



The Official Publication of ACT

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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

ACT and ADC Endorsement Ballot Results

April 14, 2022



Our endorsement balloting by email produced a record number of voters – 147 in total! Here we give you a listing of the candidates who were endorsed by ACT and by the Arroyo Democratic Club – that is, those candidates who received 60% or more of the votes in their respective ACT and ADC races. Endorsee's names are in **Bold**:



In Pasadena Council District 3, **John Kennedy** received 69.9% of the ACT votes and 71% of the ADC votes. In District 7, **Jason Lyon** received 86.3% ACT and 86.3% ADC.

In Pasadena Community College Area 3, **Steven Gibson** received 68.5% ACT and 69.5% ADC. In Area 5, **Kristine Kwong** received 60.5% ACT, but did not receive enough votes to get the ADC endorsement. In Area 7, **Alton Wong** received 71.9% ACT and 73.3% ADC.

For LA Co Sheriff, **Eli Vera** received 73.5% ACT and 71.2% ADC.

For LA Co Assessor, **Jeffrey Prang** received 89.1% ACT and 87.9% ADC.

For State Board of Equalization, District 3, **Tony Vazquez** received 84.4% ACT and 83.3% ADC.

For Statewide Constitutional Offices, **All Democratic incumbents** received 88.4% ACT & 90.2% ADC.

For Congress **Judy Chu** and **Adam Schiff** received 98% ACT and 97.7% ADC.

For 41st AD, **Chris Holden** received 91.2% ACT and 90.2% ADC.

NOTE: For a more complete listing of the results please see page fourteen, or our webpage.

And ACT Campaign Contributions

At the April 14 meeting, ACT Steering Committee members voted to contribute \$2,000 each to campaigns of endorsed candidates John Kennedy and Jason Lyon (Pasadena City Council) and Steven Gibson, Kristine Kwong and Alton Wang (PCC Board). They also voted to contribute \$500 to the campaign of endorsed LA County Sheriff candidate Eli Vera. Other contributions may be considered in the future.

ACT and ADC Meeting

**Thursday, May 5, 7 p.m.
Via Zoom**



Join us on Thursday, May 5 at 7 p.m. for our ACT Steering Committee and Arroyo Democratic Club Meeting via Zoom.

We will discuss recommendations on the Judges on the June 7 ballot. We also hope Pasadena Councilmember Jess Rivas and PCC Board Member Sandra Chen Lau (both of whom are unopposed in the upcoming election) will be able to join us as special guests.

Socializing before the meeting begins at 7 p.m. The program and meeting follow at 7:30 p.m. Marilee Marshall will chair the ACT meeting; Tim Wendler, the ADC meeting. Fred Register will serve as the Zoom host. Everyone is welcome and urged to attend.

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



ACTpasadena.org

Our website has undergone big changes and we are operating on a new platform. Take a look.

Thanks to website manager, Bruce Wright and to Marcus Green for updating and adding to the site. **Please send Bruce calendar items.** Reach him at: brucewright@sbcglobal.net.



Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Political Account

Ann Hunnewell
Betina Kyle
Fred and Jeanne Register

Upcoming Meetings*

Thursday, May 5 – Discussion of Judicial recommendations via Zoom.

Thursday, June 9 – Election analysis of the June 7 Primary results via Zoom.

Thursday, July 7 -- Traditional Summer Potluck – in person outdoors. (We hope.)

*ACT Steering/ADC meetings are usually on the first Thursday of the month. Whether via Zoom or in person, meetings begin with socializing at 7 p.m. and the program and business meeting following at 7:30 p.m. (Except our Potlucks, which begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the meeting at 8 p.m.)



Register Democrats

One Postcard at a Time!

With the appointment of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court, we really have something to celebrate! But between what is happening in Ukraine and the attacks on individual rights in our country, we *have* to keep on working.

We have the unique opportunity to change certain California districts and swing state districts to BLUE, and to help increase our US House majority. Until we have candidates to work for after the primaries, now we are registering every possible Democrat to vote on June 7.

We supply the postcards, addresses, and scripts. You share your energy, time, and good juju to get this done!

Thank you for being part of our team AND saving our state and country! Email or call one of us right away so we can get going on this.

Karen and Katie,

Karen Rowinsky - 626-483-1135

karen@karenrowinsky.com

Katie Dempster – 323-363-2602

kdcjic@earthlink.net

**From
41st District
Assemblymember
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

As we return from Spring Recess, there is a sense of renewed commitment to community, public safety and creating a framework of standards to meet the needs of Californians. I have introduced AB 2773, traffic or pedestrian stops: notification by peace officers, a measure that would require the Department of Motor Vehicles to include information regarding the duty of a peace officer to state the reason for the stop in the handbook at the earliest opportunity when the handbook is otherwise revised or reprinted. Next, I am also happy to author AB 1919 that would require all transit agencies receiving state funds under the Transportation Development Act, the State Transit Assistance Program, and the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program to provide fare-free transit to youth 25 years or younger. The bill would also allocate \$115 million for the creation of passes so that struggling transit agencies can ensure their fare-box revenue losses will not be compounded. This measure is the continuation of my efforts to ensure students have access to affordable transit passes, especially with Pasadena City College being one of the largest community colleges in our region. I welcome your support as these bills make their way through the process.

Next, in district, as April is an important month for the Armenian, Assyrian and Greek community, I am proud to begin the stages of implementing my resolution, ACR 105, the sister state resolution that would build an economic, cultural and education program with the province of Syunik. Additionally, as earth day commences, I

encourage everyone to look to the state's initiatives to recycle e-waste sustainably.

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

and fill out the contact form.



UDH Celebration Early Notice

Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters (UDH) is planning a fundraising event to celebrate the inaugural televised hearing of the Select Committee on the January 6 Insurrection.

We will enjoy a delicious meal together while viewing the Select Committee's first televised hearing. The expected date is in May or June. In person is our hope; Zoom (with food and beverages delivered to our homes) would be our fall back if COVID dictates.

We will keep you posted or check the UDH webpage: <https://www.udh-events.com/>



Calling Facebook Users

Please visit the ACT Pasadena @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!



If you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.
~ Dolly Parton

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Tuesday, April 19.

Both we, as Democrats, and the country as a whole, seems to be sinking into a bit of a malaise, reminiscent of Jimmy Carter's presidency. Yet, there really isn't much evidence to support that downbeat perception.

Unquestionably, inflation is a concern, yet gas prices already are retreating from their war-scare induced peak. More importantly, that trend is likely to continue. Inflation will still be with us, compounded by all sorts of supply chain problems and increased food costs, yet consumer confidence, according to the most recent monthly survey, is at an all-time high. Both the monthly unemployment rate and the weekly first-time jobless claims are at fifty-year lows. So what's going on, and will it have any real impact on voting behavior?

Polling models and historical trends all predict doom and gloom for Democratic candidates. But are we really seeing those changes at the polls? Usually, we have to wait for November to find out, and then retrospectively explain away whatever happened. This year, though, we have some actual early ballot results, and they contradict the conventional doom and gloom scenarios.

On April 5th, Wisconsin had state-wide elections for local and municipal offices. There was no state-wide race, but both parties vigorously contested local races throughout the state. Republicans were hopeful for a red wave, but it didn't happen. They did win local races in typically Republican areas, but Democrats held on in typically Democratic areas, and the purple areas pretty much broke down the middle. The Democratic Party of Wisconsin directly supported 276 local candidates around the state, and won 147 of those races – 53%. There were some delectable wins – one of Trump's fraudulent electors lost their city alderman race to a Democratic poll worker, and a group of rabid Trumpers lost their attempt to take over the Eu Claire school board – but they were balanced by some disappointing losses.

This is classic Wisconsin, where in the last two Presidential elections, the winner carried the state by less than 25,000 votes out of 3 million ballots cast. It is split right down the middle.

This is the textbook situation where, if a wave were coming, one might expect to see it – close elections collectively turning one way or another reflecting a broader discontent. Furthermore, Republicans typically have an advantage in lower-turnout municipal elections. So if there were a broader trend of centrist voters expressing dissatisfaction with the Democratic brand and occasional Democratic voters (who contributed to Biden's 16 million more votes compared to Hillary Clinton) staying home, we should have seen

it. We should have seen GOP candidates sweeping both typically red and purple areas, and some losses in close elections in traditionally blue areas.

But the actual voting was pretty much status quo – no significant change from 2020. And this is across the entire state, which gives us a large enough sample size to place some reliance on the results.

These modestly positive results could have been due to the extraordinary energy the Wisconsin Democratic Party, and affiliated non-profit (“dark money”) groups, put into the campaign. They did yeoman’s work in signing people up for absentee ballots, in harvesting those ballots, and also in the critical work before the election season in recruiting and training local candidates. Among the peculiarities of Wisconsin election law is that both the State Party and outside PAC’s and non-profits can explicitly coordinate with local and state-wide candidates. That’s fairly unusual. Most states don’t allow that level of close-in coordination.

Another factor could have been the Wisconsin Democratic Party itself. Many state party arms are relatively poorly funded, and therefore relatively ineffective (or ineffective and therefore poorly funded). But the Wisconsin Party organization stands head and shoulders above its peers. The Chair, Ben Wickler, has been a master at the organizational, financial and strategic elements necessary to pull together a winning team as viable in the off-years as in major election years.

So perhaps a wave is brewing, but we fought it off in Wisconsin with atypically effective coordination and energy and strong local candidates. We won’t necessarily have all those resources in the nation-wide November mid-terms, but at

least we have a cookbook telling us, if a wave is coming, how to beat it back.

And, in my mind, there’s a strong chance that, in fact, a wave is not coming, that the low polling and apparent malaise of voters may not translate into a widespread rebuke of the Democratic Party and the Democratic brand. No question that I’m the minority opinion here, but the majority opinion is based on historical trends and predictions, which could turn out to be built on quicksand.

We have another little tidbit of encouragement from Wisconsin. Back in 2020, the Racine school district put a massive \$1 billion bond issue to modernize all their public schools on the ballot. It was a close vote – typical for Wisconsin – and the bond was approved by a 5 vote margin (out of 33,000 votes cast). Given the narrow margin, there was a recount, which sustained that 5-vote margin.

Opponents, needless to say, challenged the recount in the court system. But in that challenge, they advanced the novel legal theory that any election challenged in court, regardless of the margin, should be subject to court-ordered recounts,

and that a new recount could be ordered by the appellate court and then another new recount by the Supreme Court, which could tie up election results for months.

With a State Supreme Court split 4-3 between Republican and Democratic appointees, the appellants thought they had a chance really to gum up the works. But the Supreme Court turned away the challenge with a 7 – 0 vote – with not even one of the GOP justices buying these ridiculous attempts to undermine our electoral system.

Lastly, I have one more tidbit for the political junkies among us, this time from Alaska. Congressman Donald Young passed away, after



serving for 50 years as Alaska's sole Representative in the House. The special election to replace him for the rest of this year will be governed by new rules approved by Alaska voters in November 2020. The top 4 vote-getters, regardless of party affiliation, in the June primary (a mail-only ballot) will then go on to a run-off in August where voters will employ rank-order voting to determine the winner and who will hold that seat until January, 2023. But on that very same day in August, voters will also have a primary election for that seat for the regular 2023 – 2024 term, with the top 4 vote-getters going on to the November run-off using rank-order voting. Not surprising that Alaska voters might be a little confused.

Now Alaska is ordinarily a pretty reliable GOP state. But the rank-order voting throws a kink in the system, especially with Trumper candidates running (like Sarah Palin, who has announced for the Congressional seat). It opens the possibility of a Democrat, or an independent backed by Democrats, sneaking in. Normally, that wouldn't be all that big a deal, with only one vote in the House. But remember that in disputed Presidential elections, the House votes by state, so Alaska's one Congressional Representative gets one vote, as does every other state delegation. Alaska has always been counted securely in the GOP column when counting House delegations. But should a Democrat sneak in, the Reps could lose their majority of state delegations in the House, which would really toss a wet blanket over all their attempted electoral vote chicanery.

~ Jon Fuhrman



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.



From 25th District State Senator Anthony Portantino



Dear ACT,

Cancer is one of the words that no one wants to hear but is something that sooner or later is faced by almost every family. Early detection and access to expert care are two important factors for increased survival rates. I've authored Senate Bills 974 and 987 to try to address both issues. SB 974 expands health care coverage for diagnostic breast imaging following an abnormal mammography and SB 987 aims to address significant disparities in cancer patient access by expanding Medi-Cal patient eligibility for necessary clinical expertise and resources.

SB 974 recognizes the importance of follow up diagnostic testing for breast cancer screenings and is necessary because health insurance coverages typically only cover the initial screening mammogram and does not extend to these crucial follow-up diagnostics even when prescribed by a physician. These follow up diagnostics may lead to increased early detection and significantly impact health outcomes for women. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death among women of all races. Early detecting of breast cancer can reduce the risk of dying from the disease by 25-30%. Health insurance coverage extends to mammography screening, which detects 80-90% of breast cancers in women who have not yet manifested physical symptoms. Women who receive abnormal results on a breast cancer screening can be instructed to undergo follow-up testing to ensure that the abnormality is not cancerous, and they are often required to pay out-of-pocket for follow-up testing. This can cost thousands of dollars and cause many women to delay

or avoid these appointments and thus delay treatment that can save their life.

The idea for the bill was brought to me by a constituent who faced this issue with her own family. When I heard that many women forego necessary follow up diagnostic imaging tests because their insurance doesn't cover them, I was convinced to take action to require insurers to cover the costs. Any delay in diagnosis has life threatening consequences. SB 974 is sponsored by the American Academy of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG).

SB 974 requires that a health insurance policy, which is issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2023, must provide coverage for a medically necessary diagnostic breast imaging, including diagnostic breast imaging following an abnormal mammography result. Diagnostic breast imaging includes breast magnetic resonance imaging and breast ultrasound.

The CDC lists cancer as the second-leading cause of death in California. More than 187,000 Californians are diagnosed with cancer every year, and thousands of them will be misdiagnosed or placed on inappropriate or ineffective treatment.

SB 987, the California Cancer Care Equity Act, is a companion bill it aims to improve cancer care access, cancer care outcomes and patient experience by enhancing Medi-Cal patient access to necessary clinical expertise and resources at NCI-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers. The bill parallels the current Medi-Cal coverage model that allows Medi-Cal beneficiaries to have access to certain life-saving care services at a Center of Excellence, even if that center is not included in the member's provider network. Specifically, SB 987 expands the existing set of care diagnoses for which such enhanced access is provided and includes clinically necessary cancer care services such as genomic/genetic/transcriptomic/proteomic testing, clinical trials partici-

pation, and all necessary cancer-related outpatient and inpatient clinical care, defined episode of care.

Sadly, there are serious inequalities in access to care for cancer patients. The impact of these care disparities is greater for patients who are Medi-Cal beneficiaries, especially those who come from underserved communities. Health insurance doesn't guarantee access to experts specializing in complex cancer types, promising clinical trials, and advances in personalized, precision cancer treatments. With advances in cancer science and more effective treatments, it's critical that we ensure all cancer patients have access to new science and technology that can improve health outcomes for patients and their families. SB 987 provides a more equitable model of health care for cancer patients.

SB 987 would also require Medi-Cal managed care providers to inform enrollees of their eligibility to receive enhanced care and ensures primary care doctors in contract with those managed care providers inform enrollees with any information they need to decide between relevant treatment options. In addition, the bill requires that decisions to approve, deny, or modify a patient's request for optimal care be made within a 72-hour time window to shorten the time between diagnosis and treatment.

I was pleased that both bills passed the Senate Health Committee this week and will continue to move through the legislative process and hopefully end up on the Governor's desk.

There's big news on the family front. We are putting our house of 26 years on the market at the end of the month. Stay tuned for details of our new housing adventure. It's a bittersweet action as I'm not cut out for the empty nest, but Ellen and I felt the time was right.

Warmest and Best,

~ Anthony

My Two Cents

By Ron Garber



The frustration level in the Opinion section of the Star-News is palpable. The cadre of columnists, letter writers and those submitting op-eds skews conservative and time and again the terminology 'ONE PARTY STATE' seems to dominate the conversation as if there would be an option for a second party.

I'm aware that there are many Democrats who have become disenchanted with their own party, and I also know that both parties are losing registration to third parties and 'decline to state' but only the Republican Party is on the verge of collapsing.

Last month the Star-News in one of their weekly questions to their letter writers asked them to offer suggestions to California Republicans on how they could become more relevant and I got a letter published. But since then, I believe I've come up with an even better solution.

Loathe as I am to make life better for Republicans, I believe that this idea could help all Californians. There are solid Republican counties, but they're lightly populated and don't provide enough legislative seats to have an impact on California policy. Most Republicans actually live in Democratic districts. The primary electorate historically brings out the more extreme voters on both the Left and the Right. Republicans usually have enough votes to land a Republican in the general election in statewide elective offices and heavily populated counties where he or she loses to the Democrat who survived the primary because they were the most liberal candidate.

I contend that it would be to a Republican's advantage to have the choice between two Dem-

ocrats in the general election rather than an extreme liberal/progressive and a sacrificial Republican because they now would perhaps have enough clout to elect the more moderate Democrat. They would hate whichever candidate gets elected but at least would have played a part in moving representation to the right or at least not as far to the left as it would have been.

So, bottom line, to have more influence the Republican party should stop running candidates for offices which they have no chance of winning and advise Republicans to choose the more moderate candidate in the general election.

Recently Peter Dreier had a letter-to-the-editor published in the Star-News chastising Felicia Williams for her votes on the Pasadena City Council. Felicia, a member of ACT/ADC, historically a progressive organization, sought and received its endorsement. With our help she was elected, but as noted in the letter-to-the-editor, her voting record has been anything but progressive. A half dozen issues have broken down to labor vs. business interests and she has sided with business on each. I had been concerned prior to Peter's letter, so when I read it at 3 AM, I decided to alert a score of ACT steering committee members including one who is deceased. I had opened a can of worms and received an earful from friends. One complaint I heard from several was that her votes were representative of the constituents she represents, and I retreated believing I had erred. After sending my mea culpa, Peter responded with a defensive email that among other things pointed out that her district has 3 1/3 registered Democrats for every registered Republican. Beyond that I thought to myself, even if a district is conservative and obviously hers is not, why would we support conservative positions anyway? So now I'm apologizing for having apologized. The Pasadena City Council is evenly divided and often Felicia's vote is the swing vote. When important issues come

up and they will, we need to let Felicia know that our future endorsement has to be earned.

Next month beginning on May 9, I have jury duty in Superior Court in downtown LA. It's my plan to chronicle the experience of how justice functions in the age of Covid and how one who is an intrepid walker maneuvers the jury room and the courthouse.

~ Ron out



UDH – 2022 Challenges and Opportunities



As we head into election season, the Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters (UDH) will be gearing up for another exciting and challenging campaign. Now would be a good time to review the mission and role of the UDH, as well as our plans for the campaign. As most of you may know, the United Democratic Headquarters has served since 1988 as a coalition of grassroots activists in local Democratic clubs and organizations who are dedicated to change on the local, statewide and national levels. The Democratic clubs are the heart and soul of the UDH and our goal is to provide them with as much information and resources as possible.

We work hard in our local communities to promote progressive issues from health care to climate change, not only by supporting Democratic candidates, but also by holding issue forums, registering voters, lobbying elected officials and canvassing our neighbors. And we have led the charge in turning Pasadena and the San Gabriel valley from deep red to solid blue, not only in our local elections, but in statewide and federal elections as well.

But we're not done yet. The COVID pandemic has presented not only great challenges for the UDH, but also enormous opportunities. We have transitioned from a brick-and-mortar headquarters, operating only during election seasons, to a year-round hybrid model which incorporates many forms of virtual political action, from online volunteer training, phone banking and texting, to postcarding and online meetups and conversations.

We have built an extensive database of volunteers who are able to work remotely and reach out not only to our local communities, but also statewide and even nationwide. For example, the UDH was very active in the special Senate election in Georgia and is already working to retain the Democratic Senate seats in Arizona and Nevada. At the same time, we will be active in campaigning for our local Assembly, Senate and Congressional seats, both remotely and by active grassroots campaigning and canvassing.

One of our main goals this election cycle is to maintain Democratic control of the House by flipping a number of Congressional seats that had been held by Democrats but were lost in 2020. Several of these are in Orange County and in Central California, and we will be working hard to elect Democrats to those seats, not only through phoning, texting and postcarding, but also by canvassing in those districts to support Democratic candidates.

As in every election cycle, we will be hiring full-time staff to manage all the work of the campaigns, from staffing the headquarters to organizing our volunteer efforts and events. Since this campaign will be hybrid in nature, our volunteer efforts will be divided between virtual and a headquarters location. We rely on our loyal supporters to help fund a dedicated staff, as well as a working headquarters location. We are deeply grateful for all the support you provide through your dollars and hard work to achieve a

Democratic victory in November.

~ Hoyt Hilsman,
UDH Steering Committee Chair



**From
Pasadena District 2
Councilmember
Felicia Williams**



Hello ACT friends!

I hope you are doing well and to see many of you in person soon. Unfortunately, there are some members seeking to divide us who are asking me to get political and bullying me to push their agenda. I want to make it clear that I don't stand for bullying, and I remain committed to listening to everyone and making decisions that balance the various needs in our City. This is what I promised in my campaign and that is the oath that I have taken as a non-partisan elected official. Nuf said...it has been a busy year and 4 months, but it seems like dog years during COVID, so let's hear some updates . . .

On the housing front, I am working on 4 affordable housing projects in the District, including a potential motel conversion through Project Homekey, a bid for properties on the William Carey International University campus as they reduce their footprint, the mixed-income 1880 Walnut project, and acquisition of 6 existing units for PCC students by Heritage Housing Partners. The HHP acquisition funding comes from the Inclusionary Housing fees that I voted to increase along with the affordable housing percentage from 15% to 20% when I was on the Planning Commission (the halcyon days, as I call them...).

On the environmental front, Councilmember Wilson and I worked to bring the gas-powered garden equipment ban through Municipal Services Committee and Council approval. It is expected to go into effect in the beginning of 2023.,

with robust education programs for our local small businesses and residents. At the one year review I hope we can strengthen it to further protect human health and wildlife. The Greenways project to help provide safe north/south bike routes has 3 streets in District 2 – Wilson, Sierra Bonita, and Craig. We are just beginning community outreach and design, and have received grant funds for Craig Ave.

I am concerned that it has been a very slow and uneven recovery from COVID in Pasadena and beyond. So, I will continue to focus on supporting our small businesses, job training and local hiring (especially at our Rose Bowl and Convention Center), and expansion of our social services and programs. I am excited to welcome the Central Library programs at Jefferson Elementary School, have been engaging with the second PORT homeless outreach team funded through ARPA to reach more individuals in need, and look forward to hearing from the new early childhood development task force on future programs.

Lastly, we cannot ignore all of the new development in town and the effects on our environment and housing costs. Encouraging new development to serve the needs of Pasadena, provide community benefits like good paying jobs and housing at all income levels, and properly mitigate traffic and other impacts is a key part of the Council's land use responsibilities.

I look forward to hearing from ACT on all of these issues and more.

~ Felicia Williams

Felicia Williams represents District 2 which is the central part of Pasadena, encompassing large areas of multi- and single-family housing, five Landmark Districts, businesses in the Washington Bl., Allen Ave., and Colorado Blvd. commercial corridors, and Marshall Fundamental Secondary and Longfellow Elementary Schools.



The Two Faces of Felicia Williams

Felicia Williams pulled a fast one on her supporters soon after she was elected to the Pasadena City Council in 2020.

In 2019, when she filed to run for the District 2 seat, she was a registered Democrat. That makes sense, since 56.5% of voters in the district are registered Democrats and only 16.8% are Republicans. During her campaign, she vigorously sought – and obtained – endorsements by the major Democratic organizations, including the Los Angeles County Democratic Party, Arroyo Democratic Club, and Democrats of the Pasadena Foothills. Democratic Congressmembers Adam Schiff and Judy Chu endorsed her, as did Assemblymember Chris Holden. ACT endorsed her too.

Williams won the Council seat on March 3, 2020 with 52% of the vote, enough to avoid a run-off in November. She was sworn in on December 7 that year. But unbeknownst to her supporters, she changed her registration from Democrat to No-Party-Preference on November 27, before she served a single day in office.

Officially, Council seats are nonpartisan, but candidates seek endorsements from the political parties and public officials based on their partisan affiliations. During her campaign, Williams touted her Democratic endorsements and told voters she was a Democrat.

District 2 is not only very Democratic but also very liberal. But since serving on the Council, Williams has consistently been one of its most conservative members, clearly out of sync with the voters in her district. On key issues like housing, workers' rights, public health, campaign finance, and police reform, Williams has taken conservative stances, as I explain in detail in my article for *LA Progressive* (<https://www.laprogressive.com/election-reform-campaigns/felicia-williams>).

Activists in Pasadena's Planned Parenthood chapter are very upset that, despite getting the group's endorsement and campaign donations, Williams has failed to be a strong advocate for women's reproductive health since joining the Council.

I have known Felicia for years. When she ran for Council, she came to my house to seek my endorsement. We talked for over an hour. I asked her where she stood on key workers' rights and housing justice issues. She sounded like a lobbyist for the Chamber of Commerce and the real estate industry, perhaps a reflection of her background in banking and finance. I told her I wouldn't support her. So, I'm not surprised by her conservative stances on the Council, including her vote against requiring big grocery chains to provide front-line essential grocery workers with hazard pay during the pandemic. But I *was* surprised by her duplicity in quietly changing her party registration.

I live in District 2. We deserve a Council member who reflects the values of its voters. Felicia isn't it.

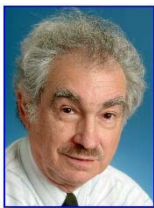
Since my article appeared, a few of her supporters have offered two different excuses for her party switcheroo: (1) she wanted to be able to vote in Republican primaries, and (2) she wanted to respect the nonpartisan nature of the Council. Both excuses are bogus. Perhaps she'll come up with another excuse. But her dishonesty – and her failure to tell voters during her campaign that she intended to change her party registration or to make public her party switch after winning election with Democratic endorsements – is a violation of public trust.

ACT as well as the Democratic clubs and elected officials should retroactively withdraw their endorsements of Felicia Williams. Nor does she deserve their support if she runs for re-election or for another political office.

~ Peter Dreier

Book Review

By Robert V. Frampton



“Lessons From The Edge” a Memoir by Marie Yovanovitch

In my first cognizance of the US Ambassador to Ukraine, I did not even know her name. President Donald Trump referred to her simply as “The Woman.” During a phone call on July 25, 2019, with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Trump, in reference to her, said, “The former ambassador from the United States, *the woman*, was bad news, and the people she was dealing with in the Ukraine were bad news ...” and “Well, she’s going to go through some things.” The woman’s name is Marie Louise Yovanovitch. She became the US ambassador to the Ukraine in 2016, when Zelenskyy’s predecessor, Petro Poroshenko, was president. Prior to that, she had been *Deputy Chief of Mission* in the Ukraine Embassy (August 2001 to June 2004), then US Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan (2005–2008), Ambassador to Armenia (2008–2011), Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs (2012–2013), and then Ambassador to Ukraine (2016–2019).

Her father had been in the Yugoslav army, then became a prisoner of war in Germany, but was able to escape to Paris. Both her parents had fled Nazi Germany, and had met in Canada, where Marie was born in 1958. Her family moved to Connecticut when she was 3 years old, where her parents became foreign language teachers at a boarding school. The family spoke Russian at home. She received a BS from Princeton in Russian Studies in 1980, and then studied at the Pushkin Russian Language Institute in Moscow. Upon joining the US Foreign Service in 1986 at

age 28, she had her first posting in Mogadishu, where she witnessed first-hand the rampant corruption in the Somalian government and the approaching civil war. She then posted in the Moscow embassy during the time of Boris Yeltsin, and she witnessed first-hand the showdown between Yeltsin and the holdover Communist Parliament, and she witnessed bullets flying near the embassy for several days.

Yovanovich would witness government corruption in each of her diplomatic postings -- Somalia, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, and including Ukraine; and she would undertake to combat such corruption in each post. In her various postings, Yovanovich has worked to build up what she calls “civil society” in these previously Soviet-bloc countries. She writes: “Civil Society – the people or groups who take an interest in issues of public concern and advocate for their preferred outcomes – is a term we don’t hear much in the United States. That’s because we take its omnipresence for granted. The vast majority of Americans belong to some type of civil society group” (PTA. Church groups, political association, chamber of commerce, sports groups, etc.). “In the Soviet Union, in contrast, any effort by individuals to join together independent of the government was brutally stamped out, leaving citizens of the new countries without the experience or the skills to advocate (or agitate) for their interests.” She had set out to encourage the formation of such “civil society” groups, especially women’s groups; and for her efforts she received the Secretary’s Diplomacy for Freedom Award in 2009. And in 2020 she received the Raymond Trainor Award for Excellence in the Conduct of Diplomacy.

In her post as Ambassador to Armenia she had to confront the controversy over the use of the term *genocide*. As a result of the 1992 war between Armenia and Azerbaijan in which Armenia occupied some Azerbaijan territory, Turkey had

closed its border with Armenia, cutting off Armenian access to the Black Sea. President Obama (backed by the Swiss government) made an effort to negotiate a restoration of diplomatic and economic ties between Armenia and Turkey; and Yovanovich was one of the chief negotiators. While the two countries' leaders signed an agreement, the mutual historic distrust, as well as opposition to the agreement by Azerbaijan, led to the Turkish parliament's failure to ratify the agreement.

From Yovanovich's two postings in Ukraine, first as Chief of Mission and later as Ambassador, she is able to provide a historical context to the tensions within Ukraine (including the Maydan Square demonstrations) and between Ukraine and Russia. The corruption in Ukraine was rampant and was hampering the full development of a democratic society. Into this mix, former mayor Giuliani, together with Ambassador Gordan Sondland, began conspiring with a corrupt Ukrainian prosecutor, Yuriy Lutsenko, which eventually involved Donald Trump and his July 25 phone call to President Zelenskyy. The second half of the book gives Ambassador Yovanovich's perspective of these events unfolding, at first without her awareness. She covers in detail her recall as Ambassador, the unfolding events leading to the first impeachment of Donald Trump, and her testimony to Congress. For completeness, many details of the Congressional investigation are given by Adam Schiff in Part Three of his book, *Midnight in Washington*, which may be read concurrently.

George Kent, who was Yovanovich's Deputy Chief of Mission when she was Ambassador in Kyiv, said during his testimony to Congress, that you can't fight corruption without pissing off corrupt people; and Ambassador Yovanovich had – in Ukraine and in the United States.

~ Robert V Frampton

Next Month: President Biden recently referred to Russia's brutal incursion into Ukraine as genocide. My next review will be the Autobiography, "Totally Unofficial", by Rafael Lemkin, the international human rights lawyer who coined the term 'genocide'. Lemkin was born in what is now Belarus, was chief prosecutor in Warsaw before the war, and after escaping to Sweden during the Nazi invasion of Poland, then to Duke University, became an advisor to Justice Robert H. Jackson during the Nuremburg trials, then developed the legal definition of genocide for the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.



Special Thanks to Sustaining Members

Melissa Boggs
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 Karen Gross
 Ida and John Hitchcock
 Ruth Judkins
 Tom and Elizabeth Polenzani
 John and Leah Sullivan



Trump and his favorite czar, Vladimir Putin

*By Larry Wilson | lwilson@scng.com /
 excerpt from Pasadena Star News: Feb. 27, 2022*

Which is why, good conservative Southern Californians, the events of the last week have shown you that you cannot support the threatened return of Donald Trump to the White House, or even to the presidential nomination of the Republican Party. Because you know, the same as I do, that most American voters will not support for president a man who immediately before the Russian invasion of Ukraine described Putin's aggression as "genius" and then added that the would-be czar of a new Soviet empire was "very savvy" for calling the troops he massed at the Ukrainian border before moving them in as "peacekeepers."

Again, right before the invasion, from Trump: “Putin is now saying, ‘It’s independent,’ a large section of Ukraine. I said, ‘How smart is that?’ And he’s going to go in and be a peacekeeper. That’s the strongest peace force I’ve ever seen. There were more army tanks than I’ve ever seen. They’re going to keep peace, all right.”

When you see that line of rabidly un-American thinking, you can finally agree with me, conservative Southern Californians, that Donald Trump is no conservative. He’s just a troubled person with a fixation on international strongmen who, like himself, have no political ideology. That’s not the kind of president you want to see back in the White House, leading America.

My friend Max Boot, the conservative, Russian-born Washington Post columnist, noted last week what may be even more dangerous about allowing a Trump return, seeing as Trump himself is not exactly schooled in geopolitics: the people around him. Trump’s Secretary of State Mike Pompeo recently called Putin “a very talented statesman,” “very shrewd,” “very capable,” and said, “I have enormous respect for him.” Max again: “Trump went on to rhapsodize about his relationship with Putin — ‘He liked me. I liked him.’” Isn’t that special?

Larry Wilson is on the Southern California News Group editorial board.



ACT / ADC

Partial Endorsement Ballot Results

Thursday April 14, 2022

	ACT	Arroyo Demo. Club
Pasadena City Council:		
District 3:		
John Kennedy	102 69.9%	89 71.0%
Brandon Lamar	27 18.5%	25 19.1%
No Endorsement	11 7.5%	9 6.9%
No Recommendation	6 4.1%	4 3.1%

District 7:

Ciran Hadjian	6 4.1%	5 3.80%
Jason Lyon	126 86.3%	113 86.3%
Alan Shay	0 0%	0 0%
No Endorsement	5 3.4%	6 4.6%
No Recommendation	9 6.2%	7 5.3%

Pasadena Community College District

Area 3:

Berlinda Brown	37 25.3%	34 36.0%
Steven Gibson	100 68.5%	91 69.5%
No Endorsement	4 6%	1 2%
No Recommendation	0 0%	0 0%

Area 5:

Kristine Kwong	89 60.5%	77 58.3%
Linda Wah	38 25.9%	38 28.8%
No Endorsement	9 6.1%	7 5.3%
No Recommendation	11 7.5%	10 7.6%

Area 7:

Anthony Fellow	22 15.1%	20 15.3%
Alton Wang	105 71.9%	96 73.3%
No Endorsement	10 6.8%	9 6.9%
No Recommendation	9 6.2%	6 4.6%

Los Angeles County Sheriff:

April Hood	1 0.7%	1 0.8%
Robert Luna	8 5.4%	7 5.3%
Britta Steinbrenner	3 2.0%	3 2.3%
Eric Strong	4 2.7%	4 3.0%
Eli Vera	108 73.5%	94 71.2%
No Endorsement	13 8.8%	13 9.8%
No Recommendation	10 6.8%	10 7.6%

Assessor:

Mike Campbell	0 0%	0 0%
Anthony Lopez	0 0%	0 0%
Jeffrey Prang	131 89.1%	116 87.9%
Sandy Sun	0 0%	0 0%
No Endorsement	7 4.8%	7 5.3%
No Recommendation	9 6.1%	9 6.8%

State of California

Member, State Board of Equalization, District 3:

Y. Marie Manvel	0 0%	0 0%
John Mendoza	0 0%	0 0%
Tony Vazquez	124 84.4%	110 83.3%
No Endorsement	6 4.1%	6 4.5%
No Recommendation	17 11.6%	15 11.4%

State-wide Constitutional Offices:

All Dem. incumbents	130	88.4%	119	90.2%
Oppose the endorsement	1	0.7%	1	0.7%
No Endorsement	6	4.1%	6	4.6%
No Recommendation	10	6.8%	6	4.6%

Members of Congress:

Judy Chu/Adam Schiff	144	98.0%	129	97.7%
Oppose the endorsement	0	0%	0	0%
No Endorsement	3	2.0%	3	2.3%
No Recommendation	0	0%	0	0%

State Assembly, 41st AD:

Chris Holden	134	91.2%	119	90.2%
No Endorsement	8	5.4%	8	6.1%
No Recommendation	5	3.8%		

**May Phoenix Deadline**

The deadline for copy for the May *Phoenix* will likely be Monday, May 9. Please send items for publication to Chuck Hains at hains27@sbcglobe.net and Sally Beer at sally.beer125@gmail.com. (Chuck will continue to contact regular contributors with a deadline reminder.)

**Special Thanks to Patrons**

Cheryl Brickey
Councilmember John J Kennedy
Lara Larramendi
Fred and Jeanne Register

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

Karen Breau and Donald Fischer
Ann Hunnewell
Tanya Williams-Benzinger

**Calendar**

May 2 Monday	UDH Steering Meeting via Zoom. 5:30 p.m.
May 5 Thursday 7 p.m	ACT Steering/ADC Meeting via Zoom. Judicial races discussion. Socializing at 7 p.m.; meeting at 7:30 p.m.
May 20 Friday 5-7 p.m.	NWPC- GPA Fundraiser at 436 S. Arroyo Blvd., Pasadena.
June 7	Primary Election. Tuesday
June 9 Thursday 7 p.m.	ACT Steering/ADC Meeting via Zoom. Election analysis.



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

Please Pay Up for 2022!

Have you paid your 2022 membership dues for ACT and/or ADC? If not, it's time! 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 jon_fuhrman@outlook.com or 626 864-5255.

Thanks to all members who have so generously paid already.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Extra Contribution

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

 Name

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