



**The Official Publication of ACT**

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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

## United Democratic Headquarters Presents



**October 9, 2-4 PM**

The United Democratic Headquarters announces Oktoberfest 2011 and you are invited! Please come to this fun filled event at the oldest Queen Anne home in Pasadena located at 939 North Hill Avenue in Pasadena. The party gets started at 2 PM on October 9<sup>th</sup>. The Pasadena Firefighters Local Union will be grilling food and we of course will have a beer garden. Come meet and greet your elected representatives and help us rev up for 2012. Sponsorships are still available for Oktoberfest at \$125, \$250, \$500 and \$1000. Individual tickets are still only \$35. All proceeds go to helping us open a campaign headquarters in 2012. Go to [pasadenademocrats.com](http://pasadenademocrats.com) for more information. You can also call Bill Hackett at 626.705.2180 for more information. Come join in the fun on October 9<sup>th</sup>!

### **Phoenix Deadline**

The deadline for the October *Phoenix* will be Sunday, October 9. Please send items to Chuck Hains at [Hains27@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:Hains27@SBCGlobal.net). The *Phoenix* will be prepared for mailing on Thursday, October 13 at 7 p.m. at Chuck's house, 1391 La Solana Dr., Altadena and mailed the next morning. (Volunteer mailers please call

Ellen Coles at 626-798-2402 to verify date and time.)

### **Welcome New & Returning ACT Members:**

Ann Marie Hickambottom, Pasadena  
Jack & Lacreata Scott, Alta. & Sacramento  
Linda Wah, San Marino

# Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Monday, September 12

The President focused almost entirely on jobs in his speech last week. Interestingly, the Republican leadership was not entirely dismissive; it would seem that they see the need at least to appear to be constructively engaged rather than entirely hostile.

The country does seem to be spooked by the economy and jobs outlook, even though in many ways that pessimism is not justified. The August jobs data, showing zero job growth, was a bit misleading -- 45,000 Verizon workers were counted as losing their jobs due to a strike that has since been settled, so the September figures will be artificially inflated as they return to work. Nonetheless, even after that correction, job growth remains unexpectedly anemic.

But it hasn't faltered, and the constant talk of a double-dip recession seems greatly exaggerated. The weekly count of new unemployment

claims stays just over 400,000 -- too high for robust job growth, but too low to signal a net loss of jobs. We see the same picture in California; monthly state revenues show personal income taxes (which reflect taxes withheld from wages and salaries) modestly, but consistently, above the most recent budget projections, with overall employment numbers inching up each month.

Yet even if we started losing jobs, rather than increasing employment, the sad truth is that there isn't all that much the government can really do about it. The government has two sets of "levers" with which to effect change: monetary policy, and fiscal policy. Monetary policy, controlled by the Federal Reserve, determines interest rates and the supply of money. With the discount rate (the rate the Fed charges banks) essentially at zero percent, interest rates can't go much lower. Further, the Fed is already expanding the supply of money -- by buying distressed assets and bonds -- about as aggressively as is reasonable. Fiscal policy, controlled by Congress and the President, involves tax rates, deficit spending, and banking regulation. Here, also, there's not really much room to maneuver. The President is asking to extend the cut in payroll taxes, but that alone has a modest impact. Upper income taxpayers already pay only 15% on capital gains and dividends. Despite Republican calls entirely to eliminate taxes on capital gains, such changes are unlikely to have much impact, other than even further exacerbating the growing gap between rich and poor. Additional spending for infrastructure projects will generate jobs, but they tend to have long lead times. Further support for states to avoid laying off teachers and other state or local employees would perhaps have the most immediate impact, but now that the school year has started, most school districts have probably already adjusted to lower staffing levels.

So despite all the drama, there's really surprisingly little the President, or the whole government, can do quickly to impact the economy. Nonetheless, the public holds the President responsible, and he'll have a tough re-election campaign if the economy doesn't pick up noticeably.

As the jobs picture dribbles along, Republicans continue to attack President Obama for deficit spending, for job-killing regulation, and of course for Obamacare -- perhaps their favorite bogeyman. They blame Obamacare for job losses now (even though none of its major provisions take effect until 2014) and for scaring the private sector away from new investment due to fear of its future impact. All of that is utter nonsense, but Obamacare is such a complex subject that few can effectively rebut such arguments. Fortunately, Peter Orszag, the former head of Obama's Office of Management and Budget, has a marvelous article in the July / August 2011 issue of Foreign Affairs, which outlines the theoretical underpinnings of Obamacare, and the alternative approaches to controlling medical costs.

Orszag, who also previously led the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, notes that over the next 40 years, the costs of Medicare, Medicaid and other federal spending on health care are projected to rise from 5.5% of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP), to more than 12% of GDP, if we don't do anything. That increase would swamp the federal budget, squeezing out our ability to invest in almost any other domestic discretionary spending. The private sector faces similar increases, which threaten our economic competitiveness. To control health care costs, Orszag outlines four alternative approaches. One is simply to cut payments to doctors, hospitals and drug

companies. That saves money in the short run, but it can't be sustained unless, over the longer run, we can reduce the quantity of services provided in a way that matches the lower payments.

The second approach is rationing: the government simply decides which services will be paid for and thereby constrains costs. In a way, many private insurance companies already do this, deciding what treatments and therapies are "experimental" and therefore not covered. Generally, though, this approach is not considered politically viable.

The third approach is what Orszag terms consumer-directed health care: giving consumers more information and stronger incentives -- via higher co-pays and other cost sharing -- to lead to lower aggregate health care spending. This might work if most spending came from relatively healthy people making discretionary decisions that might be cost-sensitive. Unfortunately, health-care costs are hugely disproportionate. Among all Medicare recipients, the 5% who rack up the highest bills account for nearly 40% of all Medicare spending; the most expensive 25% of all recipients account for more than 85% of all Medicare costs. Increased personal costs might have some impact on spending decisions by these recipients, but most are also covered by third-party insurance, which would mitigate the degree to which cost-sharing might drive patients to less expensive medical strategies. Further, when facing life-threatening issues, consumers might well disregard cost issues. Even worse, some cost-driven decisions, like skipping drug doses to make a prescription last longer, might exacerbate the medical condition and lead to more expensive treatment later. Curiously, the potentially most effective



consumer-directed strategy -- advance directives that prescribe end of life care and options -- are often strenuously opposed by those who advocate consumer-directed reforms.

Given, then, that the share of medical costs susceptible to consumer-directed economies is relatively modest, one would think that this is not an overly promising strategy. Yet, it is the very heart of the Medicare reform proposal put forward by Republican Cong. Paul Ryan. Ryan would convert Medicare into a "premium support" plan, yet the end result would be simply to move costs from the government to private insurers, with overall costs increasing by upwards of 40% by the year 2030.

The fourth approach, termed the provider-value approach, focuses on giving doctors more and better information to improve the quality, as opposed to the quantity, of services. Increasing the use of "evidence-based" medicine should, in theory, both improve outcomes and lower costs by reducing the number of unnecessary, and expensive, procedures. There are already well-documented examples of success; the Mayo Clinic delivers high-quality care at substantially lower costs than many peer institutions. This approach is at the core of Obamacare, with national physician-led panels intended to identify best practices and constrain reimbursement based on those best practices.

The Obamacare package included three main areas: short-term savings by reducing Medicare reimbursements (strategy 1); efforts to reduce private sector insurance costs by cutting paperwork, moving aggressively to electronic standards used by all hospitals and insurers, and creating an excise tax on "Cadillac" health insurance plans (a bit of strategy 3); and finally creating structures to lead the way toward the provider-value model on a national scale, which offers the best chance for long-term cost reduction for both public and

private health-care (strategy 4).

The expansion of health-care coverage to many currently uninsured individuals, and the individual mandate (the requirement that one either buys health-care coverage or pays a tax in lieu of coverage), are actually less central provisions in tackling the long-term issues. They have, however, attracted most of the press coverage, and are at the center of the legal challenge to Obamacare. But the core problem remains -- health-care costs in our system continue to rise faster than the cost of living, and they are consuming an ever-greater proportion of our national GDP. This presents a challenge, not just to the federal government, but to the private sector as well, undermining our economic competitiveness. Unless we can effectively address the long-term trend, we will likely start to face more explicit health-care rationing and limited access.

-- Jon Fuhrman



**From  
44th District  
Assemblymember  
Anthony  
Portantino**



Greetings from  
Sacramento!

It's been an amazing couple of months. I never thought that the State Legislature would fight transparency this hard. I believe the public has a fundamental right to know how its money is being spent and I believe the entire legislature should abide by the California Public Records Act. The LA Times and the Sac Bee are suing the Assembly to force them to release actual budgets. Thus far, I am the only Democrat who has released my budget and my calendar. In addition, I have

introduced both a House Resolution to change the Assembly Rules to embrace transparency and I have a bill in the State Senate that would force the legislature to comply with the same open government rules that every government agency in the State follows. Unfortunately, the Assembly tabled the Resolution and the Senate failed to take action on the bill. Frankly, secret budgeting is corrupt budgeting by its very nature.

The Pasadena Star News, the Associated Press, Sacramento Bee and students at Stanford University have all raised serious questions about budget figures that were released several weeks back. I remain committed to this fight. Unfortunately, my efforts and the discredited budget figures released have not deterred the Speaker and Rules Committee from issuing layoff notices to the personnel that faithfully serves the 44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. Effective Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>, my entire staff will be furloughed for six weeks because the leadership did not appreciate the fact that I stood up for higher education and local cities in the San Gabriel Valley. Editorials around the state have asked for independent auditors to step in and for public policy to be judged on the merits of the policy and not the ability of leadership to levy rewards and punishments.

I have pushed my policy agenda forward with the same passion that I am fighting for open and accountable government and am proud that three of my bills are now awaiting signature from Governor Brown.

- **AB 91** forces California to streamline its financial aid process. Our duplicative process causes our state to leave \$500 million of unused federal financial aid on the table. This bill would essentially cut that process in half and put more money in the hands of our most needy students & into our struggling economy.

- **AB 144** bans the open carry of unloaded handguns in California. The California Police

Chiefs Association has made this bill its top priority. In the wake of the Arizona tragedy California needs to lead by example and make Main Street California safer for our families. Our men in women in uniform must not have to face these unnecessary tense confrontations. This is a very sensible piece of gun regulation that needs to become California law.

- **AB 322** is a bill that deals with Rape Kit processing. As the father of two daughters, it is very important to me. I am making my third attempt to get the state to process more rape kit evidence. Gov. Schwarzenegger vetoed this bill twice. Let's not add a second outrage to women who have suffered from this heinous crime by leaving physical evidence on the shelf and the perpetrator on the street.

I was very disappointed that the Senate killed my bill to bring goals objectives and accountability standards to our state's colleges and universities. Even though the UC, CSU and the Community Colleges all supported this measure and our own Jack Scott originally authored the bill, the Senate chose to kill it for the third straight year.

Bella started soccer season and the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. She won her first game at Victory Park, 5-0. Sofia has two more weeks before she heads back to school. We've watched several good movies in the last two weeks, *Streets of Fire* and *Platoon*. She watched *Animal House* at a friend's house. Although she's 20, I'm glad I didn't watch that with her. Now that session is over until January, Ellen has me home every day. Not sure if she thinks this is a good idea. *Assemblymember Anthony Portantino represents the 44th Assembly District of California, including La Canada, Pasadena, Altadena, South Pasadena, Eagle Rock, Highland Park, Glassell Park, Temple City, Duarte and parts of Arcadia and Monrovia. He can be reached by Email at:*

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a44/>



## **ACT RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Pasadena Area Community College November 8, 2011 Election Recommendations**

#### **District 2:**

##### **Jeanette W. Mann vs. Brian M. Fuller**

**Jeanette W. Mann** has represented Area 2, which covers Northeast Pasadena and Sierra Madre, since 1983. She was the first woman elected to the board and has served for 26 years. She is currently Chair of the Community College League of California Board of Directors. She served as director of equity and diversity programs for California State University, Northridge before retiring. She feels that her re-election to the board will bring a balance to the skill sets present: many on the board as well as the college administrators have been at PCC for a short while. She mentioned the 2+2+2 program as an example of how remediation can be addressed in a proactive manner, each entity focused on the needs of their students. She supports the Dream Act and feels it is short sighted not to do so. She felt that there is sufficient funding for replacement for the U-building and that it would be extremely difficult to pass a bond at this time. With a Vice President of Information Technology at the college she has more enthusiasm for distance education as well as an opportunity for instructors to strengthen their skills in web-based classes. She has a target of \$30,000 for the campaign, has engaged Fred Register as her campaign consultant, other key individuals included Tom Siefert and Diane Philobosian, intends to run a vigorous campaign, and would appreciate ACT's endorsement

**Brian M. Fuller** - several efforts were made inviting him to be interviewed. He didn't respond to any outreach. Brian ran on the Re-

publican ticket against Anthony Portantino in 2008, and he is apparently affiliated with the local Tea Party caucus.

The **Research Committee** felt that Dr. Mann has been an outstanding trustee – and as Chair of CCCLC is uniquely positioned to share that group's wisdom with PCC. There was universal support for her candidacy. Brian M. Fuller's positions are not known.

**The Research Committee voted 5-0-0 to recommend endorsing Jeanette Mann. The Steering Committee voted 16-0 -0 0 to recommend endorsing Jeanette Mann.**

#### **District 4: William Thomson vs. Martin A.C. Enriquez-Marquez**

**William Thomson**, an intellectual property attorney, was elected 4 years ago, and he currently serves as the Board's President. He has a long record of community involvement, including 16 years on Pasadena's City Council with 2 as mayor. He is seeking re-election to provide stability to the Board and to ensure the college continues on its current successful course. He asserted that education is the issue of our time, and he noted that 70% of incoming students need help meeting the college's entrance standards. In Bill's opinion, the biggest issue facing the Board is money -- we need to find additional sources of support to help under-prepared students. Along those lines, he pointed to the "2+2+2" program recently instituted, whereby the College is cooperating closely with PUSD and CalState, to ensure students arrive better prepared and transfer more successfully. He supports the Dream Act, and extending it to allow undocumented students access to state support and college loans, and noted he broke ranks with fellow Republicans to oppose Prop. 187 in 1994. He believes faculty need to be fairly compensated, that our current pension system is appropriate, and would like to see salary levels slowly increased over time. He supports

greater efforts toward web-based instructional systems, but he also argued that face-to-face class time is important, so he would not support purely on-line classes. He has established a modest budget of \$15,000 for the campaign, has engaged Fred Register as his campaign consultant, intends to run a vigorous campaign, and would very much appreciate ACT's endorsement.

**Martin A. C. Enriquez-Marquez** is a PCC and UCLA graduate who teaches at CalState Los Angeles and has long been an active observer of local politics. For him, the primary issue is redistricting; he believes the current PCC districts dilute the impact of minority voters. He argues there should be at least 2 districts substantially influenced, if not dominated, by "minority" voters. He believes the district has good management at the top, but that the board is self-perpetuating. He asked why do only 30% of PCC students live within the PCC district, and he suggested limiting out-of-district students to only 9 units of early registration as a way of increasing access to local residents. To deal with under-prepared students, he argued the Community Skills Center should have a bigger budget, and that remediation should be a burden of the local high school districts. He absolutely supports the Dream Act and its expansion to provide state support for all students. He stated that educators are never paid their true worth; he would keep the current pension system (and doesn't believe the right-wing propaganda about long-term pension liabilities); and he flatly said he'd come down on the side of well-educated labor. He recognizes his campaign is an uphill battle, but he has numerous family members and friends to whom he will look for support.

Although the Research Committee believes the issues that Enriquez-Marquez has raised deserve serious discussion and consideration, the Committee nonetheless was convinced by

Thomson's record, history of community involvement and presentation, that he would be the better candidate.

**The Research Committee voted 4-0-1 to recommend endorsing William Thomson. The Steering Committee voted 15-0-1 to recommend endorsing William Thomson.**

#### **District 6:**

##### **John Martin vs. Chris Cofer**

**John Martin** was first elected to the PCC Board in 1979 and has served continuously since then. He was first motivated to run because of the impact that his PCC education made on his life and he still has that same passion about the life-changing value that PCC holds for young people. His agenda this time around focuses on providing more and smoother access to classes and managing college resources wisely. He is known for his fiscal conservatism, which has served the college well over the years. He, along with the other incumbents running for re-election, touted the new "2+2+2" Pathways collaboration with PUSD and Cal State LA – providing guaranteed seats in classes and guaranteed paths to graduation at PCC and at Cal State LA for high school students who satisfactorily complete math and English preparatory classes in high school -- as a start towards reducing the number of students who arrive at PCC under-prepared. Although he didn't directly voice support for the Dream Act, John does believe that a college education should be available to everyone. In terms of faculty and staff salaries, he wants them to be as competitive as possible, with a desire to make consistent and collaborative movement towards higher salaries over time.

**Chris Cofer** also started his college career at PCC, which he credits as giving him his start in life, then graduated from CSU Northridge and Baylor University, served in the U.S. Army, and is now a community college in-

structor. He wants the college to focus more resources on student instruction and quality faculty, getting the proper balance between full- and part-time faculty and supporting faculty regardless of their tenure status. Chris supports the Dream Act and its expansion so that public education remains inclusive rather than exclusive. He didn't seem particularly informed about facilities (U Building) issues but is very tuned into the needs of faculty in terms of compensation and would no doubt be a faculty advocate on the board.

The **Research Committee** felt that John Martin has been an outstanding trustee – fiscally conservative to the benefit of the college, but responsible about raising money through bonds when the need is warranted; a cheerleader for all that is positive about PCC; and an advocate for his community in trying to find solutions to their particular needs for better access to the campus and to classes. Chris Cofer is a worthy opponent who gave thoughtful answers to complex questions about the college; someone who would be a strong advocate for faculty and who could bring a fresh perspective and energy to the board. Although he has real potential as a future trustee, the majority felt that John Martin remained the stronger candidate.

**The Research Committee voted 4-1-0 to recommend endorsing John Martin.**  
**The Steering Committee voted 13-0-3 to recommend endorsing John Martin.**



## 2011 Steering Committee Calendar

ACT Steering Committee/ADC meetings are on the first Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday of the month - in rotation. (Socializing begins at 7 p.m.; the meeting follows at 7:30 p.m.)

Remaining 2011 meeting dates are:

Wednesday, October 5

Thursday, Nov. 3, and Tuesday, Dec. 6

## ACT ENDORSEMENT BALLOT

### For the November 8<sup>th</sup> Election



## Endorsement Ballot Instructions

The membership of ACT recognizes that ACT is a democratic organization dependent on the goodwill of its members. Towards this end, the following rules shall govern the election procedures for ACT endorsements. The purpose of these rules is to prevent the manipulation of the endorsement process, to safeguard the voting privileges of members, and to further the democratic principles and procedures of ACT.

**Who can vote?** Year 2011 and 2012 members who are 18 years of age or older can vote. Each member on your address label is entitled to one vote and only one vote (if there is one name on the label, you have one vote; two names, two votes. If a person casts more votes than authorized, those votes are voided.

**How do I vote?** Mark and return your ballot in the enclosed envelope with the label attached. Or, if you desire a secret ballot, you may enclose it in an additional unmarked envelope. Each completed ballot sent by mail shall be submitted in the ACT envelope. Each voting member must sign the outside of the ACT ballot envelope. If there is no enclosed envelope, please send the ballot in an envelope with your name and return address to: ACT, Attn: Endorsement Election Committee, P. O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074.

**Ballot rules -** No proxies or duplicated ballots may be used in voting in ACT endorsement elections. If your ballot is damaged, write "void" on it and send it along with a note indicating how you voted.



**Ballot Deadline** Ballots must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday, October 4. Further endorsement election information can be found in this *Phoenix*.

**Why do we vote?** ACT's endorsement can mean access to donor files, computer data, and such financial contributions as are voted by the Steering Committee.

**Endorsement Requirements**

1. A 60% majority of ballots cast is required to endorse a candidate or either the "Yes" or "No" side of a proposition. Abstentions will not be counted, i.e. only ballots cast in each race will be counted as part of the percentage.

2. No quorum is required.

**Example:** (family has 3 ACT members qualified to vote), Member #1 supports Candidate X; Member #2 supports Candidate Y; Member #3 decides to vote "No endorsement":

Vote for one	Voter: #1	#2	#3
Candidate X.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate Y.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No Endorsement.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



**Note:** Linda Wah, running to complete the unexpired term for PCC Area 5, is unopposed on the ballot; hence no endorsement is required.



**ACT Endorsement Ballot for the November 8<sup>th</sup> Election**

*Please see the preceding Research Committee report on page six.*

**PCC Area 2: Jeanette W. Mann vs. Brian M. Fuller**

The Research Committee voted 5-0-0 to recommend endorsing Jeanette Mann. The Steering Committee voted 16-0 -0 0 to recommend endorsing Jeanette Mann.

Vote for one	Voter: #1	#2	#3
Brian M. Fuller .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jeanette W. Mann .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No Endorsement.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No Recommendation .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**PCC Area 4: William Thomson vs. Martin A.C. Enriquez-Marquez**

The Research Committee voted 4-0-1 to recommend endorsing William Thomson. The Steering Committee voted 15-0-1 to recommend endorsing William Thomson.

Vote for one	Voter: #1	#2	#3
Martin Enriquez-Marquez ...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
William Thomson .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No Endorsement.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No Recommendation .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**PCC Area 6: John Martin vs. Chris Cofer**

The Research Committee voted 4-1-0 to recommend endorsing John Martin. The Steering Committee voted 13-0-3 to recommend endorsing John Martin.

Vote for one	Voter: #1	#2	#3
Chris Cofer.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Martin .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No Endorsement.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No Recommendation .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**End of ACT Endorsement Ballot**



**From  
Congressman  
Adam B. Schiff...**

WASHINGTON UPDATE  
September 2100



**Congress Addresses Brain Injury In  
Youth As Students Return To School**

WASHINGTON – Congressmen Leonard Lance (R-NJ), Howard Berman (D-CA), Elton Gallegly (R-CA), Buck McKeon (R-CA), **Adam Schiff** (D-CA), Joe Baca (D-CA) and Congresswoman Laura Richardson (D-CA) along with over 70 bi-partisan colleagues have co-sponsored The National Pediatric Acquired Brain Injury Plan Act (PABI Plan Act). The PABI Plan Act, also referred to as H.R. 2600, will fund a seven-year initiative to implement the National Pediatric Acquired Brain Injury Plan (PABI Plan) in all fifty states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The PABI Plan will develop a seamless, standardized, evidence-based system of care that is universally accessible for the millions of families who have a child or young adult suffering from the #1 leading cause of death and disability for American youth: brain injury. The PABI Plan was created by the International Advisory Board of the Sarah Jane Brain Foundation.

**“Young people battling a brain injury deserve the best, most comprehensive care available to address their unique health care needs as they navigate the recovery process,”** said Congressman Howard Berman. **“Implementation of the National Pediatric Acquired Brain Injury Plan Act is a critical component of this**

**commitment and I am proud to support this effort.”**

**“As the leading cause of death and disability among American youth, pediatric acquired brain injury is a major public health problem affecting millions of young people and their families,”** said Rep. Schiff. **“Those fortunate enough to survive brain injuries experience considerable cognitive, behavioral and communicative disabilities, and sometimes endure long-term medical complications. Implementation of the National Pediatric Acquired Brain Injury Plan Act will provide American youth with the quality of care they need as they travel the long and involved road to recovery.”**

**“These efforts are critical to focus on the problem of pediatric acquired brain injuries, and represent substantive positive steps towards addressing the number one cause of death and disability in young persons,”** said Chris Giza of the UCLA Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury/Sports Concussion Program. The UCLA Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury/Sports Concussion Program cares for young persons across the range of acquired brain injuries, from neurocritical care to sport-related concussion, from infancy to early adulthood. This program also includes community outreach, education and injury prevention. Furthermore, the UCLA Brain Injury Research Center has a strong research component working to decipher mechanisms of injury and plasticity, with the ultimate goal of maximizing recovery and delivering innovative treatments to these patients.

**“When a child suffers a brain injury, every American family is confronted with difficult decisions in terms of care, research and support. Systems of care are different from state to state, random from school district to school district and vary from one doctor’s office to another.**

**What is needed is a national clearing house of information and resources for children and young adults impacted by brain injuries and their families,”** said Congressman Lance.

Patrick Donohue, the founder of the Sarah Jane Brain Foundation and father of Sarah Jane Donohue (namesake of the foundation), said **“This is a historic day for the millions of American youth who suffer from the number one leading cause of death and disability, brain injury, as well as their families. This bill backed by Congressman Lance, Congressman Berman, Congressman Gallegly, Congressman McKeon, Congressman Schiff, Congressman Baca, Congresswoman Richardson and others would ensure families won’t have to reinvent the wheel when their child is impacted with a brain injury.”**

● H.R. 2600 would create a national network of 52 State Lead Centers of Excellence, one for every state plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, with the responsibility of implementing the PABI Plan based on their own state’s unique demographics, geography, laws, infrastructure, financing and causes of brain injuries without duplicating current practices. The legislation will cover the entire continuum of care from prevention, treatment in acute medical facilities, reintegration back into the schools, communities and homes and then transitioning into an adult system of greater independent living.

The legislation will also focus on individuals with a "mild" traumatic brain injury, which accounts for more than 80 percent of brain injuries each year, commonly referred to as concussions, as well as rural communities, which account for 25 percent of the population and have higher incidence rates of brain injuries. For example, the 52 State Lead Centers would help children suffering from sports-related in-

juries by providing additional information, resources and care. The PABI Plan covers all acquired brain injuries from birth through 25 years of age while the brain is still in its developmental stages, which includes more than half of the young veterans returning from war with a brain injury since the average age of a veteran with a brain injury is 19.

H.R. 2600 is the largest initiative in American history focusing on pediatric acquired brain injury, however, it was written so it does not create any new federal agency, it does not create any new federal positions and it does not increase the federal budget. It was also written so the federal commitment will sunset at the end of seven years.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, more than 765,000 American youth aged 25 and younger enter an emergency department every year with a new traumatic brain injury. More than 80,000 are hospitalized and over 11,000 die annually. For more information about the PABI Plan or the Sarah Jane Brain Foundation please visit [TheBrainProject.org/lettertosarahjane.php](http://TheBrainProject.org/lettertosarahjane.php).

*Congressman Adam Schiff represents the 29th Congressional District of California, including Alhambra, Altadena, Burbank, East Pasadena, East San Gabriel, Glendale, Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel, South Pasadena, and Temple City.*

*He can be reached at (626) 304-2727 or by Email at: [www.house.gov/schiff](mailto:www.house.gov/schiff).*



## From State Senator Carol Liu...

**End of Session Update  
September 2011**



**End of Session.** The first year of the 2011/2012 session ended September 9 (actually 2 a.m. September 10). As ends of session go, this one had very little drama. In addition to the usual flow of Senate and Assembly bills, some last minute measures reflecting the result of intense negotiations among leadership and stakeholders were unveiled and passed, several with bi-artisan support.

One measure provided for expedited judicial review of the Los Angeles football stadium and convention expansion Environmental Impact Report if it is challenged in court (SB 292). A companion bill provided this relief for mega-projects with economic benefit and advanced environmental design and mitigation (AB 900). Another bill represented a compromise with Amazon that delays collection of the California online tax until late 2012 (AB 155). In return, Amazon agrees to drop its effort to file a referendum to repeal the law.

Another tax measure did not fare as well. In spite of his commitment for support from two Assembly Republicans, The Governor's proposed adjustment to the corporate tax formula in exchange for giving manufacturers a sales tax exemption and offering enhanced job tax credits did not pass the Senate. Clearly Democrats will need to win enough seats to bring a 2/3 majority to both houses if we hope to enact real tax reform.

Several bills I authored this year have either already been signed or are sitting on the

Governor's desk. Bills now in law include:

- SB 62, provides for renters to be notified if the home in which they are living has been foreclosed. (Ch. 141)
- SB 406, extends penalties for assault on a public safety officer, nurse or attending physician to security officers and custody assistants. (Ch. 144)

Those sent to the Governor include:

- SB 309, provides for care of non-minor children with special needs in Child Day Care Facility
- SB 368, enables the court to appoint a responsible adult, when parents or guardians have been deemed unfit, to make educational decisions for a developmentally disabled child.

Several of my more complicated and controversial bills await further stakeholder discussion and negotiation in the second year of session. These include K-12 Education Governance Reform, Education Mandates Reform, and District and Teacher Effectiveness.

The Education Subcommittee on Education Policy Research, which I chair, will be holding hearings on Higher Education Policy Coordination and the Community College Student Success Task Force Draft Report this fall to set the stage for new legislation next year.

Finally, the California Redistricting Commission has completed its work. The seat we have known as the 21<sup>st</sup> District will now be Senate District 25, which extends all the way East to Upland across the San Bernardino County line. Pasadena, Glendale and Burbank remain the core and I represented some of the new cities when I was in the Assembly, but there will be lots of new people to meet and friends to make in Claremont, Glendora, La Verne, San Dimas and Upland! 2012 is shaping up to be an interesting and exciting election year.

**Senator Carol Liu, 21<sup>st</sup> District**

**From  
43th District  
Assemblymember  
Mike Gatto**



Greetings from  
Sacramento!

## A Legislative Recap

We Southern Californians have always known how important it is to be good stewards of our environment. We understand the value of clean air, open space, and a healthy water supply. I have worked hard to effect sensible environmental policies, with which we can protect our resources and ensure that Southern California remains a desirable place to live and work. Below is a legislative update on my efforts this past year:

**Energy from Roads?** This year, I authored AB 306, which would require California to study a new technology that can convert road vibrations from cars and trucks into electrical energy. The power, of course, can be stored and used to power lights, signs, call boxes, electric vehicles, and perhaps even homes within a few miles of the freeway!

**Removing Toxins from Baby Bottles.** I co-authored AB 1319, which would prohibit the sale of baby bottles, formula cans, and similar products that contain the endocrine-disrupting chemical Bisphenol-A. It is not right to expose the most vulnerable amongst us to such chemicals.

**Ending Shark Finning.** As a member of the Water, Parks, and Wildlife committee, I worked hard for the passage of AB 376, which seeks to eliminate the barbaric practice of shark finning, where fisherman remove the

fins from sharks, then toss them overboard to die. A bowl of “shark fin soup” is not worth ruining our ocean ecosystem or tolerating this cruel practice, and I was pleased to see so many schoolchildren in our district get involved in this cause.

**Exploring New Biofuels.** I authored AB 768, which would incentivize the use of biomethane produced in the United States. The California Air Resources Board has already adopted my proposals in their new regulations approved in June!

**Promoting Water Conservation.** I authored AB 849, which standardizes the laws that localities can apply to graywater systems. **These systems can** now recycle your shower water for use on your flowers.

**Streamlining the Permitting Process.** I authored AB 49, which **would** require the state and local governments to have one point of contact in each permitting office who can expedite permits, including environmentally related ones. **This way, new** projects would not languish. This is an important step toward stopping the annoying, inefficient current process, and putting Californians back to work.

I will work to continue our State’s leadership on environmental policies as your representative. Please consider my office a resource for anything related to our government, and a welcome place for any ideas you may have for helping our state. You can contact me anytime by calling (818) 558-3043 or by emailing [Assemblymember.Gatto@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Gatto@assembly.ca.gov).

*Mike Gatto is the Assistant Speaker Pro Tempore of the California State Assembly. He represents the cities of Burbank, Glendale, and parts of Los Angeles, including Los Feliz, North Hollywood, Silver Lake, Toluca Lake, Valley Glen, and Van Nuys. He has served in the Assembly since June 2010. Website of Assemblyman Mike Gatto: [www.asm.ca.gov/gatto](http://www.asm.ca.gov/gatto)*

SMART  
STATE  
WARRIORS



### Join us for a fundraiser

Help re-elect Jeanette Mann to the PCC Board of trustees

Sunday, September 25  
3:00 - 6:00 pm

Home of Gail & Robert Bardin  
1460 Park Place, San Marino

Valet Parking on Oak Grove

Single-ticket price: \$50  
Sponsorships available for \$1000, \$500 and \$250  
Payable at the door or mail checks to:  
Re-Elect Jeanette Mann to PCC Board 2011  
2195 E. Orange Grove Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91104



### Special Thanks to Sustaining Members

Joan & Jeff Palmer, Pasadena



### Legislative Redistricting - 2011



### Havoc in Cyberspace



### Hackers could conceivably cripple the

John Grula, Pasadena Weekly August 2011, reprinted with permission

Anyone who has ever received an email asking the reader to send money to a Nigerian bank account or confirm a password knows the Internet can be a hazardous place. But these threats are minor compared to what's now stalking cyberspace.

In the last few years, there has been a huge upsurge in hacker attacks on the Web sites of private businesses, government agencies, intelligence services, banks and other organizations. The Ponemon Institute, which, according to its Web site, "conducts independent research on privacy, data protection and information security policy," has recently estimated that nine out of 10 US companies have ex-

perienced an online attack in the last 12 months. In this year alone, according to Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, online security breaches have compromised the data of more than 22 million people. In addition, the federal government has seen attacks on its computers increase more than six-fold since 2006. The Internet has become a scary place.

Companies and governments are often unprepared for increasingly sophisticated cyber attacks. The giant New York banking company Citigroup was recently hit, and hackers stole data on more than 2 million credit card users, potentially exposing them to disastrous identity theft and fraud. Electronics firm Sony failed to encrypt account information for members of its PlayStation Network and, as a result, hackers recently made off with credit card information, phone numbers, passwords, email addresses and account histories for as many as 10 million people. Sony has estimated this breach will cost the company more than \$170 million from loss of revenue, increased spending on security upgrades and legal fees.

In the effort to bolster their cyber defenses, US businesses this year have so far spent approximately \$100 billion on cyber security, which is as much as was spent during all of 2010. Last month, a UCLA conference on cyber security was attended by 400 executives, doubling last year's attendance. The demand for security experts has also risen dramatically, but at this point it is running far ahead of the supply.

The trend toward "cloud computing," in which companies outsource computing tasks to firms that maintain huge amounts of data on large servers all over the world, is drastically increasing the possible scale of information thefts. This is because hacking a single cloud server can provide access to data from hundreds of companies stored on such a server — a process referred to as "hyperjacking." The alarming erosion of cyber security is also being driven by the ever-increasing legions of hackers. Some of these outlaws live in developing countries where unemployment is high and programming jobs are scarce. Furthermore, easily obtainable hacking software has automated the hacking process for novices and made it possible for many more people to wreak havoc in cyberspace.

More recently, concerns about the damage that can be caused by computer attacks has moved beyond infiltrated databases and crashed Web sites. Within

the last year, the so-called Stuxnet virus, the malicious software or "malware" that attacked Iran's nuclear program, has demonstrated just how vulnerable machinery can be to a well-designed electronic virus. This virus, which some experts believe was developed and deployed by Israel, targeted computers, controlling the speed of the centrifuges Iran uses to enrich uranium. How many of these centrifuges spun out of control and were damaged is not exactly known, but Stuxnet is clearly a game changer and demonstrates the potential for cyber attacks in disturbing new ways.

Every facet of modern power plants and the electricity grid, water and sewage treatments plants, oil and gas refineries and the heavily automated food-packaging industry is run by computers that use programmable logic controllers, the devices targeted by Stuxnet. This means key pieces of our physical infrastructure are dependent on computers that are vulnerable to malware like Stuxnet. In the July issue of *Scientific American*, the article "Hacking the lights out" describes a 2004 study that estimated an attack which incapacitated a mere 8 percent of our electricity transmission substations could bring down the entire grid and cause a nationwide blackout.

Stuxnet also demonstrates how humans have now gained the capacity for cyber-warfare. During his recent confirmation hearings, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta testified there is a "strong likelihood that the next Pearl Harbor [could be] a cyber-attack that cripples" US power grids and pipelines as well as financial and government systems. In his 2010 book, "Cyber War," former National Security Council adviser Richard A. Clarke describes how Israel may have used radio waves to transmit computer data packets that disrupted the Syrian air defense network during a 2007 bombing of a Syrian nuclear facility. Similarly, the US Navy's new EA-18 Growler Jets are also thought to have the ability to launch cyber-attacks by transmitting viruses into enemy computers from an altitude of several thousand feet.

Whether humans control technology or technology controls us is the subject of ongoing debate. Either way, we must take urgent action to protect our deteriorating cyber-security.

*John Grula, PhD, is affiliated with the Southern California Federation of Scientists.*



## Calendar

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Sept 25<br/>Sunday<br/>3-6 p.m.</p> | <p>Jeanette Mann Fundraiser at 1460 Park Place, San Marino. \$50 per person.</p>   | <p>Moore for info at 626-795-2201. We meet on 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays.</p>   |
| <p>Oct 5<br/>Wednesday<br/>7 p.m.</p>  | <p>ACT Steering Committee and ADC meeting at the home of Neal Wrightson, 1633 Mar Vista Ave., Pasa. Review of Sept 11 "planning ACT's future" meeting. Coffee at 7 p.m.; meeting at 7:30 p.m. All members welcome and urged to attend.</p> | <p>Oct 9<br/>Sunday<br/>2-4 p.m.</p> <p>UDH Oktoberfest! Fundraiser at Hillmont, NW corner Hill Ave. and Mountain St., Pasa. Join Democratic friends and elected officials as we prepare for 2012. Sponsorships \$1000, \$500, \$250 and \$125; or \$35.</p> |
| <p>Oct 7<br/>Friday<br/>8-9 a.m.</p>   | <p>Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group at Conrad's Restaurant, NW corner Lake &amp; Walnut, Pasa. Call Inman</p>   | <p>Oct 14<br/>Friday<br/>10 a.m.</p> <p>San Gabriel Valley Democratic Women's Club meeting at the Altadena Public Library, 600 E. Mariposa St., Alta. Assembly-person Anthony Portantino will speak.</p>   |
|  |  | <p>Oct 21<br/>Friday</p> <p>Friday Morning Discussion Group. (Details same as 10/7.)</p>   |
|  |  | <p>Nov 8<br/>Tuesday</p> <p>Local elections including PCC Districts 2, 4 and 6.</p>  |

## Endorsement Ballot Included



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