



The Official Publication of ACT  
P. O. Box 40074, (626) 795-2798

*the phoenix*  
**On-Line**

Volume 47  
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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

## Kick Trump out, flip the Senate, hold onto the House ... and of course beer!

United Dem HQ  
organize. resist. vote.

### OKTOBERFEST 2019

SAVE THE DATE!  
October 27th, 2019 | 2pm - 4pm

Armenian Cultural Foundation  
740 E. Washington Blvd  
Pasadena, CA 91104

Join us for a fun-filled day of friends, brats, beer, and politicking at the Armenian Cultural Foundation on *October 27<sup>th</sup>*, from 2pm - 4pm

**740 E. Washington Blvd Pasadena**

*We look forward to seeing you!*

Note: Please visit [PasadenaDemocrats.com](http://PasadenaDemocrats.com) to sponsor or get tickets for Oktoberfest.

**\*\*Feel free to contact us at [PasadenaUDH@gmail.com](mailto:PasadenaUDH@gmail.com) with specific questions about this event, becoming involved, or our 2020 plans.\*\***

## Next ACT and Arroyo Democratic Club Meeting

Thursday, November 7, 7 p.m.,

at the home of

Tammy Silver, 820 Oak Knoll Circle,  
Pasadena

Our speaker is SGV's representative to first Citizen Redistricting Commission.

Ten years ago California's first Citizen Redistricting Commission was formed. The opposition was keen. What is derided as gerrymandering by some is considered fairly drawn voting district lines by others.

Our November speaker, Jeanne Raya of San Gabriel, will touch on the challenges and successes of the inaugural commission, which supports criteria in the Voting Rights Act. California's commissioners have been serving for 10 years, and the state is in the process of selecting new commissioners to serve for the next decade, to coincide with new Census data.

In June the US Supreme Court ruled that partisan gerrymandering is a political question that federal courts will not police. Common Cause, Unite America, Unrig the System, League of Women Voters, National Democratic Redistricting Committee and others are working for independent bodies to redraw district maps to ensure that citizens can have fairer representation in Congress and other elected districts.

Kathay Feng, national redistricting director of Common Cause, which spearheaded our state's initiative, calls independent citizen redistricting commissions the gold standard of reform. "People are much better at drawing maps because they care more about their neighbors than protecting political parties," she stated.

Those wanting to brush up on California's redistricting efforts can go to

[Wedrawthelines.ca.gov](http://Wedrawthelines.ca.gov).

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



## 2019 Fall Endorsing Convention – State Democratic Party



Friday-Sunday, November 15-17  
Long Beach Convention and  
Entertainment Center

The agenda includes: finalizing the 2019/2020 Platform; ratifying endorsements of Congressional and legislative races; and a Presidential Town Hall. Please visit [Cadem.org](http://Cadem.org) for information and updates.



## ACT & ADC 2019 Meeting Calendar

ACT Steering Committee and ADC meetings are on the first Thursday of the month. Meetings are called to order at 7:30 p.m. after time for socializing beginning at 7 p.m.

Thursday, November 7

Thursday, December 5 (Holiday Potluck Meeting)



## November *Phoenix* Deadline

The November *Phoenix* deadline is Sunday evening, November 10. Please send items for publication to Chuck at [hains27@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hains27@sbcglobal.net). (Chuck will continue to contact regular contributors with a deadline reminder.)



## My Two Cents

By Ron Garber



### Political Thoughts

The L.A. Times reported in late September that California's voter preference is expected to make a significant change between the 2016 and 2020 Presidential elections. In a highly respected L.A. Times/USC poll, it looks like the vote for President that went 60/40 for Clinton over Trump in 2016, next year will likely go 70/30 for a generic Democratic candidate over Trump. Hoping not to sound like a broken record, it's my belief that the seven new California Democratic Congress men and women will not have a problem holding on to their seats in 2020. There are multiple reasons for this belief: 1. They're running as incumbents; 2. They will be well funded; 3. Democrats do better in Presidential election years; 4. The California Republican party is in a state of demoralization, and 5. As of today Trump is expected to be the Republican Presidential nominee. I bring all this up because many of the people I respect most feel it's important to solidify those gains and I respectfully don't think that that is necessary.

I would like to see us try and expand on those gains by putting the districts now held by Republicans Paul Cook (retiring), Duncan Hunter (under indictment), Ken Calvert, Devon Nunes (everyone's favorite villain) and even Kevin McCarthy (House Minority Leader) in play. On top of that I think we can play a major role in flipping the Senate by helping the campaign of Mark Kelly in neighboring Arizona. Of course if for whatever reason Trump is not the Republican candidate all bets are off and assuring that the House remains in the Democratic fold would have to be our number one priority.

### UDH News



As of this printing the United Democratic Headquarters Steering Committee is concentrating on fund raising, finalizing plans for Oktoberfest, analyzing when would be the best time to open headquarters for the next general election (while that decision is not final, it's looking like an early start in maybe June or July), discussing paid staffing and thinking about prime real estate to locate (South Lake preferred). I have signed on to be a member of both the staffing sub-committee and Real Estate sub-committee. It's expected that the headquarters like in past Presidential years will have space for merchandise, telephone banks and new this Presidential cycle texting and post cards. It's also expected that the staff will be organizing canvassing caravans to Congressional Districts outside L.A. County and to Arizona. I personally hope to be heavily involved with our post carding division and recruiting of volunteers from the many Indivisibles, Swing Left, and various unaffiliated organizations that have popped up since the 2016 disaster. If you're thinking about contributing to UDH, this would be a good time. Keep an eye on this space for further updates of UDH activities.

~ Ron Garber



### Pasadena Election Schedule

Mayor and City Council Primary Election

Date: March 3, 2020

General (City run-off) and PUSD Election

Date: November 3, 2020

Mayor Nomination Filing Period: November 12, 2019 to December 6, 2019\*

City Council Districts 1, 2, 4, & 6: November 12, 2019 to December 6, 2019\*

PUSD 2, 4, & 6: Summer 2020

PCC 2, 4, & 6: Nov. 12, 2019 to Dec. 6, 2019\*

\*Extended to Dec. 11 if incumbent does not run.

## Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Monday, October 14.

### Is Extortion Impeachable???

Six months ago, I argued we ought not impeach the President. Yes, the Mueller Report incontrovertibly showed Russian interference in the 2016 election; yes, the Report asserted that Congress could apply obstruction of justice laws to a President's "corrupt exercise of the powers of the office", and further that Mueller's investigation does not exonerate the President (and if they found "after a thorough investigation of the facts that the President clearly did not commit obstruction of justice, we would so state", which they did not).

Yet, there was no conceivable way that we could get a 2/3 vote in the Senate to convict the President. The guaranteed acquittal would simply be used by him to his political advantage, and perhaps enable him to avoid criminal prosecution after he left office for the obstruction of justice of which he seemed

guilty. And removing President Trump would leave Vice-President Pence, and the whole Trump coterie, in office. Better to defeat him at the polls and remove the entire Administration and as many of his Congressional enablers as possible.

So I argued against impeachment. Who would have guessed, only months later, the President would blithely seek to repeat the very sort of electoral interference for which he was so roundly condemned? And this time we have, first, an official transcript of the call, and then the next day the President goes out on the White House lawn and publicly urges another country to interfere as well.

The ancient Greeks understood even the most powerful could be undone by hubris, their overwhelming certainty that they were infallible and untouchable which, ultimately, causes their downfall. The President is now watching his whole edifice unravel, in slow motion, and appears incredulous that others would dare to challenge him and that the challenge just might imperil his Presidency.

So, is it time to change my tune? Does impeachment make sense? More critically, is there any chance at all of a conviction in the Senate? I have come to believe the answers are YES – impeachment does make sense, it is necessary and appropriate, and, most importantly, I now believe there is a slim chance (and, indeed, it is slim) that the Senate might vote to convict and remove him from office.

Impeachment is now inevitable. The only question is how many Republican House members will also vote to impeach. A small number of Democrats have not yet committed, but I believe Speaker Pelosi will move heaven and earth to get every single Democrat in the House onboard. That might mean focusing the language of the impeachment articles extremely narrowly, but that's probably a good thing.

Right now, the House Intelligence Committee is taking testimony from various career civil

servants. The testimony is not necessary, but it adds context and color to the story that is already fairly clear. The President used the powers of his office explicitly to ask for a quid pro quo – that the Ukraine (and then China) dig up dirt on one of his political opponents in exchange for favorable treatment. For the Ukraine, that was releasing nearly \$400 million in aid, already approved and appropriated by Congress, to help the Ukraine fight off Russian interference. For China, the implicit carrot was more favorable treatment in the on-going trade talks.

The House may act as soon as next month, and certainly before Christmas. My guess is that five to ten GOP members will vote with the Democrats to impeach. The most likely votes come from among those who have already announced their retirement, which makes them immune politically to right-wing pressure. Earlier this summer, when the President launched a vicious and racist attack against four Democratic Congresswomen, four GOP Congressmen joined Democrats in censuring the President (Fred Upton of Michigan, Will Hurd of Texas, who also sits on the Intelligence Committee, Susan Brooks of Indiana, and Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania; also, Justin Amash, who was a GOP member but left the party and is now the lone Independent in the House, voted to censure). Further, the President's incomprehensible decisions on pulling American forces out of the Syrian Kurdish areas have significantly weakened his position with a number of GOP traditionalists. GOP Congressman Adam Kinzinger already publicly renounced his support for the President. Numerous other GOP members are retiring. Most will probably stick with the President no matter what, but my guess is another handful will desert him.



Then what happens? The House will appoint a team of “managers” to act as prosecutors before the Senate and present the case for conviction and removal from office. (The articles of impeachment can, at the discretion of the House, include a clause barring the President from ever serving again in public office; that could eliminate the possibility of Mr. Trump seeking vindication by running for President in 2020.)

In 1999, when President Clinton was on trial, the House appointed thirteen members, led by

Henry Hyde, the Chair of the Judiciary Committee at that time. This time around, Jerrold Nadler, the current Judiciary Committee Chair, might be appointed as Chair of the Managers, but there's a good chance that our own Cong. Adam Schiff will be, if not Chair, at least a leading member and driving force among the Managers. (The choice of managers will likely be made by Speaker Pelosi, in consultation with the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee in

the House, a large group including all the key party leaders, key committee chairs, and regional representatives.)

There is a delicious irony here. You may recall that, among the GOP managers during the Clinton impeachment was Jim Rogan, who then represented Pasadena and the surrounding areas. In fact, it was Rogan's conduct as an impeachment manager that fueled Democratic anger and focused national attention on his re-election campaign in 2000, helping that race become the most expensive House race in the country in 2000. Rogan's opponent? None other than Adam Schiff, who has been in Congress ever since.

So now, 20 years later, Congressman Schiff, Chair of the House Permanent Select Commit-

tee on Intelligence, and a former prosecutor in the US Attorney's office in Southern California, will likely be one of the House Managers in the trial of President Donald Trump.

This then takes us to the central question: is this a moot exercise? Is there any chance at all, whatever the evidence, of winning a conviction in the Senate? That requires the votes of 67 Senators, assuming everyone is in attendance – at least 20 Republicans, along with every single Democrat. Is that even remotely possible?

Well, yes. Remote, surely, but possible. You can start with three or four Republicans who have already been sharply critical of the President: Mitt Romney, Ben Sasse, Rob Portman, Lisa Murkowski. Then you might add Senators facing re-election in Democratic or potentially swing states: Susan Collins from Maine, Cory Gardner from Colorado, Martha McSally from Arizona, and perhaps even Thom Tillis from North Carolina. And then you can add a few Senators who are retiring and have had somewhat centrist or independent leanings: Alexander Lamar from Tennessee (even though he recently commented that the President's conduct may have been horrible, but it wasn't impeachable), Johnny Isakson from Georgia, Pat Roberts from Kansas.

But even with these indisputably optimistic guesses, that still leaves us only half-way.

My guess is that the President's fate will come down to two senior Senators, both seen as traditionally conservative and safe bets, but both of whom have some interesting quirks: Chuck Grassley, from Iowa, and Richard Burr, from North Carolina.

Grassley has long been quite conservative, and his Chairmanship of the Judiciary Committee reflected that. This year, he gave up the Judiciary Committee and took over the Finance Committee. This is clearly not someone that might spring to mind as bucking the party and

taking on the President. But he was re-elected in 2018 to his seventh term, which surely will be his last (he just turned 86). More to the point, he was an original co-founder, along with Democrat Ron Wyden, and has remained a Co-Chair, of the Senate's Whistleblower Caucus. He robustly defended the whistleblower against the President's attacks, and has been a lead author in all the recent legislation providing protections for whistleblowers and mechanisms by which they can report troubling issues. This is personal for him, a core issue, and perhaps something he would want to see as his legacy.

Richard Burr has a similar history of solid conservatism. He's serving his third term, which expires in 2022, but he's already announced that he will not seek re-election. So he also is immune to right-wing vengeance. And while he's always been a solid GOP vote, he has, for the last five years, chaired the Senate Intelligence Committee, leading it through the entire investigation into the 2016 election and all that has happened since. Interestingly, throughout that entire period, the Senate Intelligence Committee has been marked by unusual bipartisan cooperation. There were no Devin Nunes-like episodes, and Burr and Democrat Mark Warner somehow maintained a degree of professionalism and mutual respect that has been rare over these last few years. The Committee report focused on Russian interference in the 2016 election and actually added new information to the public debate, and provided some context and content that had not yet been in the public domain. Clearly, Burr and Warner found a way to cooperate on this delicate topic, and Burr deemed it sufficiently serious, and sufficiently real, that he was willing to allow the investigation to proceed and to have his name on the report.

So in both these cases – with Grassley and with Burr – there seems an openness to look

at these issues, a political invulnerability that frees them from crass political considerations, an allegiance to the Senate as an institution, and an awareness that this may be their last hurrah – that this vote may be the legacy defining their long careers.

To have any chance of convicting the President, both these titans must decide to oust the President. But if they do, they would enable and empower and give cover to other Senators, others facing competitive elections, or others in their last term. Senators like Tim Scott of South Carolina, Jerry Moran of Kansas, Roger Wicker of Mississippi, Mike Lee of Utah, John Thune and Deb Fischer of Nebraska, Joni Ernst of Iowa and Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia might be convinced, or feel protected, if they could follow the lead of Grassley and Burr.

Lastly, the two Senators from Indiana, Mike Braun and Todd Young, are dyed-in-the-wool conservatives. But if Donald Trump is removed from office, Vice-President Mike Pence, of Indiana, becomes President. Perhaps, if they were on the threshold of 20 votes, these two Senators might prefer to see a friend and fellow Indiana politician as President. Whatever political backlash there might be in Indiana could be mitigated as President Mike Pence campaigns for you.

The trial in the Senate would likely start days, or a few weeks, after the formal House vote on the articles of impeachment. So it could, theoretically, start as early as December. This timing is especially important for Sen. Johnny Isakson, from Georgia, who has already announced that he is retiring from the Senate at the end of the year due to his increasing disability from Parkinson's disease. If he postpones his retirement by a month or two, so he can participate in the trial, that's a strong signal that he is considering voting to convict. If he were a rock-solid vote against conviction, he could resign any time, and the very

conservative Governor of Georgia would appoint a replacement sure to vote against conviction. So if Isakson were to try to hang on in the Senate, that could be a very interesting hint of things to come.

~ Jon Fuhrman



## Fannie Lou Hamer Event Makes a Strong Impact



ACT recently joined the Pasadena NAACP and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA) in support of a wonderful dramatic presentation about the 1960s impact of Fannie Lou Hamer in bringing about the 1965 Civil Rights Act. One average African-American woman in Mississippi, who was "sick and tired of being sick and tired," confronted the entire U.S. political system until she and others like her were allowed to vote at their local polling places.

Actress Mzuri Moyo Aimbaye gave a stirring performance of Fannie Lou Hamer in a one-woman drama presented at First AME Church on Sunday, August 18. The standing-room-only audience was emotionally moved and inspired to make a difference in the important election season ahead of us. The presidents of the two sponsoring organizations, Rev. Dr. Larry Campbell of the IMA and Allen Edson of the NAACP, pledged to work together on a strategy to maximize voter participation in the community. Volunteers from ACT, Pasadenans Organizing for Progress (POP!) and the League of Women Voters were active following the event, registering voters and signing people up to volunteer in voting-related activities over the next year.

~ George Van Alstine



## Nominating Committee Begins Work

Our Nominating Committee, chaired by outgoing CoChairs Joanne Wendler and Darla Dyson, is working on finding ACT and ADC officers and committee members for 2020-21. For starters, they are looking for two ACT Co-Chairs to replace themselves. Barbara Paul will continue as a CoChair for another year.

(ACT traditionally has three CoChairs and three Recording Secretaries, a Corresponding Secretary and a Treasurer. ADC has a President and Vice-President, with the ACT Secretaries and Treasurer performing the same jobs for ADC.) The Nominating Committee will be asking current officers if they are willing to continue, and if not, finding replacements for them.

Are you interested in stepping up to fill any of these offices? If you are, please contact Joanne at [joannewendler85@gmail.com](mailto:joannewendler85@gmail.com), Darla at [darla.dyson@gmail.com](mailto:darla.dyson@gmail.com) or Jon Fuhrman at [jon.fuhrman@outlook.com](mailto:jon.fuhrman@outlook.com).

Also please let them know if you'd like to serve on one of the ACT committees: Computer/Webpage, Fundraising, Mailing, Membership, Program, Phoenix, or Research. Contact them if you want to join a committee or have questions about any of these jobs.



## Research Committee Candidate Interviews

The ACT Research Committee will be interviewing candidates for Pasadena Mayor, City Council, County Supervisor, and Pasadena City College Board of Trustees. ACT members are welcome to participate:

- When: Saturday, November 16 and 23 (9 am – 5 pm)
- Where: Home of Marilee Marshall, 654 S Madison Avenue, Pasadena, CA

We will be voting on recommendations for endorsement consideration by the ACT Steering Committee and the ACT membership. In order to vote on any particular seat you will need to be present to participate in all of the interviews for that seat. We will do our best to group them together dependent on candidate schedules, but if you are participating, please plan to participate for the full day. We will serve breakfast/lunch and have light refreshments throughout the day. If you have a question you would like to propose for the candidate interviews or a topic you think we should address please send it to our Research co-Chairs Marilee Marshall and Tim Wendler [mmlegal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mmlegal@sbcglobal.net) [timwendler89@gmail.com](mailto:timwendler89@gmail.com).



## Progressive Discussion Group



PDG meets every first and third Friday of the month from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., currently at Dupa's Restaurant, 214 S. Lake Avenue, Pasadena, in the back Sun Room. Parking behind the restaurant can be entered from Cordova or Mentor. Please arrive a bit early to place a breakfast order; separate checks are provided.

The next PDG dates are November 1, November 15, and December 6.

Ed Washatka is the PDG convener and Ron Garber is in charge of programs. Contact Ed Washatka at [ed.washatka@gmail.com](mailto:ed.washatka@gmail.com), or Ron at [ronagarber@yahoo.com](mailto:ronagarber@yahoo.com). Please let Ed know if you would like to receive meeting notices.

We look forward to seeing you at any or all meetings.





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



Dear Act Members,

Hope everyone is ready for the final months before the March Primary. Nationally and locally there is a lot going on. I continue to be amazed but not surprised by the level of corruption coming out of Washington. I am also very grateful for the remarkable leadership of our own Congressman Schiff who is withstanding a level of vitriol that is sad to see as he endeavors to hold the Trump administration accountable. As I'm returning from a quick trip to Armenia the level of frustration and disbelief for the Trump administration's sanctioning of Turkish aggression in Syria is bringing back horrific references to ethnic issues that date back to WWI and the Armenian Genocide.

Locally, our neighboring communities are once again being hit by raging wildfires bringing climate change and a new normal fire season too close and too real. Thank you again to the women and men firefighters and first responders who are doing all they can to keep our communities safe. And, well wishes for the families in the affected areas.

The legislative session is complete and Governor Newsom dealt with all the bills we put on this desk. I'm honored to have had my share of legislation signed into law. SB7 formally ends the threat of the 710 freeway, helps Pasadena develop the left-over freeway stubs, gives the non-profit tenants in the corridor some financial protection and freezes the rents of tenants in the low income rent program. My hearty congratulations to the three generations of freeway fighters who brought

us to this point. I'm just a youngster in the fight, just having spent 21 years doing my part while these stalwarts never gave up and never lost hope. I was very pleased to have been in the right place at the right time to help negotiate the three-step plan to end the freeway threat. SB 7 is the culmination of the plan I negotiated in 2016 and reworked through two administrations. It is now the law and we all can sleep easier. Mayor Tornek helped negotiate the final language paving the way for the stub development which became a critical deal point down the stretch. And the timing of Governor Newsom's signature made SB7 the final and definitive chapter of this story that began around the time of Eisenhower.

In addition, I was able to continue my long-established efforts for gun control and public safety as Governor Newsom signed three of my gun control bills. I am very pleased that I was able to build on the legacy of my predecessor, Jack Scott, and author a comprehensive gun storage bill that brings consequences for gun owners who let their guns fall into the wrong hands. We know that improper gun storage leads to horrific outcomes for our children. It also establishes regulations for senior care facilities. There was a recent tragedy in Sacramento in one such facility when no one knew there was a gun present. I also eliminated the licensed hunter exemption for center fire high capacity rifles for those under 21 and prohibits the purchase of these destructive weapons of choice in many mass shootings to just one per month. I worked closely with AG Becerra and the DOJ on efforts to bring more accountability for unlicensed gun transfers.

One small bill that will have a big impact and which I previously had vetoed by two governors was on fertility preservation. I am so pleased that we now have clarity in the law that when someone faces chemotherapy, they

can store their eggs and sperm prior to treatment. No one should have to face the decision of foregoing cancer treatment in order to keep one's fertility. There was one local set back that disappointed me as the Governor vetoed a bill to extend more autism treatment options for families. I worked closely on this one with our local autism treatment provider PCDA. I was really hoping for a signature as it would have made a positive difference for so many children. I'm hopeful to work with the Governor on a budget fix for this next year.

And, then there's SB328 on late school start time. Yes, after three years, Governor Newsom signed it. SB328 is based on three decades of research on the brain chemistry and sleep patterns of teens. Based on this research, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended that high school start time be set no earlier than 8:30 AM. The State PTA and our own First District PTA worked diligently to help get this bill signed. In the closing week, there was a flurry of misleading information on the impact shifting late would have on working families. Here's the truth. The current system is quite unjust as children in working family homes get far less sleep than their counterparts. Data shows that when school start time is shifted later, these same children have an increase in attendance and achieve better grades. It's the right question and concern to express, but it seems folks asking it are then discounting the answer in order to frame the opposition. I'll stick to science and data and compliment our Governor for showing tremendous leadership to do the same.

On the family front, Bella turned 18 this week and is narrowing her college choices down. Sofia is finishing up her third film as a visual effects coordinator and Ellen had to jump into action and give a speech upon my behalf at the East Area Progressive event. All good here but my heart is breaking for the fighting in

Syria and the families affected by the fires.

Warmest and Best,

Anthony



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



Dear ACT Friends,

The 2019 legislative session has officially ended. Eleven of my bills were signed into law, along with the six budget victories we had earlier this summer. I am proud of my victories that make progress in the areas of Education, Environment, Social Justice, Consumer Protection, and Wildfires. I am also excited about launching the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Young Legislators Program.

My legislative victories include:

**EDUCATION:**

- AB 30** – Ensures that dual enrollment opportunities remain available to high school and community college students.
- AB 982** –Requires teachers to provide suspended students access to their homework.
- AB 1097** –Provides much needed transparency around credit recovery programs in California.

**ENVIRONMENT**

- AB 29** – Removes portion of 710 freeway between the 10 and 210 freeways from the California Freeway and Expressway System. This bill was signed into law before SB 7 and will become enacted regardless of the order of Governor Newsom's signature.
- AB 1328** –Requires idle and abandoned oil and gas wells to test for atmospheric emissions of hydrocarbon pollutants and to publicly disclose the results.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE**

- AB 1497** –Subjects AirBnB and other rental

platform hosts to anti-discrimination laws.

**AB 1573** –Requires colleges, universities, and college athletic organizations to provide college athletes protection for their physical, emotional, financial, and academic well-being. Allows colleges to create degree completion fund.

**AB 392 (co-author)** –Makes clear that police officers should only use deadly force when necessary.

### CONSUMER PROTECTION

**AB 669** – Authorizes the Attorney General to use a streamlined settlement process to quickly accept an assurance of voluntary compliance to resolve a consumer protection case an action brought in the name of the people of California.

**AB 1540** –Allows only a person with specified education and clinical training requirements to call themselves a “board certified music therapist.”

### WILDFIRES

**AB 1054**– Increases safety requirements for utilities and protects customers and taxpayers from wholly bearing the costs of devastating wildfires.



Assemblymember Holden with Governor Newsom

Earlier this fall, I announced the availability of applications for my Young Legislators Program. Now in its fifth year, the Young Legislators Program, offers high school seniors in

the 41st Assembly District a front row seat to the public policy and political arena.

During the six-month program, students will meet once a month to become better advocates on issues they care about, gain valuable leadership skills, and learn about the legislative process. The program concludes with a free trip to northern California to visit the Facebook headquarters and the State Capitol.

The Program is open to high school seniors living in the 41st Assembly District, so please pass along this information to anyone you think may be interested. The applications are due by November 13, 2019. More information is available at [www.asmdc.org/Holden](http://www.asmdc.org/Holden).

Sincerely,

~ Chris R. Holden



### ACT Pasadena.org

Check ACT's webpage: [www.ACTpasadena.org](http://www.ACTpasadena.org) for online editions of *The Phoenix* (in color and sometimes with items we couldn't fit into the print edition.)

Please let Bruce Wright, our website manager, know of local presidential campaign events he can add to the site ([brucewright@sbcglobal.net](mailto:brucewright@sbcglobal.net)).



### Your Photo in *The Phoenix*

Share a high-resolution photo (of you) at an interesting place (whether near or far)with *Phoenix* readers. Send it to Chuck at [hains27@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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.



### In memory of Edwenna Werner

After the 2016 election many of us who had peripherally been involved in the Progressive political movement were motivated to do more. Edwenna Werner, who had been a volunteer during various previous elections knew that after the horrors of the 2016 election she would have to get serious. She heard about Swing Left and agreed to host the initial meeting of the San Gabriel Valley chapter. She told her husband Michael that she could bake brownies and had a home where volunteers could meet.

An experienced professional, educated at Swarthmore College and Harvard University, she received her PHD in Experiential Psychology. She could trace her earliest social justice commitment to a teaching position at a historically black college in the deep South. She later held positions at Stanford University and USC but taking a leadership role was something new for her. That and going door to door, canvassing, were definitely stretching her comfort zone but the success accomplished in both inspired a cadre of eager volunteers and co-conspirators, like myself (postcards), to help flip both the 25th (Katie Hill) and the 39th (Gil Cisneros) Congressional Districts which went a long way towards turning the House of Representatives from RED to BLUE.

My friend Bonner Meudell reminisced about how she, Edwenna, and David Soltis first organized the San Gabriel Valley, Swing Left (SGV SL). She and Edwenna were novices at

organizing but were determined to turn red districts into BLUE in 2018.

While members started drifting away after the successful election, Bonner recalls that Edwenna wanted to keep them together for 2020. At that time Swing Left was initiating a new program, Voter Registration By Mail (VRBM) and Edwenna and Bonner hosted at Bonner's home the initiation of that program. That brought many new members including myself to SGV SL.

Upon Edwenna's untimely passing, Bonner was quoted as saying "When she passed away I was so concerned that I would have a hard time keeping up the momentum. However just the opposite occurred. Because Edwenna had such a strong and committed set of friends from her many, many different activities, our SL group has benefited from new people wanting to support us in honor of Edwenna. Two of her friends who were not previously involved have planned a mega letter writing party in her honor. We are expecting more than sixty attendees. Also National SL in their podcast included a tribute to Edwenna. Edwenna's positivity and energy will continue."

Hoyt Hilsman, Chairman of the UDH Steering Committee, said of Edwenna "In 2018 as the UDH volunteer cadre expanded exponentially, Edwenna worked very closely with us to expand both our canvassing and post card programs. She was a joy to work with and will be missed when we work next year to turn the White House and U.S. Senate BLUE."

I didn't know her very well but had tremendous respect for her. Michael told me that the most important things in her life other than her work with Swing Left were her children and 3 young grand children, music, and her work with the San Gabriel Valley Literacy Council. She's going to be missed by the entire San Gabriel Valley Progressive Community.

~ Ron Garber

*Edwenna died September 11. She and Michael have long been loyal ACT members. We extend heartfelt sympathy to Michael and to their children and grandchildren.*



## ACT Pasadena.org

Check ACT's webpage: [www.ACTpasadena.org](http://www.ACTpasadena.org) for online editions of *The Phoenix* (in color and sometimes with items we couldn't fit into the print edition.)

Please let Bruce Wright, our website manager, know of local presidential campaign events he can add to the site ([brucewright@sbcglobal.net](mailto:brucewright@sbcglobal.net)).



## Welcome New & Returning Members:

Ann Clary, Pasadena

Gail Price, Pasadena



## Holding the Sheriff's Department Accountable Panel

The League of Women Voters- Pasadena Area Public Forum, Tuesday, November 12, 7:00 to 8:30 PM, at the Altadena Public Library, 600 East Mariposa Street, Altadena, will offer a panel of experts on holding the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) accountable for abandoning misconduct reforms addressing inmate abuse, dishonesty, and obstruction of justice. A Q & A will follow panel comments.

### Panelists include:

- **R. Samuel Paz**, civil rights attorney and Board Member of the ACLU of Southern California who helped initiate citizen oversight of LASD.
- **Brian K. Williams**, Executive Director of the L A Sheriff's Department's Citizen Oversight Commission, the official watchdog of the Sheriff's Department.
- **Melina Abdullah**, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of the Pan African Studies Department of Los Angeles City College, and Co-Founder of Black Lives Matter LA who frequently appears before policing oversight bodies.

**Elisa Arcidiacono**, Justice Deputy, Supervisor Barger's office, will address legal implications of the reforms being reversed.

**Moderator: Sharon Kyle**, JD, member of the Board of ACLU of Southern California and Co-Founder and Publisher of the L A Progressive.

**Co-sponsors include:** The LWV-LA, The LA County LWV, the ACLU SoCal/Pasadena-Foothills Chapter, Pasadenans Organizing for Progress (POP), NDLON (National Day Laborers Organizing Network), Altadena Town Councilwoman Veronica Jones, The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Pasadena (IMA), and Indivisible Pasadena/Altadena Chapter.



## Calendar

- October 27 **UDH Oktoberfest! 2019** at the Sunday Pasadena Armenian Center, 2-4 p.m. 740 E. Washington Blvd., Pasadena. To get tickets or sponsor go to [www.pasadenademocrats.com](http://www.pasadenademocrats.com)
- November 1 **Progressive Discussion Group** at Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S. Friday Lake Ave., Pasadena. 9-10 a.m. Also on 11/15, 12/6.
- November 7 **ACT and ADC Meeting** at the Thursday home of Tammy Silver, 820 Oak 7 p.m. Knoll Circle, Pasadena. Socializing at 7 p.m.; meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Details on page 2.
- Nov. 11 **UDH Steering Meeting** at the Monday home of Karen Wingard, 737 S. 7 p.m. Magnolia Ave., Pasadena.
- Nov. 12 **LWV Public Forum** at the Alta- Tuesday dena Public Library, 600 E. 7:00-8:30p.m. Mariposa St., Altadena. Details on page thirteen.
- Nov. 15-17 **State Democratic Party 2019** Friday - Endorsing Convention at the Sunday Long Beach Convention Center. Visit [Cadem.org](http://Cadem.org) for details and updates.
- Nov. 16 & 23 **Research Committee Candidate** Saturdays Interview Meetings at the home 9 a.m.-5 p.m. of Marilee Marshall and Bruce Wright, 654 S. Madison Ave, Pasadena. Details on page eight.
- December 5 **ACT and ADC Meeting and** Thursday Holiday Potluck.



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

## 2019 Membership Renewal

A red check ✓ on your address label on this *Phoenix* means we are still hoping to receive your 2019 membership renewal check. Use the form below, or renew online at [www.ACTpasadena.org](http://www.ACTpasadena.org). [We don't want to lose you.](#)

If you have any questions about your membership, please contact Executive Director Jon Fuhrman at [jon\\_fuhrman@outlook.com](mailto:jon_fuhrman@outlook.com) or 626 864-5255.



### 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**

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 Name

Home Phone

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 Address

Office Phone

---

 City

ZIP

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 Email address

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

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