

NWPC-GPA News

The National Women's Political Caucus – Greater Pasadena Area will hold its quarterly business meeting on Friday, September 23 at 5 p.m. via Zoom. If you are interested in learning more about the work of NWPC-GPA to recruit and elect progressive women candidates in the greater Pasadena area and in helping Roe the Vote this fall, visit the website nwpcgpa.org and consider joining. If you are already a member and want to attend the September 23 meeting, email:

chair@nwpcgpa.org for the Zoom link.



Upcoming ACT/ADC Meetings

October 6* Endorsement ballot results; decisions on campaign contributions.

November 10* Election analysis.

December 1 Annual Holiday Potluck; location TBD.

*Meetings via Zoom or at a location to be determined. Socializing 7 p.m.; meeting 7:30 p.m.



Welcome New and Returning ACT Members

Craig Kaneshiro, Pasadena
PUSD Board Member Jennifer Hall Lee, Alta.
Daniel Sheehan, Pasadena

Special Thanks to Sustaining Members

Marcus Baisley & Jacque Robinson Baisley
Bridget Marvin
Robin McCarthy
John & Dr. Brooke McLean

Special Thanks to Patrons

Roger Wolf

John Kennedy

We were all shocked and saddened by the death of John J. Kennedy on July 21 at age 61. John was born and raised in Pasadena and worked always to make the city a better place.



His accomplishments and contributions were many. He was student body president at Blair High School, a student senator at USC where he earned degrees in economics and international relations. He also earned a juris doctor degree from Howard University Law School. He was the youngest person to serve as president of the Pasadena branch of the NAACP.

He was elected District 3 Councilmember in 2013 and had just recently been reelected again. He advocated for his District 3 neighbors as well as for all of Pasadena. For Pasadena, he Chaired the Public Safety Committee and served on the Finance Committee as well as the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority. He also served on foundation boards and worked at national and international levels. He was a member of ACT. His absence will be felt in so many places.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his family, who plan a memorial celebration at 5 p.m., September 30 at Centennial Square in front of Pasadena City Hall. They suggest that in lieu of flowers, folks might consider a contribution in John's memory to the Leola Sudduth and Thomas Foster Kennedy Scholarship Fund at the Pasadena Community Foundation, Pasadenacf.org/donate.



Really Special thanks to Benefactors

Betsy Blue
Tammy & Tim Godley
Dale & Temetra Gronemeier



UDH Campaign Kick-Off a Huge Success

The United Democratic Headquarters (UDH) campaign kick-off was a raging success with 110 people in attendance at the Alkebu-Lan Cultural Center in Pasadena. This, despite the fact, that the outdoor temperature matched the number of folks in attendance! UDH Chair Hoyt Hilsman welcomed guests to the red-hot party. Guest speakers included Congressmember Judy Chu, State Senator Anthony Portantino, Assemblymember Laura Friedman, Assemblymember Mike Fong, and Los Angeles County Democratic Party Controller Jacob Haik.

Speakers reminded rally goers that we have less than eight weeks to go till election day, and that we have a great opportunity to not only hold the House and the Senate, but to gain seats in both chambers.



Judy Chu & Hoyt Hilsman

How can you help? You can give us one to two hours a week of your time making some calls for Congressional candidates. It is fun and easy. We will have two or three nights a week of in person calling in Pasadena, or you can do it all virtually from the comfort of your home. Please go to pasadenademocrats.com and click the volunteer button. Calling is where we need the most help, but you can also do postcards, or better yet how about a combination of the two. You can do an hour of post carding and then an hour of calling. Your help will ensure we stay in control of the house and add enough seats in the Senate to end the filibuster and pass national reproductive rights legislation, LGBTQ protections as well as voting

rights legislation.

We are happy to have three great interns with us at the UDH. Maylene Hughes and Nathan Castillo are Judy Boggs Interns and Angela Gonzales is our UDH Intern. Each are provided with a monthly stipend.



Nathan Castillo

Maylene is a student at Oxy and just returned from a summer in Dublin, Ireland working with the Irish Network Against Racism. Nathan Castillo is a college student at Arizona State and has served as President of the Ventura County Young Democrats. He also worked with Citizens Climate Lobby. Angela Gonzales attended PCC and now is continuing her studies at UCLA. She recently traveled to the border to work on and learn more about immigrant rights. Angela has recruited forty PCC students who will volunteer with the UDH in this election cycle. All three of our interns are extraordinary individuals.



Angela Gonzalez



The Crowd at the UDH Kick-Off

Okay everyone. It is time to step up to the plate. You can help us make those calls. Again, go to pasadenademocrats.com and sign up to help! Do not sit this one out. Let's have the audacity to win!

~ Bill Hackett, UDH Campaign Manager

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Monday, September 5

Red Tsunami – onto the compost pile. Red Wave, Red Ripple, or Red Pond – toss them into the trash can. Blue Ripple – no, I’m going all in – Blue Tsunami: we hold the Senate with at least 54 seats, gain 5 -10 seats in the House, gain some Governorships and control of at least a few more legislative chambers.

This may seem like a heretical prediction, rash beyond reason. But let’s look at the details. There are generic factors that influence mid-term elections generally, factors specific to individual House or Senate or Gubernatorial races, and then lastly, something unique to this year’s races that I think most commentators have missed so far.

First, the generic factors. You have all seen and heard how the tone and atmosphere have changed. Democrats are getting things done, with major legislative victories – some bipartisan, some along starkly partisan lines. You’ve

heard how both our base and a significant number of independent and centrist voters are becoming passionately engaged and enraged as a result of the Dobbs ruling: registrations from new women voters are reaching historic highs; the turnout in the Kansas primary was an all-time high for Kansas, with a 60% majority rejecting the hard-core anti-choice direction; Democratic over-performance in five successive special elections with outright unexpected victories in New York’s 19th CD and in the state of Alaska – hardly a bastion of blue voters. The President’s popularity and job approval are spiking up sharply from the high 30% level of last spring (a level historically associated with dismal losses for the President’s party). And former President Trump continues to make himself the center of the conversation, even as he sinks ever deeper into a morass of legal difficulties, convoluted explanations, unhinged accusations, and conduct that is likely felony obstruction of justice.

The historic trend of losses by the incumbent President’s party in the first mid-term election stems in part from the natural decline in a President’s popularity following their election. It is compounded by the typical decline in voter turnout by Democrats in mid-term elections. But this year, the President seems to be rebounding (albeit just in time), and Democrats as a whole seem extraordinarily engaged and passionate, as shown not just by polling but by actual voting and by voter registrations.

So, the historic trends and generic factors that typically would weigh against the incumbent Democrat’s party seem to be lifting.

Secondly, one can look at factors specific to individual races in the Senate, House and state capitols. Even Mitch McConnell has openly lamented that Republicans have an issue with “candidate quality”. That’s a restrained way of saying they have a bunch of nutcases running for Senate. Not surprisingly, that candidate quality, or lack

of quality, to be more precise, catches up with candidates. Dr. Oz's campaign in Pennsylvania is essentially imploding. Hershel Walker, in Georgia, can barely string two sentences together in a coherent fashion. Blake Masters, in Arizona, is running headlong away from his rigidly no-exception anti-abortion stance, but that doesn't seem to be doing him any good. New Hampshire Republicans seem poised to nominate for the Senate a candidate who, on the whack-a-doodle scale, rates just shy of former President Trump himself. GOP politicians are complaining bitterly that J. D. Vance, their Senate candidate in Ohio, has been invisible – no campaign events, no press interviews, even with sympathetic local press, no schmoozing with local leaders or donors; that's generally not a recipe for success, even in solidly red states. No wonder polls have shown Democrat Tim Ryan neck and neck with, or modestly ahead of, Vance.

Looking at these specific Senate races, you could hardly cast a movie with more misfits than the GOP has unearthed. Hardly surprising, then, that Sen. McConnell just cancelled millions in TV ad reservations for September in Arizona and Pennsylvania. That's not exactly a vote of confidence.

Further, they've moved \$25 million into ads in Ohio to try to rescue Vance's campaign. If they are panicked about deeply red Ohio, their internal polls must be really bad.

To compound their problem, the Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee (the RSCC), the official fundraising body for GOP Senate incumbents and candidates, had raised close to \$200 million by late summer, but they have spent nearly every penny they raised. They currently have less than \$25 million on hand, for all their candidates put together, after apparently launch-

ing a disastrously expensive and ineffective digital campaign to solicit small-donor contributions. That's probably part of the reason that Sen. Mitch McConnell, the Minority Leader, and Florida Sen. Rick Scott, the Chair of the RSCC, are publicly at each other's throats.

So, my guess is that the Senate is pretty much a done deal for Dems to pick up three to five seats, and maybe even more.

The House had, until recently, been seen as a lock for the GOP. Even now, most pundits are predicting that the GOP will win control, but by narrower margins. For example, the Cook Report, even after moving half a dozen seats in the Democratic direction, has only 190 seats rated as

solid, likely or leaning Democratic. Since we need 218 for a majority, Cook has us 28 short. There are, however, 24 Democratic seats rated as Toss-Ups, along with eight GOP seats rated as Toss-Ups. Further, there are an additional six Democratic seats rated as leaning Republican, three of them with Democratic incumbents.

The working assumption had been that Democrats would underperform compared to 2020, running behind President Biden's totals. So, any Democratic seat won by less than 5% was ripe for the taking. But in every one of the five special House elections so far this year, Democrats have **overperformed**, running well ahead of President Biden's 2020 totals, sometimes by 10 – 15%. Suddenly, the math is backwards – instead of Democratic seats being in danger, it is GOP seats that may be endangered.

It is not uncommon for one or the other party, come Election Day, to run the table, winning most or nearly all of the Toss-Up seats. My guess is that is exactly what will happen in November, with Dems running well past 218 in the House. I



wouldn't be surprised to see pundits, over the next two months, move one after another of these House races out of the Toss-Up category and into Lean or Likely Democratic, as local polling validates and replicates the trend we've been seeing nationally.

At the same time, we are looking pretty good in the gubernatorial races. In Pennsylvania, numerous well-credentialed GOP leaders, some former Cabinet Secretaries in GOP Administrations, have endorsed the Democratic candidate, Josh Shapiro, with polling putting him a solid 10% points ahead, because the Republican candidate is so extreme. In Michigan, incumbent Gretchen Whitmer is also solidly ahead. Further, she reported nearly \$25 million in cash on hand in late August, with over 50 paid staffers, while her opponent, Tudor Dixon, a hard-core Trump supporter, had less than half a million dollars with all of two paid staffers. You just cannot run a statewide campaign with two people and less than a million in the bank. In Wisconsin, Arizona and Nevada, Democratic candidates are running ahead, albeit with lesser margins.

Finally, there is a factor that hasn't been assessed by most commentators yet, and that is the top of the ticket effect. In five critical states – California, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Arizona – the Democratic candidates for Governor and, if there is a Senate race, for the Senate, are utterly trouncing their opponents. The GOP candidates are disorganized and essentially not running campaigns. For example, here in California, there is a Republican candidate for Governor, but you wouldn't know it -- there is essentially no GOP campaign. In New York, the GOP candidate, Lee Zeldin, is basically out of money and trailing by nearly 30% in the polls (not a good advertisement when trying to raise more money). In Arizona, Democrats Mark Kelly and Katie Hobbs are dominating their opponents. In Michigan, the GOP candidate is out of money and,

while there is still some doubt about this, there is a good likelihood that their State Supreme Court will order that a statewide ballot measure on reproductive freedom be placed on the ballot. (The measure collected enough signatures to earn a place on the ballot, but the bipartisan Elections Commission deadlocked 2 – 2 and thus failed to certify the measure for the ballot, with the GOP members complaining that the spacing between words on the petitions used to collect signatures was too narrow and thus confusing for voters; supporters are going to the Supreme Court to seek an order placing the measure on the ballot despite the Commission's failure to act. Obviously, the GOP members of the Commission know full well that the measure would simply spike Democratic turnout, as was the case in Kansas.)

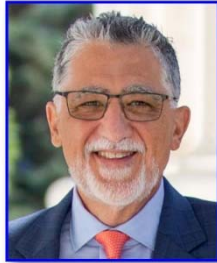
In these five states, collectively, there are 15 Toss-Up or Lean GOP Congressional seats (8 Democratic seats, 7 GOP seats) and an additional 6 seats that are deemed as Likely GOP seats. The lack of strong state-wide candidates doesn't doom down-ballot candidates, but it certainly makes things tougher. There is less advertising, fewer local headquarters, less direct mail, fewer staff working on turnout, less incentive for occasional voters to cast ballots, and that might deprive their whole ticket – down to Congressional and state legislative races – of 2 – 4% of their vote, on top of all the other factors. In these close Congressional races, that could easily make the difference, and it could as well help flip state legislative chambers in Arizona, Pennsylvania and Michigan.

So, you heard it here first – a Blue Tsunami on November 8. Next month we'll talk about what to look for early on Election Day to see how this prediction pans out.



~ Jon Fuhrman

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



Dear ACT Friends,

It was great to see so many ACT members at the UDH kickoff on Sunday. Given the heat it was a terrific turnout with a healthy compliment of volunteers and many new faces. Well done Bill Hackett, John Gallogly and UDH team. It's going to take all hands-on deck to win the targeted Red to Blue districts and there were a lot of passionate activists ready for the task in the room.

I am proud of the way we finished up the legislative session. We budgeted much of our historic surplus to help K-12 education, community colleges and our universities. As someone who has made education a priority this was a welcomed outcome. As our children head back to school their mental health needs are just as pressing as their academic challenges. Nearly three out of five teenagers have had a suicidal thought and far too many are dealing with depression and anxiety. We knew this problem existed pre-pandemic and it's become even more critical today.

During Bella's time in high school, she volunteered at her campus wellness center. Being curious, I had the opportunity to pick her brain which led me to author SB 1302. The bill seeks to create a \$250,000 grant for every high school in California to establish or expand



student wellness on campus. Today more than ever, every student should have a safe space staffed by someone trained in mental health. SB 1302 received bi-partisan support and is now on the governor's desk.

I was approached last year by several activists for children with fetal alcohol syndrome. I wasn't aware that FAS children didn't receive IEPs unless they have other conditions that warrant the plans. This struck me as unjust. Children do better when they are appropriately diagnosed and treated according to that diagnosis. I sent a bill to Governor Newsom to give students with FAS their own IEP. I am also making my third try at expanding autism treatment insurance coverage. Early detection and care are important to help all our children thrive in school.

A constituent brought another health insurance issue to my attention. Under current law, women who need follow up mammograms or other imaging have to pay out of pocket for that doctor prescribed diagnostic tool. Far too many women forego the follow up when it is not a covered insurance expense. This delay sometimes leads to tragic consequences. I paired up with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and Assembly Member Christina Garcia on a bill to mandate that necessary doctor prescribed imaging will be covered by insurance going forward. Our effort is awaiting action by the governor.

I was also able to partner with LA based Streets for All on a unique bill to financially reward families for going car free. We created a tax credit for folks to not buy a car and take public transportation or utilize alternative modes of travel. Interestingly, this small bill has received far more national media attention than my comprehensive street safety measure. Being a new bike rider, I've learned a lot about street safety and have enjoyed partnering with local activists on creative street safety ideas.

Ellen and I are adjusting to being empty nesters and new Burbank residents. I'll be around all fall and hope to see many of you on the campaign trail.

Warmest and Best, ~ 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.



**From
 41st District
 Assemblymember
 Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

I am pleased to announce that Governor Newsom signed AB 257 on Labor Day. Once the bill goes into effect, it will have an immediate impact on elevating the voices of fast food workers, by giving them a say in determining work place standards and empowering workers to call out workplace inequities around wages, safety, or issue of harassment and retaliation. Speaking as a former franchise owner, I would have welcomed this inclusive process that in reality benefits not only the worker but franchisee as well. This year, we have had a robust bill package and I am happy to report that 16 of bills have headed to the Governor's Desk.

In the district, we were able to honor our 2020 and 2022 Women of the Year and Women of Distinction at our 23rd Annual Block Party. Coming up soon is our annual Young Legislators Program applications; please stay tuned. The

Young Legislators Program is a unique opportunity that offers high school seniors in the 41st Assembly District a front row seat to the public policy and political arena. During the four-month program, students will meet virtually once a month to become better advocates on issues they care about, gain valuable leadership skills, and learn about the legislative process. 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 and fill out the contact form.



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

Robin McCarthy
 Edie Taylor

**Thanks for Additional Contributions
 to ACTs Political Account**

Marguerite Cooper
 Tammy & Tim Godley
 Edie Taylor



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.

Research Committee Report with ACT Steering and ADC Voted Recommendations

The Research Committee met via Zoom on Saturday, August 20, 2022, and interviewed the candidates for the four open school board seats. We also considered the Los Angeles County Sheriff's runoff, the two items on the Pasadena ballot - the Pasadena library bond measure, and the Charter Amendment to establish rent control in Pasadena – and the Pasadena Community College bond proposal. The persons (*in parenthesis below*) eligible to participate in the voting varied over the day. **NOTE: In every case Arroyo Democratic Club members' votes agree with the ACT Steering Committee votes listed below.**

Candidates are listed alphabetically within each district and the districts are listed in the order of the interviews. Party affiliation is provided in these non-partisan races because unlike ACT, our sister club, ADC may only endorse Democrats. All candidates in this non-partisan race are presently registered as Democrats.

Please note that this year the district will hold plurality elections meaning that the top vote getter will win the seat even if they received less than 50.1 percent.

District 7 Candidates (*George Brumder, Jon Fuhrman, George VanAlstine, Susan Kane, Jeanette Mann, Marilee Marshall, Denise Robb, Ed Washatka, Tim Wendler, Bruce Wright*)

Juan Pablo Alban

Juan was nine years old when he came to the United States from Columbia with his mother and brother. He attended school in Houston, and later graduated with honors from Dartmouth College, going on to earn a law degree from Harvard in 2001.

Juan is the parent of a Blair High School student and, currently serves as School Site Council Vice

Chair. He has set forth a 6-point plan for PUSD, including improving independent oversight, increasing and sustaining enrollment in PUSD schools, establishing a “growth mindset” culture, ensuring best use of PUSD unused properties, and promoting joint school district lobbying effort in Sacramento to increase and stabilize education funding. Juan and his wife practice law and live in Pasadena. In addition to the son who attends Blair, they have a daughter in 7th grade at Westridge in Pasadena.

Yarma Velazquez

Yarma, who was born in San Juan Puerto Rico, is a resident of the San Rafael neighborhood of Pasadena where her son and daughter attend San Rafael Elementary. She is also a tenured professor at California State University Northridge. Yarma received her Ph.D. from Florida State University in Communication Studies.

She strongly believes that our public schools are part of what tie our communities together and shape our children's lives. A school district is stronger, according to Yarma, when teachers, staff, and families collaborate.

Yarma believes in the power of public education to transform the lives of students and our community. She states that we need proactive leadership and board members who have current and direct experience with the schools.

She states that as a mother and educator, she will provide leadership that is responsive to our community, will fight for education equity, and stand up for students, teachers, and staff to have a safe healthy environment in which to thrive.

As a Board Member, Yarma would support collaborating with neighbors, community groups, universities, and local government to enrich our student's education and the community. She would promote frequent feedback from parents and teachers, and work to improve teacher recruitment and retention. She would also support

community programs and partnerships to actively engage Pasadena neighbors with public schools. If elected, Yarma would be the first Latina school board member in Pasadena history.

The Research Committee voted 9-0-1 to recommend endorsing Yarma Velazquez. The Steering Committee voted to recommend endorsing Velazquez 21-1-0.

District 1 Candidates (*George Brumder, George VanAlstine, Jeanette Mann, Marilee Marshall, Denise Robb, Ed Washatka, Tim Wendler, Bruce Wright*)

Kimberly Kenne

Kimberly has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Georgetown University, where she majored in Finance and minored in Computer Science. Residing in Altadena with her husband and children, she was first elected to the Board in 2011 and re-elected in 2013 and 2017. She has been actively involved as a parent leader at the school site, district, and state levels since her children started kindergarten at Burbank Elementary.

She has served on school site councils, as president of Parent Teacher Associations (PTA), as Chair of the District Advisory Council (DAC), which supports school site governance councils, and as a founding member of the Parent Education Network (PEN), which works to build family engagement in local public schools. Kimberly recently served a six-year term on the California Practitioners Advisory Group (CPAG), a body that advises the State Board of Education on Title 1 and state and federal accountability systems. She has also served as a CSBA delegate, has chaired the Altadena Education Focus Group, co-chaired the Education Committee of the Altadena Town Council, and is a member of the League of Women Voters.

Billy Malone

Billy grew up in a small town in the English countryside. After graduating high school at age 16, he went on to study engineering. By his early 20's he was designing for some of the top companies and it was as an industrial designer in plastics that General Electric brought him to the United States. After several years in the field of engineering, he graduated from and subsequently taught at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

He also attended California State University, Los Angeles where he was accepted into the honor society, Phi Kappa Phi. Eventually he wanted to work locally, settled in Altadena, became a real estate agent and currently serves on the Altadena council.

Rita Miller

Rita, who lives in Altadena is a public-school teacher and is also currently a student earning her PhD in Education in the School of Educational Studies Urban Leadership program at Claremont Graduate University. Her current title is Targeted Student Population Program Adviser with Los Angeles Unified School District. Her focus is on creating and implementing programs and support for targeted populations as well as anyone who is in need of that extra bit of support. Rita, is also an attorney, who attended Santa Clara University School of Law and practiced law for 12 years before pausing her career to focus on her children. During this time, she volunteered in her children's classrooms and her love of teaching led to her current career.

The Research Committee voted 7-0-1 to recommend the endorsement of Kimberly Kenne. The Steering Committee voted 20-1-0 to recommend endorsing Kenne.

District 5 Candidates (*George Brumder, Susan Kane, Jeanette Mann, Marilee Marshall, Denise Robb, Ed Washatka Tim Wendler, Bruce Wright*)

Patrice Marshall McKenzie

Patrice entered Pasadena public schools in kindergarten attending Burbank and Allendale Elementary, going on to Eliot middle school, and graduated from John Muir High School. Patrice subsequently graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in African American Studies and a Minor in Critical Pedagogy. She also holds a Master in Public Administration degree from the Marx School of Public and International Affairs at Baruch College of New York. Her own experience made her a champion for public education. Patrice's investment in preserving and protecting public schools as a public benefit are reflected in her professional and personal passions. In 2020, she co-chaired the successful Yes on Measure O school bond campaign which brought \$516.3 million to Pasadena schools to increase facility, technology, water and energy conservation infrastructure, and spaces that support visual/performing arts and STEAM curriculum advancements. Additionally, Patrice is committed to developing policy proposals and legislation that prioritize equity, social justice and student achievement.

Patrice is adept in the legislative process, public affairs and media relations. She is known by many in the government and public sector throughout California-and has access to many of the most powerful people within the public policy landscape. Patrice serves the greater Pasadena community through a multitude of volunteer and civic organizations including the LA Trust for Children's Health, National Women's Political Caucus - Greater Pasadena Area, LA County Democratic Central Committee, Mervyn Dymally African American Political and Economic Institute, IvyPAC, and the Los Angeles

African American Women's Public Policy Institute (LAAAWPPI).

Xilian Stammer

Xilian immigrated to the United States in 1995. She has a Bachelor's degree in English Language Arts and a Master's degree in Education Administration. She earned a Doctorate in Education/Institutional Management from Pepperdine University. Xilian began her career in education as a middle school English teacher but switched her focus to special education, serving with the LA County Office of Education for fourteen years, becoming the Principal for the Division of Special Education for grades kindergarten through 12. After serving as the Palmdale Unified School District's Director of Childhood Education Programs, she served as Pasadena Unified School District Director of Special Projects for State and Federal Programs until her retirement in 2020. She is a committed volunteer, serving as Treasurer and Board member of the Friends of the Pasadena Library Board and previously serving as a Commissioner on the Pasadena City Accessibility and Disability Commission.

The Research Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend the endorsement of Patrice Marshall McKenzie. The Steering Committee voted 23-0-0 to recommend endorsing Marshall McKenzie.

District 3 Candidates (*George Brumder, Jon Fuhrman, Susan Kane, Jeanette Mann, Marilee Marshall, Denise Robb, George VanAlstine, Ed Washatka, Tim Wendler, Bruce Wright, Joanne Wendler*)

Patrick Amsbry

Pat is the owner of Flying A Media, a media-buying agency located in Pasadena where he lives with his wife. They have two sons - one recently graduated with a Masters of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Tufts University; and the other son recently graduated from Amherst

College in western Massachusetts with a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies.

His children did not go to public school because his wife wanted them to go to private school.

Pat and his wife founded Friends of Madison Elementary, a nonprofit dedicated to equity, access, and opportunity in public education. He also serves on several nonprofit boards; and is an active member of different nonprofit organizations around the Pasadena area including Pasadena Center Operating Company (Visit Pasadena) and the Rose Bowl Aquatics Center.

Michelle Richardson Bailey

Michelle, who was first elected to the Board in, 2017 grew up in Pasadena and currently resides with her husband in her childhood home. She and her three children all attended PUSD schools and she has one grandchild currently attending a PUSD school. Michelle received her BA degree in Community Psychology in 2021 and will complete her MA degree in Organization Leadership and Management in December 2022. She is a current board member of the Darden Law Leadership Academy, and on the board of the California Association of Black School Educators, CABSE.

With 20 years as a classified employee who served as secretary at Blair and Pasadena High School, Michelle brings important experience to the Board.

Since being elected to the board, Michelle has chaired the Facilities and Safety board sub-committees and has been appointed as board liaison to the Community Oversight Committee, and the Community Advisory Committee.

Michelle has also served on the PUSD Branding Advisory Committee, the LCAP Committee, the district's AB 86 and Professional Development Committees, and the PTSA and School Site Council of Blair School. She also founded the

Superintendent's Advisory Council, now known as the Classified Advisory Council. She is currently the Board Vice-President.

Her community service includes Vice Chair of the Robinson Park Steering Committee, Pasadena Human Relations Commission chair, and advisor to the youth component of the Commission. She has also served as Chair of Pasadena's Northwest Commission.

The Research Comm. voted 11-0-0 to recommend the endorsement of Michelle Richardson Bailey. The Steering Comm. voted 22-0-0 to recommend endorsing Richardson Bailey.

Los Angeles County Sheriff (*George Brumder, Jon Fuhrman, Tina Fredericks, Susan Kane, Jeanette Mann, Marilee Marshall, Denise Robb, George VanAlstine, Ed Washatka, Tim Wendler, Bruce Wright*)

Robert Luna, who we interviewed in March, is in a runoff with the present **Sheriff Alex Villanueva**.

Luna recently completed service as Long Beach Chief of Police, capping a 36-year career. He grew up in East Los Angeles, in a poor Latino immigrant family. Luna started as a reserve officer 1985 and rose through the ranks. He was appointed Chief of Police in 2014 and recently served on the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) executive board, and is active with the organization's Homeland Security Committee and the Police Executive Leadership Institute (PELI) mentorship program.

He is also a Rambo graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) National Executive Institute and National Academy, and Harvard University's program for senior executives in state and local government, and the University of Southern California's (USC) Delinquency Control Institute. Luna has a master's in public administration from Cal State Long Beach.

The Research Committee voted 11-0-0 to recommend the endorsement of Robert Luna. The Steering Committee voted 21-0-1 to recommend endorsing Luna.

Pasadena Community College Bond Measure

To upgrade aging labs, instructional technology, classrooms and career-training facilities, improve student access to affordable, high quality education in subjects like nursing, health sciences, engineering, technology and skilled trades; fix deteriorating roofs, plumbing and electrical systems; and remove asbestos/ lead pipes, shall the Pasadena Area Community College District bond measure authorizing \$565,000,000 at legal rates be adopted, levying 2¢ per \$100 of assessed value (\$32,000,000 annually) while bonds are outstanding, with citizen oversight and all money locally controlled.

The Research Committee unanimously voted 11-0-0 to recommend endorsement of the Pasadena Community College Bond Measure. The Steering Committee voted 22-0-0 to recommend endorsing the PCC Bond Measure.

Pasadena Ballot Measures

Measure L - Pasadena Public Library Services Continuation Measure

To keep City libraries well-maintained; provide books/materials, youth reading/homework programs; maintain library hours/days open; retain qualified librarians; ensure computer access; shall the City of Pasadena continue the voter-approved annual parcel tax, currently \$41 for single-family residences and condominium units and specified rates for other parcel types, generating \$2,800,000 annually for 15 years, limiting annual increases to the Consumer Price Index; requiring audits, locally controlled funds be adopted.

The Research Committee voted 11-0-0 to recommend endorsement of Measure L. The Steering Committee voted 23-0-0 to recommend endorsing Measure L.

Measure H - Pasadena Rent Control Charter Amendment

“Shall an amendment to the Pasadena City Charter limiting rent adjustments in the City of Pasadena annually to 75% of the percentage increase in the Consumer Price index for multi-family rental units built before February 1, 1995; prohibiting evictions from rental units except for just cause based on 11 specified criteria; and creating an independent rental housing board appointed by the City Council to oversee and adopt rules and regulations, be adopted?”

After a day of almost total agreement, a lively discussion ensued before the vote. Everyone seemed to agree that something needs to be done about the housing situation in Pasadena and the opposition to the measure appeared to be based on pragmatic considerations about whether rent control in general and /or this particular proposition would be an appropriate and helpful solution to the local housing crisis.

The Research Committee voted 6-4-1 to recommend the endorsement of Measure L. The Steering Committee voted 18-2-3 to recommend endorsing Measure L.

Steering Committee Recommendations on Statewide Propositions

Prop 1. Protects the fundamental right to abortion and contraceptives by adding those rights directly into the California Constitution.

The Steering Committee 22-0-1 recommends a Yes vote on 1. The state Democratic Party also recommends a Yes vote.

Prop 26. Legalizes sports betting at American Indian Casinos and licensed racetracks, taxes the

profits at 10% and also legalizes roulette and craps at tribal casinos.

The Steering Committee 16-1-2 takes no position on 26. The state Democratic Party also takes no position.

Prop 27. Legalizes online sports betting.

The Steering Committee 22-0-0 recommends a No vote on Proposition 27. The state Democratic Party also recommends a no vote because 90% the profits would go to out of state corporations and because it directly attacks the sovereignty of Native American Tribes.

Prop 28. Art and Music K-12 Education Funding would require an annual source of funding for K-12 public schools for art and music education equal to at least 1% of total Proposition 98 funds. The funds would be distributed based on a local education agency's share of economically disadvantaged students.

The Steering Committee recommends 12-6-1 a Yes vote on 28. The state Democratic Party also recommends a Yes vote.

Prop 29. Would require there be a site licensed medical professional at kidney dialysis clinics.

The Steering Committee 12-7-0 recommends a No vote on 29. The state Democratic Party recommends a Yes vote.

Prop 30. Would impose a 1.75% personal income tax increase on earnings above \$2 million with the revenue going to zero-emission vehicle subsidies, vehicle infrastructure such as charging stations and wildfire suppression and prevention programs.

The Steering committee 15-3-1 recommends a No vote. The state Democratic Party recommends a Yes vote. It's worth noting here that the Steering Committee vote does not reflect an objection to or disapproval of the environmental goals but to the general idea of allocating revenue

by initiative when it should be done by the government.

Prop 31. Flavored Tobacco Products Ban Referendum [This initiative is about contested legislation and requires careful reading]. A "Yes" vote upholds the legislation banning the sale of flavored tobacco products. A "No" vote repeals the contested legislation thus keeping the sale of flavored tobacco legal in the state.

The Steering Committee 18-0-1 recommends a Yes vote. The state Democratic Party also recommends a Yes vote.



My Two Cents

By Ron Garber




It's an axiomatic understanding that Democrats and Republicans are natural enemies, but that's not always the case. The California legislature has unanimously agreed to place an initiative on the ballot to repeal Article 34 of the State's Constitution. Article 34 dates back to 1950 and can be traced back to racist origins. Back in 1950 and going forward public housing was something that communities fought tooth and nail because they didn't want "undesirables" living in their communities. So Article 34 was passed giving local governing bodies the ability to block those projects which we now call affordable housing. It wasn't specifically designed to keep out people of color but rather people without means, which as we know in America often equated to people of color. Many states had similar laws on the books but California, believe it or not, is one of the last to repeal theirs.

So, what's the problem? One would think that since both parties in the legislature approved this unanimously it should be a slam dunk for voters, but they don't think it is. The perceived enemy

of the bi-partisan legislature on this issue is the bi-partisan local governments who don't want to give up their autonomy to zone their land parcels. And the pressure is being placed on them by the, you got it, bi-partisan NIMBY's who don't want their neighborhoods to look blighted by apartment houses and tiny home villages.


To this end the legislature has not decided which election cycle would be best to offer this initiative and to collect whatever funds they believe will be needed to override the perceived opposition. I'll be following this issue.



This morning (Sept. 3) Yahoo published a story that pointed out that President Biden doesn't thrill Democrats which led me to contemplate 2024. I like Joe Biden, but he's never been my favorite Democrat of for that matter even my 12th favorite. I'm going to vote for a Democrat for President 999 out of 1000 times. There are a few Democrats I don't like and a few Republicans that I do like but the odds of each party nominating them at the same time are miniscule.

Using myself as a bell weather, assuming that the Democrats nominate Biden here is what can reliably be expected of me. Should the Republicans nominate anyone but either Trump or De Santis I will donate \$500 for Biden's campaign and come to the UDH office whenever they call for envelope stuffing or other special projects. Should the Republicans nominate Trump or De Santis I will donate the max which is something over 2 grand to Biden and live in the UDH office running the postcard program and helping out with whatever they need.

Bottom line, Trump provides the greatest motivation for Democrats' involvement. While our support for Biden is real, it's lukewarm. But our hatred of Trump is a bunch of 'uns': UNmatched, UNbelievable and can't be UNDERestimated.



I should be ashamed to admit (but I'm not) that

until reading her obituary in this morning's L.A. Times (again Sept. 3) I had never heard of Barbara Ehrenreich. I should also be ashamed (again I'm not) that due to time being short till the deadline, the only research I did for this segment was Wikipedia.

Ms. Ehrenreich may be considered the mother of the Democratic Socialist Party and while her accomplishments and influences are way too numerous for my column, I urge you to look her up. One quote from the obituary which I believe helps you understand her most important influence was a family rule she grew up with: "Never cross a picket line or vote for a Republican."

She was a prolific writer of books (21), essays and newspaper columns. Some of the prominent books she had published that I'm really going to make an effort to read, include:


Nickeled and Dimed: or (not) getting by in America 2001

Bait and Switched: the (futile) pursuit of the American Dream 2005

This Land is Their Land: Reports from a divided nation 2008

Bright Sighted: How the relentless promotion of positive thinking has undermined America 2009

Living with a Wild God: A nonbeliever's truth about everything 2014



Personal notes: Previously I had said that I had postponed jury duty to August 15 due to Covid and I would report on how the courthouse operates while under the pandemic. Since then, Omicron came into existence I've decided that it would be prudent to cancel instead of postponing again. They're not questioning motives of anyone over 70; granting exemption is automatic.

While I'm still walking in excess of 100 miles a week and am feeling fine, my latest blood test indicated an elevated PSA level. Because of that I'm scheduled to have a prostate biopsy on the

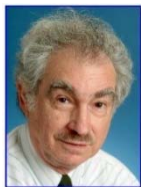
22nd looking to see if there is cancer. If one has to have a cancer, prostate cancer is one of the least serious; often just monitored as it very slowly progresses. While I am concerned, I'm not yet worried and will report the results in my next post.

~ Ron out



Book Review

By Robert V. Frampton



“From Cold War to Hot Peace: An American Ambassador in Putin’s Russia”, a Memoir by Michael McFaul

In several previous reviews, we have followed events in Ukraine through the eyes of several Ambassadors and NSC staff: Alexander Vindman, Marie Yovanovitch, Samantha Power and Dr. Fiona Hill. In this Memoir by Michael McFaul, we turn to events within Russia during the presidencies of Dmitri Medvedev and Vladimir Putin, and the development of US-Russian relations during this period.

Michael McFaul first became interested Russian affairs in high school in Bozeman, Montana, when he and his high school debate partner, Steve Daines, argued in favor of increasing US-Russian trade and repealing the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which limited this trade. McFaul went on to Stanford University to study Russian and Russian Affairs. He studied Russian in Leningrad (Summer 1983) and in Moscow (1985) as an exchange student. As a doctoral student at Oxford, he returned to Moscow in 1988; then was a Fulbright fellow in Moscow in 1990-91. He then worked for the newly opened Carnegie Moscow Center of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (1994-95), where he developed

seminars and training programs on the concepts and practices of democracy, before returning to Stanford as an Asst Professor of Russian Studies.

McFaul was recruited to join the Obama campaign by Susan Rice in early 2007, and contributed white papers on Russia policy that laid out the framework of what would become known as the second “reset” with Russia (the first reset having been the Reagan-Gorbachev agreements). After the election, McFaul joined the Obama White House as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Russian Affairs in the National Security Council, under NSC Advisor General James Jones. Dmitri Medvedev had become President of Russia in May, 2008, and Medvedev became a partner in this reset in diplomatic relations. The focus was on increasing trade and on establishing the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START). The START treaty was signed by Presidents Obama and Medvedev in April, 2010 in Prague.

McFaul was the primary author of the “reset” strategy during his time at the White House NSC. He describes how the nine points of this policy were developed, based on the premise that a Russian economy more integrated into international markets would create pressure for market reforms within Russia, and these market reforms would lead to increased democratization. The fifth of these principles advocated increased engagement with Russian society, to stimulate more integration between Russian and American NGOs and civil society leaders. His work toward these goals, especially democratization, were really a continuation of McFaul’s earlier work at the Carnegie Moscow Center fifteen years earlier.

By the time that McFaul arrived in Moscow as US Ambassador, in January, 2012, politics inside Russia had changed dramatically. Putin was running for President in the March election to replace Medvedev; and demonstrations against

Putin were occurring. Trained as a KGB agent, Putin had a different world view than the younger Medvedev. And leading up to the election, Putin began attacks on the US and NATO. In short, the “reset” was dead. The two years of McFaul’s ambassadorship were spent trying to manage this abrupt change in the US Russia relationship. McFaul left Moscow on February 26, 2014 after attending the Olympic Games in Sochi. While McFaul was in flight back to Palo Alto, Russia invaded Ukraine.

McFaul writes: “Not just during Obama’s time in the White House, but for thirty years, American presidents, Democrats and Republicans alike, had pursued a policy of supporting political and economic reform inside Russia as well as integrating Russia into the West. In 2016, that strategy seemed to have failed completely.

These goals of internal democracy and external integration now seemed too naïve and unrealistic to warrant [continued] pursuing. Why? What went wrong?” McFaul focuses the conclusion of his book to examining the dynamic of this change, focusing on the changeover from Medvedev to Putin and on Putin’s reactions to events in Ukraine during early 2014, culminating in the demonstrations in Maidan Nezalezhnosti (Independence Square) and the fleeing of President Yanukovich from Kyiv.

~ Robert V. Frampton

Next Month: I will review *The Invention of Russia: From Gorbachev’s Freedom to Putin’s War*, by Russian journalist Arkady Ostrovsky. While McFaul examined changes in Russia and its outlook toward the West from his vantage of the White House and the Moscow Embassy, Ostrovsky examines these changes from the viewpoint of Russian journalism and television, and focusing on how Russian journalism shaped this transformation.



Sept Oct Calendar

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Sept. 12
Monday | UDH Steering committee meeting via Zoom. 5:30 p.m |
| Sept. 30
Friday
5 p.m. | John J. Kennedy Memorial Celebration at Centennial Square, Pasadena City Hall. |
| October 6
Thursday
7 p.m. | ACT Steering and ADC Meeting via Zoom or at a location TBD. Endorsement ballot results; campaign contributions. Socializing at 7 p.m.; meeting begins at 7:30. |
| October 16
Sunday | SAVE THE DATE.
UDH Oktoberfest Fundraiser. |



OKTOBERFEST

ACTpasadena.org

Have you checked our website recently? You can always find the current *Phoenix* there, plus a *Phoenix* archive. Please share items of interest and on-line calendar items with website manager Bruce Wright.



Reach him at: brucewright@sbcglobal.net.



October *Phoenix* Deadline

The deadline for copy for the October *Phoenix* will be Monday, October 10. Send items for publication to Chuck Hains at hains27@sbcglobal.net and also Sally Beer at sally.beer125@gmail.com. (Chuck will continue to contact regular contributors with a deadline reminder.)



Please Pay Up for 2022!

If you find a **RED** ✓ on your address label on this *Phoenix*, that tells you we are still looking for your 2022 membership dues for ACT and/or ADC. Please pay up now. 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.



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