SCROTUS (So Called Ruler of the United States) is front page news, or the lead in every political news report. I object to the placement of the tweet in the story. I think it is not news, much less a credible sentiment, even if accurately reported. It belonged on the inside page, if at all.

**Some** establishment Party members may have been inclined to support Perez, that was not, by any means, the full extent of his support by Party activists. I think it is significant that many from both of the two campaigns were Millennials.

The media narrative of Party "division" and "bickering" lacks the nuance necessary to appreciate how united we are to "the back to basics" of rebuilding our Party. We simply refuse to just shut up and sit down. People are anxious, hurting, some still grieving. Most of us in Atlanta, were recommitting ourselves, some for the first time and others returning to the party after a long absence, to win elections again, to rising from the ashes of the past several election cycles, by speaking to the anxiety, pain and lingering grief of some many in our country.

We were, almost without exception, courteous and respectful as we campaigned for our candidates. As our new Deputy Chair Keith Ellison put it, we cannot "afford the luxury of going out of this room divided". I think that this message was consistent since November 9th, and the coming months will prove that most everyone in that room Saturday heard it and will act accordingly.

Some in the Ellison campaign were disappointed. Again, what I saw and heard from most of

us in Atlanta was the determination to do the grass roots work necessary to focusing on running and winning everywhere we can, leaving no one behind. Everyone likes to win. We are taking the long view, with our eyes on the horizon.

Only some in the DNC are "hostile" to the vision of Ellison and his supporters, this is not true for all or even most of those who voted for and/or backed Perez. Again, this is a complex situation, one that the L.A. Times story on Sunday sadly missed.

DNC Resolution 33, on corporate donations, was neither adopted nor rejected. Rather, it was referred for further study. Both wings will weigh in on this complicated issue again. For many voting members, the very valid concerns raised can be addressed without precipitously rejecting this funding at a time we most need them. In my view there are good and bad elements within many corporate entities. Some are run with values that I agree with. Some are not. Again, this is not a simple question. Nor are the answers simple.

It will take time to articulate a vision and communicate our values widely enough so that small dollar donors will be motivated to contribute, in large numbers, to Democrats. We have already begun this. Indeed the campaign for DNC office contained a great deal of discussion of the common good and how our Party will protect it.

Besides you do not take a knife to a gun battle. It will take resources to win again. It requires that we reconnect and recommit to being the party of the People.

I think there is an emerging consensus that the Party made errors tactically and strategically at many levels and in many parts of the nation, including a failure to listen to voices both within the Sanders camp and the vast numbers of hurting and fearful Americans, many of whom cast no ballot, thus allowing

the Electoral College win by Trump. This combined with a failure to grow the electorate at the local, state and national levels.

Finally it is simply untrue that a populist/identity politics approach is necessarily antithetical to appeals to the anglo working class. This represents an easy narrative but is misleading and lacks a sophisticated analysis. It is not really either/or but really and/also.

I suggest that you read reporting from both The Guardian and The National Review to add two divergent points of view on this significant political event.

I will close with a couple of memories from my time there. I had the privilege of singing with the National Nurses twice. It was joyful, positive and affirming. Our choir master took pains to give the other campaigns a chance to chant on their own, pausing our singing, out of respect and knowing that we are all in the same Party. We knew that they too needed to voice their support for their candidate. Another was the withdrawal of Mayor Pete Buttigieg, right after he was nominated and seconded. His speech was an eloquent call for unity and for a commitment to fight Trumpism. I was deeply moved even though he was not my candidate. Many were in greatly impressed by the sincerity and eloquence of this young and accomplished young leader. We will see him again. Finally I had the chance to talk with many people from the 50 states, territories and the District of Columbia. I listened to them talk about why they were there. Our common mission was to re energize and renew so that we could be "Happy Warriors" for the people of the entire country. We are committed to realizing the gains and commitments in the 2016 Platform, the most progressive platform in our Party's history.

Podemos. Yes we can. Yes we will.

-- Michael Duran



## Calendar

- |                                  |                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 18<br>Saturday<br>3-5 p.m. | POP! Event to Support Our Immigrant Friends and Neighbors, Pasadena Community Job Center, 500 N. Lake Ave., Pasa.                                                      |
| March 20<br>Monday<br>4 p.m.     | POP! March for immigrant protection, Pasadena Police policy. Assembling near City Hall.                                                                                |
| March 30<br>Thursday<br>7 p.m.   | United Democratic Headquarters planning meeting at the home of Karen Wingard, 737 Magnolia Ave., Pasadena.                                                             |
| April 6<br>Thursday<br>7 p.m.    | ACT Steering Committee and ADC Meeting at the home of Marilee Marshall and Bruce Wright, 654 S. Madison Ave., Pasadena. Coffee at 7 p.m.; meeting follows at 7:30 p.m. |
| April 7<br>Friday<br>9 a.m.      | Progressive Discussion Group at Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena. Also 4/21 and 5/5.                                                                     |
| April 11<br>Tuesday              | Rally Pasadena (formerly Pas. Women's Rally) postcard event.                                                                                                           |
| April 18<br>Tuesday              | Runoff Election for Pasadena Council District 7.                                                                                                                       |



## April Phoenix Deadline

The deadline for the April Phoenix will be Wednesday evening, April 12. Please submit your *Phoenix* items to Chuck Hains at [hains27@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hains27@sbcglobal.net) by that date. Mailing of the Phoenix TBD.



## Have Your Renewed Your ACT and/or ADC Memberships?

We eagerly await your check for ACT and/or Arroyo Democratic Club membership dues for 2017. (Dues have stayed the same again this year and you know how much we need your continued support!) You may use the form below or renew online at [www.ACTpasadena.org](http://www.ACTpasadena.org).



If you have any questions about your membership please contact Executive Director Jon Fuhrman at 626 795-5255 or [jon\\_fuhrman@charter.net](mailto:jon_fuhrman@charter.net).

P.S. Thanks to all who have renewed already.

### 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**

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 Name

Home Phone

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 Address

Office Phone

---

 City

ZIP

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 Email address

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