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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

Local Legislators Score Rare Double Gold



For the third year in a row, local State Senator Anthony Portantino is Chair of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee. Now local Assembly Member Chris Holden has joined him at the summit of the state's finances. Holden is the new Chair of the similarly powerful Assembly Appropriations Committee.



The Appropriations Committees must approve every penny California spends. Passing policy initiatives is eye-catching, but bills remain worthless pieces of paper unless/until money is appropriated to pay for them. The Chairs don't have unlimited discretion, but they are in enviable positions when it comes to finding money for local projects in their districts.

It is extremely rare for both Committees to be controlled by legislators from the same area or city. The City of Los Angeles has doubtless had this happen before and perhaps some other large cities as well. Pasadena and Altadena should enjoy the moment. Few of us are likely to see an era of such potential bounty again in our lifetimes.



Apart from local consequences, the Appropriations Committees act as tremendously powerful gatekeepers for the State's annual budget. So, their Chairs tend to have more access to the Governor than anyone other than the Senate Pro Tempore and the Speaker of the Assembly. Moreover, those two leaders hand out these plum assignments only to members they can trust and/or control as part of their leadership teams.

In theory, this golden moment might last until both legislators are termed out of office in 2024. In reality, though, tenure depends on the stability of the leadership in each house. On that score Portantino may have the brighter outlook. At the moment Senate Pro Tem Tony Atkins appears to be secure. In the Assembly, however, Speaker Anthony Rendon is on shakier ground. It is no secret that challengers are canvassing for votes and watching for opportunities. There will be a lot riding for Holden (and his constituents!) on the outcome.

~ Fred Register

ACT Steering and ADC Meeting

Thursday, March 24, 7 p.m.

Via Zoom
featuring

The Research Committee Report

Join us on Thursday, March 24 at 7 p.m. for our ACT and Arroyo Democratic Club Meeting via Zoom. (Note that the late-in-the-month meeting date is so we can have the Research Committee report as our March program.)

You will want to hear the Research Committee's take on the candidates running in local elections – PCC Board, Pasadena City Council, Los Angeles County Sheriff, and perhaps other races. (Research Committee interviews will be done via Zoom on consecutive Saturdays, March 12 & 19, after the close of filing for these offices.)

Socializing before the meeting begins at 7 p.m. The program and meeting follow at 7:30 p.m. George Brumder will chair the ACT meeting; Tim Wendler, the ADC meeting. Everyone is welcome and urged to attend.

(Find the Zoom link for the meeting on ACT's webpage, <http://www.actpasadens.org>.)



February 3 Meeting Notes

ACT – Incoming Co-Chair Cheryl Brickey chaired the meeting. Thanks to Assemblymember Chris Holden for his detailed update on what is happening in Sacramento. He is the new Chair of the Assembly Appropriations Committee!

ACT is a member of the Pasadena Affordable Housing Coalition and Ed Washatka is our representative to the PAHC. A vote on the rent control Charter amendment is expected by AHC. ACT has not yet taken a position. Our guidance for Ed: We voted that ACT supports tabling the PAHC vote on the rent control Charter amend-

ment until it gets on the November ballot. If PAHC goes ahead with a vote to support the amendment before then, ACT would abstain.

Work on ACT's 50th Anniversary fundraiser will commence three or four months from now.

ADC – Arroyo Democratic Club President Tim Wendler presented a Grievance Procedure for ADC (3+ pages, provided mostly by the L A County Democratic Party) that we voted to adopt as an Addendum to the ADC By-laws.

There were two volunteer candidates to be ADC's fourth representative to UDH (Pasadena Area United Demo Headquarters). ADC members elected Jeanne Register to fill the opening.



Social Justice Committee Presents



Join the PJTC Social Justice Committee in welcoming award-winning filmmaker Robert Greenwald as he presents his documentary film, “Suppressed: The Fight to Vote” and discusses what can be done at the Federal, State, and local level. Greenwald is the founder and president of Brave New Films with the mission of teaching and motivating non-partisan civic participation.

Here is the link for information and registration:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/-/WN_PX8dkaBgSt-JU5Va6HzWoA

We must protect the right to vote.

Inman Moore

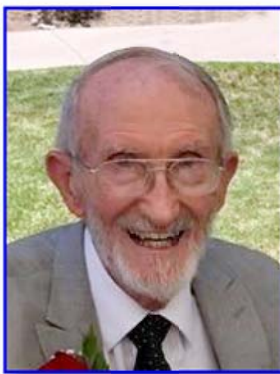
We won't soon forget our friend Rev. Inman Moore who died on January 26 at 96 years of age. Inman was a United Methodist minister, and a lifelong civil rights activist, devoted to his family and his late wife, Nellie.

Inman grew up in southern Mississippi, the son of a Methodist minister. He served in the US Navy in the South Pacific in WWII. On his return he continued at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi and received a graduate degree in theology at Emory University in Atlanta. He served in several churches in Mississippi, became a leader in the civil rights movement there, and was a founding member of the Mississippi Human Relations Council.

He was pastor at Leggett Memorial United Methodist Church in Biloxi in 1963 when he and twenty-seven other young Methodist ministers signed and published the statement "Born of Conviction" that said in part, that all human beings are born free and equal, opposed racial discrimination, and opposed the building of private schools with state tax money to avoid school integration. It received national publicity and caused an uproar in the South.

Many of the twenty-eight had to leave their Mississippi home over the statement. The young Moore family was among those that ended up in California, at the Palmdale United Methodist Church. We are glad they eventually arrived in Pasadena and became active members of ACT.

Inman's activities included serving a president of the Arroyo Democratic Club, volunteering at our various Democratic headquarters, founding the Progressive Discussion Group, and writing a well-received column for this publication,



"Wonderings and Wanderings." He excelled at retiring. After taking early retirement, Inman and Nellie created two successful companies in Pasadena, Moore Vending and Tournament Souvenirs. They sold those businesses in 1997, but Inman returned to pastoring – at Grace United Methodist, then at First United Methodist in Bur-

bank and then as a guest pastor at numerous churches in the area. And, of course, he and Nellie were Dodgers fans and season ticket holders. ACT was pleased to award them our Lifetime Achievement Award at an anniversary event in 2019.

Inman chronicled his rich and courageous life in his autobiography, "On the Road to Civil Rights" written when he was ninety. It is a fascinating read and is available at

Amazon in paperback or Kindle. Don't miss it!

He was predeceased by daughter Patricia as well as Nellie. We send sympathy to daughter Linda and sons Robert and David, grandchildren Saul, Marisa, Nate, Sarah, Anna, and Nellie, and four great-grandchildren. They suggest that any memorial donations may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, michaeljfox.org. An event in memory of Nellie and Inman is planned for Saturday, March 26 at 2 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 500 E. Colorado Blvd. Pasadena.



"I mean, I'm not here to be the representative of the Repub. Party. I'm here to be the representative for Alaskan people. And I take that charge very, very seriously. So, when there is a conflict, when the party is taking an approach or saying things that I think are just absolutely wrong, I think it's my responsibility, as an Alaskan senator speaking out for Alaskans, to just speak the truth."

~ Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Tuesday, February 7.

“Shame falls on a party that would censure persons of conscience, who seek truth in the face of vitriol. Honor attaches to Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger for seeking truth even when doing so comes at great personal cost.” That’s not Joe Biden, or Bernie Sanders, or Elizabeth Warren. No, it’s Sen. Mitt Romney, the solid conservative Republican and former Presidential candidate. That’s the funny thing about true conservatives who actually believe in the Constitution and the right of Americans to choose their own President. They can be inconveniently in your face when you try to stage a coup, even if you’re in their party and on their side on most political issues. Real conservatives instinctively know when Country supersedes Party.

Thus, when the Republican National Committee, the ruling body and national representative of the Republican Party, censured Kinzinger and Cheney for serving on the Jan. 6th Committee and

being complicit in the “persecution of ordinary citizens engaged in legitimate political discourse,” they really stepped into it. First Mitt Romney ripped them apart. Then former Vice-President Mike Pence irrevocably divorced himself from his former boss, directly and forcefully contradicting Trump’s claim that Pence could have intervened in counting the electoral votes. Finally, even the Wall Street Journal editorial board climbed on board, belittling Trump’s arguments and, even worse, ridiculing Trump as a three-time loser. Given that the Editorial Board was unlikely to make such a direct and pointed statement without Rupert Murdoch’s explicit blessing, they sent a message to the entire Fox empire that the emperor no longer has any clothes.

While this may all be deeply satisfying emotionally to Democrats, where does it leave us politically? The President’s polling numbers are still in the low 40’s, which, in past mid-term elections, presaged a significant loss for the incumbent’s party. Are we doomed to a repeat of the Obama years, with a Democratic President stymied by a completely obstructive Republican party controlling both Houses?

I don’t think so, or at least it’s not a foregone conclusion. We’re still 10 months away from the elections – an awfully long time in politics – and the more former President Trump is front and center in our political discussion, the better for us. Further, all sorts of things are starting to look better, so it’s not hard to see how those poll numbers could improve significantly. And the reapportionment game is turning out, surprisingly enough, such that it might be a significant benefit for Democrats.

So what’s starting to look better? Well, COVID and the economy – the two biggest elephants in the room. COVID numbers are clearly trending down. Hospitalizations are dropping. States and localities are looking to set firm dates to termin-

ate mask mandates. By late spring, we may, as a country, have a sense that we've finally put the epidemic behind us.

True, another variant could pop up, but we've reached a relatively high level of the population immunized and boosted, with some of those who refused vaccination having already caught COVID. By this summer, masks may be quaint memory, and there's a good chance that next September schools may start up normally with full in-person attendance. That would go a long way to resolving the malaise that currently afflicts our citizenry.

Add to that a booming economy. The January jobs report was strong, and more notable were the corrections for the past two months, suggesting a full-on economic boom. Inflation remains a worry, and the Fed will be increasing interest rates consistently throughout the year, potentially in bigger increments than we may be expecting. But by this summer, we have an excellent chance of exceeding the job numbers that we had when the whole COVID epidemic started, leading to higher tax revenues, lower unemployment costs, less need for support payments, fewer households in peril of not making their mortgages or rent payments, and higher wages most particularly at the lower end of the wage scale.

Finally, we have brass tacks politics. Who would have thought, at the end the entire reapportionment drama, that Democrats would come out ahead? However surprising, that seems to be the case. The Cook Political Report, one of the more respected pundits, now have the Democrats ahead on their Redistricting Scorecard. It seems that however adept the Florida and Texas legislators were at drawing districts to advantage their side, the New York and Illinois legislators were

equally adept. Add to that the California maps, drawn by the independent citizens' commission, which simply reflect the population growth among minority voters and the concomitant advantage to Democrats. When you add them all together, Cook is projecting a narrow gain for Democrats of 2 to 3 seats.

The GOP's problem is further compounded by recent court losses in North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Ohio, where their respective State Supreme Courts threw out Republican gerrymanders as violations of their state constitutions. That's a critical distinction, because that sort of ruling is not subject to appeal in the Federal courts (and on up to the US Supreme Court).

Hence, some of the gains the GOP was already counting on are now in doubt, and the Democrats could end up with an even greater gain.

This doesn't solve all our problems. Multiple Democratic House seats are "in play", and a low Presidential approval rating historically has boded poorly for those sorts of seats where Dems won by margins of less than 5%. Cook's preliminary scorecard (they're still waiting to finalize districts in quite a few

states, and identify which incumbents are running for which seats in other states) has seven Democratic seats as Toss-Ups and six GOP seats as Toss-Ups. But they classify five Demo seats as Leaning or Likely GOP seats, but only one GOP seat as Leaning Democratic. Democrats have a five-seat margin in the House, and with a low Presidential approval rating, one could easily imagine all the Toss-Ups going toward the GOP.

On the other hand, Cook may be unduly pessimistic, at least from our perspective. As an example, they rate as Toss-Ups two California seats – the new 22nd District, with David Valadao as the incumbent, and the new 27th, just to our north,



with Mike Garcia as the incumbent. The 27th District, which Garcia won by 336 votes in 2020, has become a dramatically Democratic district, with a 42% Democratic to 28% Republican registration edge, one of the biggest changes in the state. To me, even with a Hispanic Republican incumbent, you really should rate that as leaning Democratic. The new 22nd District up north now has a 43% Democratic – 25% Republican registration edge, and is 58% Hispanic; again, even with a GOP incumbent, that district looks more like one leaning Democratic than a Toss-Up to me.

The bottom line remains that, if the President is poorly perceived, and our base not motivated, 2022 could well be a GOP wave election, carrying the House and quite possibly the Senate. Yet, the most recent data suggest that we Democrats may be better positioned than we had dreamed possible; that the mood of the country might well be dramatically improved by next November; that Donald Trump continues to be in the forefront of the news and continues to rile up our base; that Republicans are continuing to engage in knife fights among themselves, and in particular weakening their candidates in key state-wide races (such as in Ohio, Pennsylvania and North Carolina and Missouri); that President Biden is recognizing the problem and becoming more vocal and more feisty in his public appearances; and that in state-wide races around the country, we have attracted exceptionally strong candidates and the GOP has not.

So I will continue to argue that, more likely than not, we Democrats will hold the House and expand our majority in the Senate, letting us make the 2023 – 2024 Congressional session one of the most productive in history.

~ Jon Fuhrman



Pasadena School Desegregation Leader Dies

James E. Spangler, Jr. a leader in the crucial effort to desegregate Pasadena Public Schools, died on January 9 at 94 years of age. The Spanglers (and others) were plaintiffs in the landmark Spangler v. Pasadena City Board of Education case that resulted in making the PUSD the first district west of the Mississippi to implement busing under a court ruling. The PUSD “Pasadena Plan” started in September of the 1970 school year.



Those of us - whether living in Pasadena, Altadena or Sierra Madre - whose children attended Pasadena public schools, well remember that time and the promise of integrated education for all PUSD students. And, also the unfortunate beginning of ‘white flight.’



Betty Ho

Betty Chin Ho died on January 1 of natural causes, just short of her ninetieth birthday. Betty and her late husband Oliver, were community activists and longtime ACT members.



Betty served as Pasadena Councilperson Katie Nack’s Field Representative in the late 1980s through 1995. She also served as Bill Bogaard’s Field Representative. She was an advocate -especially in education and public health. She created the Betty Jean Ho Endowment Fund at the Pasadena Community Foundation to further her advocacy.

We extend our sympathy to Betty’s family and friends.

My Two Cents

By Ron Garber



My remembrances of Inman Moore are briefer than most ACT/ADC veteran's are, but he was important to me because so much of what I do with this organization has been influenced by him. Starting with the Progressive Discussion Group which met at Dupar's in Pasadena for monthly Friday breakfast meetings prior to the epidemic: He founded that program and I enjoyed teaming with Ed Washatka, who has become a good friend, to run it since Dale Grone-meier moved to Texas and we inherited it. Programming it was a joy and I have hopes for its return when life gets back to normal

This column never would have happened if I hadn't submitted some letters to the editor that I asked Sally and Chuck to publish and to my surprise they did. A few years back Inman decided to retire the column that he'd been writing in *The Phoenix* for God knows how long, and Sally and Chuck approached me to see if I would like to fill the space. Note: I am filling the space left by his departure - not his shoes - which I doubt anyone could fill, as I consider him to be a giant in the Pasadena Progressive community. And finally, both Valerie and I enjoyed participating in the monthly work party that folds and seals and labels the newsletter each month. I believe all of us who serve on that committee have missed the comradery over the last two years, and it's sad to know that when we get back to normal, we won't be joined by Inman. We're going to miss you, but we'll never forget you.



The only local issue I follow, and it literally haunts me, is homelessness. There are so many good people working on this problem and no one

has come close to solving it. As a matter of fact, it keeps getting worse. I believe that each individual person requires a different solution and there aren't enough social workers who can devote the amount of time and effort needed for every individual. I'm bombarded with emails, news stories and other forms of information and I try and read them all, but I have two observations (not answers, but actually more questions) that I never see addressed.

Everyone knows that in California there is not enough housing, both affordable and not. While I believe that there is plenty of housing, I have no idea how it could be accessed. Using myself as an example, I live in a townhouse which is one of five, each attached to the other. They are all three-bedrooms, with one being a master so it can be assumed that each is designed to house four individuals comfortably. As it turns out we've all lived there in excess of 30 years and because of children growing up and moving out, deaths and divorce, those five units, which were designed to house twenty, currently only house six. And two of us have vacation houses in California which were designed to house three each. Bedrooms which could accommodate twenty-six are used by only six or 23%. I'm not suggesting that anyone be forced to quarter people who are homeless; I'm only pointing out that it takes a lot of housing to accommodate a community/society that is opulent and can afford so much extra space.

The other observation has to do with the cost of building housing from funds provided through L.A. County initiatives where the funding is dedicated to alleviating homelessness. A few years ago, it was like a half million dollars a house and I'm sure it's much more today. While building materials and labor in California are high, I believe the larger problem is the fact that land in L.A. County is so much more expensive than, say Kern County, or the other side of Riverside. I'm

sure that there are legal issues with relocating people but it's just another issue I haven't seen addressed.

I promised an update on my journey to health. Since October 1, 2020, I've walked 6,180 miles while actually never leaving home. Plotting it with push pins in a map of America, I arrived in New York on June 1, 2021 and Seattle on Nov. 17, 2021. At which time I turned southeast heading to Miami. I'm now halfway between Seattle and Miami; close to Wichita, Kansas. At the rate I'm going, a little over 100 miles per week, I will arrive in Miami at about the end of April and home to Duarte in November.

~ Ron out



Ann Munger

Ann Boyer Munger died on November 7 of last year due to complications from COPD. She was seventy-six at the time of her death.

Ann and her late husband, Ned Munger, were longtime ACT members and supporters. Ann was active in political campaigns, notably in Pierce O'Donnell's 1980 congressional campaign when she worked alongside ACT's late Executive Director, Judy Boggs.

Our sympathy goes to Ann's family and friends.



Letter to the Editor

California Legislation Addressing the Intersection of Criminal Justice Reform and Immigration Reform

California has demonstrated a commitment to reforming our criminal justice system and ending mass incarceration within punitive carceral systems which disproportionately harm Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian and Pacific Islander American communities. As the nation confronts systemic racism in policing, carceral, and judicial

systems, California legislators also work to reform criminal justice as it relates to immigration. California has led the nation by enacting laws that protect our immigrant communities by limiting the power of the federal government to force cooperation with ICE.

Opposition to ICE transfers has been the center of immigrant reform by challenging state prison and local jail collaboration with ICE. Assemblywoman Wendy Carrillo's 2021 VISION Act (AB937 - Voiding Inequality & Seeking Inclusion for Our Immigrant Neighbors) prohibits local and state resources from being used to funnel immigrants into inhumane health conditions in immigration detention and ensures that immigrants eligible for release from state prisons/local jails cannot be turned over to ICE, including persons who complete their sentence, who are granted parole, had charges dropped, or were granted release by judges.

It is important to Californians that state tax dollars are not used for federal ICE transfers which cost California 7.3 million per year. Strong public support is clear across the political spectrum as a majority of Californians support strengthening protections for immigrants against ICE enforcement, 2/3 of poll respondents voice "support" or "strongly support" The VISION Act.

Calif. has the largest immigrant community in the nation. Those directly affected by costly and dangerous ICE transfers are our valued community members who are refugees, lawful permanent residents, people who entered the US as children, parents, caretakers, and essential workers.

Assemblywoman Carrillo states that AB937, "Prevents immigrants from being subjected to perpetual punishment and unequal treatment." "The VISION Act upholds the most sacred principle upon which the entire bedrock of our democracy relies: All are created equal. All should have equal protection under the law."

The VISION Act exemplifies California values, because ending ICE transfers is a reflection of the state's commitment to ending racial injustice, ending mass incarceration and preventing violations of constitutional protections.

~ Julie Diaz Martinez, ACT member



Democracy & America's Culture Wars

from the *Pasadena Now*, 2-3-22

We hear a lot in the media about America's culture wars – how they have divided us into endlessly battling camps, distracting us from the important business of the country. But in some ways, the current culture wars are a sign of our democracy's strengths. For years, and in fact through much of our history, there have been enormous divisions in the country – between urban and rural dwellers, between rich and poor, between black and white, between the religious and non-religious, and so on.

For the most part, America's culture wars have been resolved without widespread violence that can threaten to destroy our democratic republic. Unfortunately, during some periods of American history, these divisions in society have broken into open, even violent, conflict. While the Civil War is the most obvious example, there are many more examples, from the populist ascendancy of Andrew Jackson to the Progressive Era to the unrest of the labor movements and the civil rights movements.

However, it is important to remember that culture wars are fought over issues that are central to society. Today's culture wars – from civil rights to abortion, from gun rights to gay rights – are over

significant questions for any democratic nation. For example, the question “When does life begin?” is literally an existential question which society must wrestle with. “What is the definition of marriage?” is likewise a central issue for any society. “Who is eligible to be a citizen?” couldn't be more important for any nation. “What is the role of police?” – another fundamental question.

While Americans may have vastly differing answers to these questions, there is no doubt that these are fundamental issues that we must deal with. The abolition of slavery, the right of women to vote and the struggle for civil rights have all been contentious and sometimes violent. However, they were part of the struggle for a more perfect union. Culture wars are integral to any healthy democratic society.

The real threat to democracy arises when one side in the culture wars loses faith in the democratic process and stages an end-run around democratic norms. In 1919, a supermajority in Congress and 46 of 48 states passed the 18th Amendment, which prohibited the sale or use of alcoholic beverages. Widespread opposition and flaunting of the law by criminals led to the repeal of Prohibition fourteen years later. However, what if the advocates for Prohibition had refused to accept the repeal by rejecting the democratic processes and ultimately the verdict of the people? Would we still be living in an era of speakeasys and bootleggers? Or would we be fighting with violent Prohibition extremists or threats to liquor stores or elected officials who opposed Prohibition? The same might be said about the battles over desegregation or women's suffrage.

Fortunately, we averted these scenarios by adhering to democratic norms. Millions of people who believed deeply in Prohibition for religious, moral or political reasons may have been outraged, but in the end, they decided to stick with the democratic process and abide by not only the

rules, but the spirit of democracy. No matter how deeply felt their beliefs, they valued the continuation of the American experiment in democracy enough to find a peaceful compromise with those that had adamantly opposed.

It is vital to our society that we engage the fundamental questions that confront our nation, despite the widespread divisions over those questions. However, when we abandon democracy in the face of those divisions is when the American dream truly begins to die.

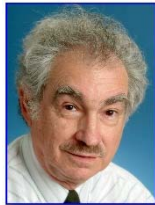
~ Hoyt Hilsman

Hoyt Hilsman is Chair of the UDH and a former trustee of Pasadena City College.



Book Review

By Robert V. Frampton



***“Our Time is Now”* by Stacey Abrams**

Stacey Abrams was the Democratic candidate for Governor of Georgia in 2018. The returns were too close to call on election night. When the race was decided ten days later, Abrams received 48.8% of the vote and lost by 54,700 votes. Following her loss of the governorship to Secretary of State Brian Kemp, Stacey founded Fair Fight 2020, an organization to assist Democrats financially and technically to build voter protection teams in twenty states; her organizing work is credited with providing the voter base for the victories of Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff to the US Senate in 2020, resulting in Democrats retaking control of the US Senate. Abrams grew up in Gulfport Mississippi, and graduated from high school in Atlanta as valedictorian of her class. She graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from Spell-

man College in 1995, earned a Master’s degree in Public Policy at the University of Texas and a law degree from Yale. Stacey’s sister Leslie also earned her law degree at Yale a year ahead of Stacey; and Leslie Abrams Gardner now sits on the US District Court in Atlanta. Stacey served ten years in the Georgia state Assembly, becoming Democratic minority leader in 2010.

Abrams’ book is essentially in two parts. The first part covers the ways in which voter suppression has been effective in recent years, since 2010, when the US Supreme Court ruling in *Shelby County v. Holder* negated Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, that had provided oversight of voting regulations by the US Dept of Justice. The recent methods of voter suppression include: (1) placing restrictive regulations on voter registration drives, and no requirement of prompt processing of those registrations; (2) closing or re-locating voting stations, making voting places difficult to reach by public transit, and resulting in long lines in minority areas; (3) voter purges (Between 2012 and 2018, Kemp’s office canceled over 1.4 million voter registrations, with nearly 700,000 cancellations in 2017 alone); (4) rigorous enforcement of “exact signature match” for mail-in ballots, resulting in rejection of 53,000 ballots in 2018; (5) restrictions on types of voter ID, e.g. not accepting student ID; (6) failure to restore the franchise to felons after completion of their prison and probation terms, disproportionately affecting black voters.

Besides voter suppression, the Republicans have used Gerrymandering, perfected with mathematical precision by Thomas Hofeller, in a process revealed recently by his daughter. Hofeller’s revealed computer files have been utilized to successfully overturn the extreme Gerrymandering engineered by Hofeller in North Carolina.

The second part of the book is more of a Manifesto, outlining a roadmap to victory. Stacey identifies two groups of voters that her campaign

directly targeted that are often ignored by Democratic candidates, in favor of putting their campaign funds into television ads. These groups are (1) “swing voters” or “persuadable” voters (a relatively small percentage, but worth the investment to identify); and (2) “low propensity voters”, a larger group, who are wrongly deemed as “unreliable” but, when engaged, can transform the political landscape. These are generally people of color, young people, or unmarried women. Abrams had a large turnout, offsetting voter suppression, by targeting these two groups. Stacey emphasizes that campaigns focus on very early voter identification and contacts, with three approaches: (1) reject the myth of who votes and why; (2) make early and sustained investment in outreach to an expanded voter pool; and (3) recruit and support candidates who demonstrate authentic and consistent beliefs.

Abrams concludes with a lengthy and stunningly accurate character study of the Strongman, or Authoritarian Leader, applicable to a number of prominent men, including Donald Trump, Victor Orbán, and Vladimir Putin. Too lengthy to describe here, I leave this description as an enticement to the reader.

Abrams approach to campaigning, with early emphasis on voter identification and registration, focus on infrequent and swing voters, and consistent economic message, brought her to the brink of victory in 2018 and helped secure victory for Ossoff and Warnock. In the face of challenges in the 2022 Congressional elections, it is certainly worth the while to apply Abrams’ battle tested approaches.

~ Robert V. Frampton

Next month’s review: “Captured: The Corporate Infiltration of American Democracy” by US Senator Sheldon Whitehouse.



Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Sheila Condit Bergen, Pasadena
Kristine Kwong, South Pasadena

Special Thanks to Sustaining Members

Sally Beer
Sharon Dooner
Carla Tomaso & Mary Hayden

Special Thanks to Patrons

Mark Essensten &
Sandra Haynes-Essensten
Jim Haight
Nancy Pine
PUSD Trustee Elizabeth Pomeroy

Really Special Thanks to Benefactors

Susan & John Caldwell
Marilee Marshall & Bruce Wright



“In our age there is no such thing as ‘keeping out of politics.’ All issues are political issues, and politics itself is a mass of lies, evasions, folly, hatred and schizophrenia.”

~ George Orwell

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



Dear ACT members,

Like many parents and neighbors, I am deeply affected by the rash of deadly gun violence on our campuses. I was saddened and outraged by the events in Michigan which ended in tragedy after a school received warnings about an impending threat and failed to take appropriate action. California is not immune to this problem and needs a legislative solution. As the author of California's safe storage of firearms legislation, I was hoping to impress upon parents and other gun owners the importance of keeping guns out of the wrong hands. In the wake of the Michigan tragedy, I am compelled to do more. Last week I introduced SB 906, a comprehensive school safety plan. It includes monitoring access to weapons and a strong and prudent mandate to follow through on threats. We must prepare educators and parents to identify red flags and ultimately prevent tragedies.

In many cases of a school shootings there are warning signs. Michigan highlighted a hesitancy in action which led to tragic results. It is my hope to take the politics and hesitancy out of the equation and give school districts the mandate they need to investigate and act on credible threats. Knowing and understanding the signs of potential gun violence can help prevent it. Making information available to schools will help them assess threats and educating parents on the importance of safe storage will make homes safer, too.

SB 906 does the following:

- Require the State Department of Education,

in consultation with the Department of Justice, to develop model content for public or charter schools on a threat or perceived threat of a mass shooting incident.

- Upon registering a student for a public or charter school, parents or guardians will be required to disclose whether any firearms are located at the home of the student and details on ownership, storage, and accessibility of those firearms as it relates to the student.
- Upon becoming aware of a credible violent threat, schools must immediately report that threat to the law enforcement authorities, and school leaders, in consultation with law enforcement, must search a student's on campus property for the presence of firearms.
- Schools are required to include information related to the safe storage of firearms in the annual notification provided to the parents or guardians.

When in approximately 68% of school shootings the firearm was taken from the student's home, friend, or relative, California needs to move the needle and take prudent public safety steps to address this problem. When we know that in 93% of those incidents the attack was planned in advance and in many instances threatening or concerning communications prior to the attack elicit concern from parents, friends, and educators, we must move from threat assessment to protective action without hesitation.

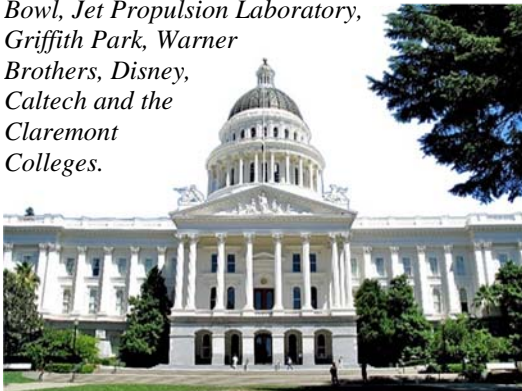
During my time in office, I have consistently advocated for smart and sensible solutions to combat our nation's tragic history of gun violence. I have banned the open carry of handguns and rifles in California and raised the general gun purchase age to twenty-one. As mentioned above, we now have significant provisions related to firearms storage that broadened criminal storage crimes, added criminal storage offenses to those offenses that can trigger a 10-year firearm ban

and created an exemption to firearm loan requirements for the purposes of preventing suicide. I have also reduced the number of firearms an unlicensed individual is annually able to sell and the frequency with which they are able to sell. Last year I was able to close the loophole that allowed the Poway Synagogue shooter to illegally acquire his deadly weapon.

There continues to be more we can do and I'm hoping that SB 906 will make our campuses safer for our children. Every parent should feel confident that when they send their child off to school that child will come home safely. Teachers and staff should have the same comfort. One more tragedy is one too many.

Respectfully, ~ Anthony

Senator Anthony Portantino represents California's 25th State Senate District, which stretches along the 210 Freeway from Sunland/Tujunga to Upland. He proudly represents the Rose Bowl, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Griffith Park, Warner Brothers, Disney, Caltech and the Claremont Colleges.



Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Operating Account

Sharon Dooner
Mark Essensten &
Sandra Haynes-Essensten



Calling 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!



YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT WHILE YOUR STATE LEGISLATURE DECIDES WHETHER OR NOT TO OVERTURN THE RESULTS OF THIS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION...



**From
41st District
Assemblymember
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

We are in the first weeks of the legislative session, and I am excited to share with you the progress made on my legislative package. After being appointed Assembly Appropriations Chair, I was asked to carry AB-257, The FAST Recovery Act that is now headed to the Senate. The bill would create an 11-member Fast Food Sector Council appointed by the Governor and state legislators to review and create workplace standards for fast food employees – including standards on wages, working conditions, and training. This Council would issue, amend, and repeal rules and regulations pertaining to fast food employment, as appropriate. I also introduced AB 1737 relating to Children’s camps: local registration and inspections. This bill is in direct response to the wholly preventable drowning death of 6-year-old Roxie Forbes at a Los Angeles County summer camp, as well as a history of traumatic incidents at children’s camps statewide. If passed, this long overdue measure would establish health and safety standards to protect millions of child campers and counselors. Lastly, I introduced AB 1720, the bill would create a fair chance for people with arrest and conviction records to access caregiving and other jobs governed by the Department of Social Services (DSS).

While we are making progress in Sacramento, the district had to pause all in-person celebrations of Dr. Martin Luther King for the month of January and the California Black Caucus had our annual breakfast virtually.

I look forward to keeping you up to date and welcome you reaching out to my office.

Sincerely,

~ Chris R. Holden

Assemblyman Holden represents some 420,000 people in the foothills communities of Altadena, Pasadena, South Pasadena, Monrovia, Sierra Madre, San Dimas, La Verne, Claremont, and Upland. He can be reached via his website at: [www.-asm.ca.gov/Holden](http://www.asm.ca.gov/Holden) and fill out the contact form.



Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Political Account

Sally Beer

Nancy Pine

Bruce Wright & Marilee Marshall



Your Photo in *The Phoenix*

Please share a photo (of you) at an interesting place with ***Phoenix*** readers. Send it to Chuck at hains27@sbcglobal.net for inclusion in an upcoming issue.



The *Phoenix* Editorial Policy: Signed articles and letters appearing in the *Phoenix* represent the opinions of the individual writers and not of ACT. Their appearance does not imply endorsement by ACT or agreement with the opinions expressed. The accuracy of facts is not guaranteed. We welcome articles of interest and encourage members to write.

Feb Mar

Calendar

- February 20 Sunday 10:00 a.m. Learn how to fight Voter Suppression, on Zoom, details on page two.
- March 3-6 Thursday-Sunday California Democratic Party State Convention via Zoom.
- March 7 Monday 5:30 p.m. UDH Steering Meeting via Zoom.
- Mar 12, 19 Saturdays Research Committee interviews viazoom.
- March 24 Thursday Socializing at 7 p.m.; Research Committee Report and meeting at 7:30 p.m.

March *Phoenix* Deadline

The likely deadline for the March *Phoenix* will be Monday, March 28. Please send items for publication to Chuck at hains27@sbcglobal.net and Sally at sally.beer125@gmail.com. (Chuck will continue to contact regular contributors with a deadline reminder.)



ACTpasadena.org

Our website is up and running after undergoing some big changes, including shifting to a new platform. Take a look: ACTPASADENA.ORG

Thanks to website manager, Bruce Wright, and Marcus Green and Jon Fuhrman for the time, skill and effort it took to pull this off successfully. Reach Bruce at:



brucewright@sbcglobal.net.



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

Renew for 2022!

It is 2022 already and time to pay your 2022 ACT and/or ADC membership dues.

Please send your check with the form below or renew online at our website. If you have any questions about your membership, check with Executive Director Jon Fuhrman at 626 864-5255 or jon_fuhrman@outlook.com.



(Thanks to those generous members who have already paid up. You are gems!)

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.