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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

ACT Forum Draws Over 100 Attendees

The Candidate Forum on January 27, sponsored by ACT, the Arroyo Democratic Club, the Senior Advocacy Council of Pasadena, AARP-California, and the Pasadena Senior Center drew over 100 attendees to hear PUSD and City Council candidates. We extend our thanks to the co-sponsoring organizations and all those who attended the forum.

Pasadena Community Network taped the forum and will be broadcasting it on Channel 32 (the Arroyo Channel on Charter Cable). We will circulate the broadcast schedule by e-mail as soon as it is available.

Thank you to all the candidates for Pasadena City Council and Pasadena Unified School District who attended our Forum. You made it lively and informative. (We know it's tough to attend all these forums and appreciate that you came to ours.)

Thanks also to our moderator, John Buchanan for another masterful job. (John is terrific every time.) Jon Fuhrman deserves our thanks, too, for all his work putting the event together. He also showed considerable decorating skill. (Who knew?)

Dr. Mark Rocha, Pasadena City College President, to Speak on Ways to Meet the Challenges Facing Public Higher Education in a Financial Crisis

Dr. Mark Rocha, President, Pasadena City College, will speak at the March Steering Committee meeting on ways to meet the challenges facing California's public colleges and universities in the state's current financial crisis. Taking to heart President Obama's admonition "that a crisis is a terrible thing to waste," Dr. Rocha has provided the leadership to meet these challenges by transforming PCC into a global college for the 21st century. One of the critical steps in this transformation is the development of partnerships with PUSD and other feeder high school districts. Such partnerships will assure students in the district access to the college's high quality



Continued on page two

academic and career/technical programs.

Dr. Rocha came to PCC with twenty years of experience in higher education as an administrator and a professor. He served as President of West Los Angeles College in the Los Angeles Community College District for four years and as Vice President of Academic Affairs at Mission College for five years. His career includes service as Associate Dean of Humanities at California State University, Northridge; Dean of Arts and Humanities at Humboldt State University and Provost at Seton Hall University. In 1993, Dr. Rocha was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship and taught for a year in Caracas, Venezuela. His scholarly work is in the field of American drama and theater.

The Steering Committee will meet on March 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Michael Gottlieb and Wendy Gordon, ACT Co-chair, at 1535 Ontario Avenue, Pasadena.



ACT & ADC Endorsement Ballot Results for the March 2011 Pasadena City Council and Pasadena Unified School District Election

| | ACT Votes / % | ADC Votes / % |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Pasadena City Council – Dist 1 | | |
| Jacque Robinson | 82 / 93 % | 63 / 95.4% |
| James Smith | 4 / 4.5% | 3 / 4.5% |
| No Endorsement | | |
| No Recommendation | 2 / 2.2% | |

Pasadena City Council – Dist 4

| | | |
|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| Chris Chahinian | 38 / 43.7 | 33 / 75% |
| Jill Fosselman | 42 / 48.3% | |
| Gene Masuda | 1 / 1.1% | |
| Ranil Perera | | |
| Allen Shay | 2 / 2.3% | 1 / 2% |
| No Endorsement | 4 / 4.6% | 10 / 23% |

Pasadena City Council – Dist 6

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Steve Madison | 82 / 91% | 56 / 96.5% |
| Carolyn Naber | 5 / 5.5% | |
| No Endorsement | 3 / 3.3% | 2 / 3.4% |
| No Recommendation | | |

PUSD – Seat 4

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Kim Kenne | 9 / 10.3% | 5 / 8.3% |
| Gene Stevenson | 60 / 69% | 44 / 73.3% |
| No Endorsement | 14 / 16% | 9 / 15% |
| No Recommendation | 4 / 4.5% | 2 / 3% |

PUSD – Seat 6

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|--|
| Sean Baggett | | |
| Gaylaird Christopher | 1 / 1% | |
| Tom Selinske | 98 / 99% | |
| No Endorsement | | |
| No Recommendation | | |

Candidates receiving more than 60% received the endorsement and are shown in Bold.

At the February 3 meeting the ACT Steering Committee voted to contribute \$500 each to the campaigns of Jacque Robinson and Steve Madison and \$1000 each to the campaigns of Gene Stevenson and Tom Selinske, recognizing that PUSD candidates have to reach voters in all of Pasadena, Altadena and Sierra Madre, while Pasadena City Council candidates have to reach only the voters in their own District.



Smarties

Congratulations to Steering Committee members **John McLean** and **Roberta Martinez**, who both have recently acquitted themselves very well on episodes of the *Jeopardy!* TV show (Some of the rest of us would have to have said, "I know that; it's what's-his-name" too often.)

Both John & Roberta serve on the Research Committee.

Steering Committee meeting schedule for 2011:

We have gone back to our old first Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday rotating system for our ACT/ADC Steering Committee meetings.

| | |
|---------|--------------------|
| March: | Tuesday, March 1 |
| April: | Wednesday, April 6 |
| May: | Thursday, May 5 |
| June: | Tuesday, June 7 |
| July: | Wednesday, July 6 |
| August: | Thursday, August 4 |
| Sept.: | Tuesday, Sept. 6 |
| Oct.: | Wednesday, Oct. 5 |
| Nov: | Thursday, Nov. 3 |
| Dec: | Tuesday, Dec. 6 |

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Get Well Wishes to Monica

We are happy to report that Steering Committee member **Monica Hubbard** is back at home recovering from unexpected surgery. Have a speedy trip getting back up to speed, Monica.

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Save the Date – May 29 – for our Jack Scott Event

We are delighted to announce that on Sunday, May 29 we will be hosting and roasting our favorite Educator/Legislator/Yellow Dog Democrat, **Jack Scott**, at a sure-to-be-fun ACT Fundraiser. We miss Jack and Lacreata since they've moved to Sacramento, so it will be great to get a chance to visit with them.

We will keep you posted on all the details. Mark your calendars now and be watching for your invitation in the mail.

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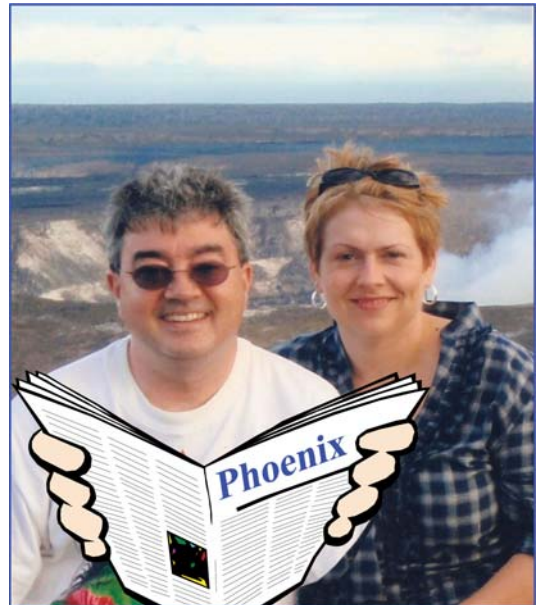
We Have the Perfect Gift

Give a friend or loved one a wonderful surprise – **an ACT gift membership!!** For the special price of just \$20, you can provide that certain someone with hours of political pleasure:

- Exciting programs and events!
- Energetic, engaged and politically savvy colleagues!
- A full year subscription to the *Phoenix-of-the-Month Club* – chock full of political news, views and prognostications!

Surprise someone today! Go to the ACT webpage <http://www.ACTPasadena.org> to sign up – or - send your \$20 check per recipient to ACT, PO Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074. Be sure to include the full name(s) and address(es) of the recipient(s) and the donor.

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Tim & Joanne Wendler enjoy their *Phoenix* at Kilauea Crater on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Monday, Feb. 7.

Gov. Brown's State of the State was a remarkable performance, carefully scripted yet leavened with disarming ad-libs -- rather like the Governor himself. Apparently, the Governor already has spent more time personally with legislators than Gov. Schwarzenegger did in his whole two terms. Brown is actively soliciting and listening to legislators -- and city and county leaders as well -- getting advice from all corners, but is still very much his own man when making final decisions. And Brown shows no hesitancy whatsoever in making the tough calls.

Further, he is continually finding ways to emphasize his basic frugality. From cutting cell phones to selling state vehicles, Brown is using political theater to convince voters that someone is finally serious about cutting back state spending. And while cuts like those, in fact, barely register on the overall state bal-

ance sheet, they are emblematic of the fat voters think still inhabits the state budget and state government culture.

So far, at least, Brown seems to be making good progress with the voters and the commentators, but not much progress with Republican legislators, who hold the key to putting his tax extensions on the ballot. Editorial writers and commentators strongly support the Governor's plan to mix serious cuts with tax extensions. Polling shows the public supports extending existing taxes, in order to avoid further devastating cuts to schools, by over a 65% margin -- an excellent starting point, particularly when the Governor needs only a majority vote.

But from Republican legislators, only a few vague hints of flexibility have emerged; if the Governor were to agree to a series of demands, most of which are unrealistic, then a few legislators might agree to vote to put the tax extensions on the ballot. Of course, he only needs two votes in each Legislative chamber.

The Governor spent much of his State of the State speech emphasizing how we ought to allow the voters to weigh in on this critical question -- extending tax increases versus further deep cuts, particularly in education. He tried to frame the question as being obligated to respect the voters' right to make the ultimate choice. But the Republicans weren't buying.

The one area he was mostly silent on was pension reform -- clearly the Governor's ultimate bargaining chip. It's a tough and complicated issue, an easy one for Republicans to demonize but difficult to explain simply. Further, estimates of huge future liabilities are probably overstated. The CALPERS and CALSTIRS pension funds (the first covering most state and local government workers, the second covering teachers) did lose a large amount of money as the market tanked, but they have

since regained most of that lost value. Further, the state liberalized pension terms earlier this decade only because the funds appeared to be substantially overfunded.

The essence of the pension argument is who should bear the risk of market performance. Our pension programs are "defined benefit" plans; that means we guarantee workers a certain payout during retirement. If there is too little money in the pension funds, then state and local governments must make up the shortfall on an annual basis. As the number of retired workers grows (and workers live longer), the financial health of the pension fund becomes critically dependent upon both the original assumptions which established how much money both employers and employees contributed during their working years, and the investment results of the funds. If the funds make less money in the market than anticipated, or if the market has a bad year or two, then state and local governments are on the hook to make the pension fund whole.

On the other hand, if the pension fund soars, then state and local governments get a break and contribute substantially less money than planned. That's exactly what happened in the first half of this decade -- state and local governments got a huge break because the pension funds were doing so well. Now, however, after some challenging years, they are loudly objecting to the need to up their contributions.

The alternative, which much of the private sector has adopted, is a "defined contribution" plan. Each year, the employer contributes a set amount of money, either as a match to employee contributions or independent of employee contributions, or a mixture of both. When the employee retires, there is a set pot

of money that the employee can draw upon during retirement. If the market has soared, the employee will have an unexpectedly comfortable retirement. But if the market tanked, the employee is looking at bread and water for the next thirty years.

This scenario is, in a way, more attractive to employers. They know exactly what their pension obligations will be, regardless of market performance, and can budget accordingly. All the risk is placed on the employee's shoulders. It avoids the burden of bad times, when pension costs for defined benefit plans can spike, but it also gives up the advantage of good times, when governments can save substantially. For governments, though, the problem is exacerbated because market swings are often correlated with economic swings -- if the market tanks and pension obligations go up under defined benefit plans, that's just the time that tax revenues are probably down because the economy is tanking along with the market, and thus the time when governments can least afford those extra costs. Conversely, if

the market is up, the economy is probably up and so would be tax revenues, so saving on pension costs is less critical at that time.

Further, employees are not guaranteed a specific pension amount, which critics can lambaste as excessive and unjust. Employees might in fact end up financially better off under a defined contribution system, but the details of individual payouts would be far more obscured than in a defined benefit system.

So most Republicans want the state to end its commitment to defined benefit plans and adopt a defined contribution system for new employees. The problem, of course, is that once benefit programs are started, they become vested property rights for public employ-



ees, so any change is slow to have an impact. Further, the real rub is not so much the system as the funding of that system and the rules that state when pension benefits can be drawn.

In the early years of this decade, the state liberalized some of the pension rules. For sworn officers -- police and fire -- the state and many localities allowed retirement at age 50 with 30 years service. Non-sworn employees could retire at 55. Additionally, the actual pension amounts were raised somewhat. The cost of those changes, particularly given longer life spans, increasing medical costs for seniors, and assuming investment gains closer to historic norms than to the experience in the late 1990's and early 2000's, was probably substantially underestimated (or glossed over).

Not every government adopted those liberalized rules. Los Angeles County, for example, hung tough and refused to allow early retirements or to adjust pension calculations. As a result, the County retirement fund is substantially better off now than CALPERS and CALSTIRS. Yet the market crash of 2008 & 2009 also hit the County fund, so they haven't escaped unscathed.

If the state and local governments could walk back those pension rule changes, it would considerably ease the impact on local and state governments. But that can be done only through collective bargaining (or bankruptcy court). Hence, most of the political focus is on changing the system from defined benefits to defined contributions for prospective employees.

Whatever the details, though, pension reform is sure to be a key hole card in the Governor's strategy to get his tax extensions on the ballot. Time is short, however. The Legislature has been told that they need to act by the second week in March to put measures on a special statewide June ballot. That's barely a month

away. So look for increasingly intense backroom negotiations, both between the Governor and Legislative leaders on the budget, and between the Governor and individual Republican legislators as Gov. Brown searches for two votes in each chamber.

Here at home, City Council and School Board elections are in full swing. The marquee race appears to be the City Council District 6 election. Already Carolyn Naber has mailed five or six campaign pieces, mostly attacking incumbent Councilman Steve Madison. The tenor of Naber's mail has been startlingly negative, and it may have generated somewhat of a backlash. But without a doubt, there is more to come. As of January 22, when the most recent campaign finance reporting period ended, Nader reported raising over \$60,000, spending about \$26,000, with cash on hand in excess of \$33,000. Of her itemized contributions, almost 60% came from within the district. A significant amount -- probably over \$16,000 -- came from family members or personal friends from out of the area. Additionally, a USC professor contributed \$5,000, and the management firm for 1 Colorado contributed \$3,000.

Madison started with a \$10,000 balance in his campaign account, and has since raised nearly \$55,000, lent his campaign an additional \$20,000, and has spent about \$25,000, leaving him with a cash balance, as of January 22, of over \$50,000. About 52% of his itemized contributions come from within the district. Aside from his personal loan, the only large contributions come from the Firefighters Union (\$5,000) and two contributions of \$2,500 each from business colleagues.

With seven weeks to go since the last financial reporting date, both campaigns are likely to crack the \$100,000 mark -- which would be a record for district elections in Pasadena. So there's no doubt that Dist. 6 residents will be looking at lots of additional mail, phone and

personal contacts.

Interestingly, Naber has so far avoided every campaign forum, preferring apparently to work the phones within her district. Typically, this strategy would lead to significant media criticism, but that hasn't happened yet.

It may be that Naber's campaign assumes they need first to "go negative" to tear down a well-funded, three-term incumbent before they can make their case for Carolyn, followed by more attack mail while ending the campaign on a positive note. Whether that strategy will fly in that staid "old Pasadena" district is an interesting question. My sense is that Naber's attacks are resonating only with the already convinced, while a majority of the district seems well satisfied with Madison's representation over the years. Much will depend upon turnout -- it's entirely possible that Tea Party activists and those passionately opposed to additional development will vote in higher numbers than voters relatively satisfied with current city government, but each side will be focusing huge efforts on getting out their identified voters. My guess -- Madison by 60%.

In District 4, the situation is far more muddied. Already, three candidates have come by my house, personally walking precincts. A couple of pieces of campaign mail have arrived, but they are positive pieces that don't even mention any of their opponents.

Financially, the campaigns here are rather more restrained than in District 6. Gene Masuda has raised no funds as of January 22; rather, he is using funds left over from his 2007 campaign. He started with a \$31,000 balance, and ended the period with a balance of just over \$16,000. Jill Fosselman has raised a bit under \$20,000, and ended the period with about \$8,000 in the bank. Chris Chahinian shows the largest balance, with \$35,000 on hand; however, he raised only \$15,000 and

lent his campaign \$36,000. Interestingly, though, over 50% of Chahinian's donors were within District 4, while only 20% of Fosselman's donors were in-district. Neither Allan Shay nor Ranil Perera reported raising or spending a significant amount of money.

The conventional wisdom here is that Masuda and Fosselman will split the Republican votes in this district, with Fosselman winning some Democratic support, particularly among women voters. The fascinating question is whether Chahinian can mobilize Armenian voters, who traditionally don't vote in significant numbers in local elections, and simultaneously hold on to Democrats. In all likelihood, this race heads to a run-off, but picking the two candidates who will survive is a tough call. My guess: Fosselman and Chahinian go to the run-off, with Fosselman in the lead.

In District 1, the competition seems quite lopsided. Incumbent Councilmember Jacque Robinson has raised over \$33,000, and has a \$22,000 as of Jan. 22. She received significant contributions -- \$5,000 each -- from the Firefighters and SEIU Local 721. In comparison, her opponent, James Smith, has raised a total of \$6,400, of which \$5,000 came from one individual donor. As of Jan. 22, Smith had less than \$1,000 left, which suggests he won't be able to mount much of a campaign. My guess: Robinson by 75%.

Curiously, the School Board races, which cover the entire School District, as opposed to one small Council District, seem to have much smaller budgets. In the Seat 6 race, Gaylaid Christopher donated \$1,000 to his own campaign; Sean Baggett raised enough money to pay for his filing fee and ballot statement, but essentially no funds beyond that. Neither candidate seems to be equipped to run a district-wide campaign. Incumbent Tom Selinske has only just begun fundraising, raising \$1,000 in donations and \$5,000 in loans. In the Seat 4

race, Gene Stevenson has loaned his own campaign about \$5,000; Kim Kenne contributed \$2,000 to her campaign and loaned it another \$10,000. Neither received any significant contributions from other donors.

What explains the relative lack of fundraising in PUSD races, which should be substantially more expensive than City Council races because they reach 110,000 voters, instead of the 9,000 - 12,000 voters in each Council district? Is it the character of the candidates, the passions generated by the issues at hand, the commitment of the candidates? Hard to tell. It is clear that at least some PUSD candidates are actively raising funds for their campaigns, and intend to reach voters district-wide. Or perhaps the size of the district simply makes campaigning a bit more intimidating. Whatever the reason, this year at least, the real action seems to be among the City Council races.

My guesses on the PUSD races: In Seat 6, my guess is that incumbency pulls Tom Selinske comfortably to victory, with a 55% margin in the primary. In Seat 4, it's anyone's guess -- neither candidate has a significant advantage, so the race could go either way.

-- Jon Fuhrman



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

From Congressman Adam B. Schiff...



WASHINGTON UPDATE

- **President Delivers
State of the Union speech**

During the President's [State of the Union speech](#) last month, Rep. Schiff crossed the political aisle to sit next to Rep. Judy Biggert (R-IL), his co-chair on the Caucus for the Judiciary. Rep. Schiff felt that the President's speech was very positive, and set out a vision for how America will compete and win in an era of heightened global competition. Schiff was particularly moved by the President calling this our "Sputnik" moment, and urging the nation forward to meet this generation's challenge. Following the speech, Schiff pledged to continue doing his part to ensure the efforts to work in a more bipartisan way go beyond seating arrangements.

- **Schiff Condemns Escalation of Violence in Egypt, Intimidation and Attacks on Protesters and Journalists**

Schiff was deeply distressed to see the peaceful protest of Egyptian citizens demanding a better life turn into a bloody melee, as organized goon squads -- some allegedly paid, others plain clothes police officers -- attacked the demonstrators. Rep. Schiff believes that Mubarak's willingness to mobilize and tolerate such an attack on his own people has only further delegitimized his government. Recently, Rep. Schiff called on Mubarak to heed the call of the Egyptian people by leaving office and giv-

ing way to a transitional government that will put one of the world's great civilizations on a new path toward democracy and respect for human dignity, and restore Egypt to its rightful place as leader of the Arab world.

On Monday, Jan. 31, Rep. Schiff joined Chris Jansing on MSNBC's Jansing & Co. to discuss the situation in Egypt. On Saturday, Feb. 5, Schiff appeared on Fox News with Neil Cavuto to continue discussing the issue. To watch the clips, visit Rep. Schiff's YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/AdamSchiff.

● **Schiff Commends the LAPD for Clearing its Backlog of Untested Offender DNA Evidence**

Rep. Schiff was very pleased with the news that the LAPD has finally cleared its years-old backlog of untested offender DNA evidence. The testing of these kits has resulted in numerous arrests that could have taken place years earlier; we may never know how many additional victims might have been spared if the kits had been promptly tested. Rep. Schiff has been among those pushing to speed up the processing of offender samples for years and helped obtain some of the funding needed to eliminate the backlog.

He remains committed to ensuring that our local police departments have the resources needed to avoid any backlog in the future, and believes this is a strong step forward in public safety that greatly enhances our ability to take dangerous people off the street.

● **Nominate an Outstanding Woman for a Congressional Award**

Every March, during Women's History Month, Rep. Schiff honors one outstanding woman from each of the communities (Alhambra, Altadena, Burbank, Glendale, Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel, South Pasadena, and Temple City) in the 29th Congressional Dis-

trict. These women come from all walks of life and represent the thousands of women who make a positive impact in our region. While there are no specific criteria for nomination, Rep. Schiff looks for women who — through their work or volunteerism — have improved the quality of life in our community. If you would like to nominate someone you know and admire, please send the following before Tuesday, Feb. 15 to ann.peifer@mail.house.gov:

- A written description of your nominee's accomplishments
- The city in which she resides
- An address and telephone number where she can be reached

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I look forward to providing you with another Congressional update in ACT's next Phoenix Newsletter. Until then, please find more useful information on constituent services and recent news by visiting my Web site:

www.schiff.house.gov. To sign up for my weekly Washington Update e-newsletter, please visit:

<http://schiff.congressnewsletter.net/mail>. I would also love for you to add me as a friend on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/CongressmanSchiff; and follow me on Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/RepAdamSchiff>.

As always, please reach out to my office to tell us your thoughts or let us know if there is any way we can be helpful to you: (626) 304-2727 or (202) 225-4176.

Sincerely yours,

Congressman Adam B. Schiff

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.

**From
44th District
Assemblymember
Anthony
Portantino**



Greetings from
Sacramento!

Like many Americans, President Obama's State of the Union Address inspired me. I have been struck by the President's focus on higher education. I can't recall any other President who has singled out the importance of community colleges. This is particularly true in California where community colleges play such a significant role in providing so many young people with the benefits of an affordable post-secondary education, as well as a tremendous amount of retraining for folks changing careers in a changing economy. This year, I will renew my efforts to streamline the financial aid process so that needy California students don't continue to miss out on Federal financial aid. Both our students and the economy will benefit from better participation in Federal financial aid opportunities.

I am very pleased to have been appointed to the California Film Commission. As many of you know, before I became involved in state and local politics I worked in the entertainment industry as an Art Director, Location Manager and Producer. So, I am very excited to serve on the Film Commission. Film, TV and commercial production are vital to the California economy and I am grateful for this opportunity to help out.

Recently, at the request of law enforcement groups, I introduced a sensible gun bill that would ban what is known as the "open carry" of unloaded handguns in public places. As you can imagine, this legislation is getting a lot of

attention. Both the Police Chiefs and rank-and-file officers asked me to carry this bill after seeing a rise in public displays by gun enthusiasts.

As the law stands now, it is perfectly legal in California to walk down a grocery aisle or sit in a public park with a gun on one hip and an ammunition clip on the other. I think reasonable Californians agree - there's a proper place for firearms and having a proliferation of them strapped to hips is something that belongs in a Western movie, not Main Street, California.

Some folks are using the open carry issue as a political statement. In the wake of the Arizona shooting, the last thing we need injected into politics are guns.

As members of ACT you are certainly interested in politics, so you or someone you know may be interested in the Assembly Fellows program. It's a great opportunity to take part in public service and State Government. You need a Bachelor's degree and must be willing to move to Sacramento for 10 - 11 months of paid internship. Graduate students and mid-career applicants are welcome. Last year, my Assembly Fellow went on to be named Student Regent for the University of California. Application deadline is February 23. For more information, call my office or go to: www.csus.edu/calst/programs.

I turned 50 recently - thank goodness 50 is the new 30! Although that's what everyone says, I don't feel 30. Thank you for all your birthday greetings and warm wishes. Ellen is putting up with me, as I am trying to exploit the landmark birthday event for as long as I can get away with it.

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

From State Senator Carol Liu...



February Update

● Budget, Legislation, and Committee Assignments.

Senate Budget Subcommittee hearings are continuing non-stop in February with full committee consideration beginning in late February and early March. Early actions on the budget will focus on the Governor's proposed \$12.5 million in cuts. The Legislature will also be taking action to put a measure on the June ballot that will continue the current sales tax and VLF increases enacted two years ago for another five years. If that measure fails, we will be back looking at more cuts to fill the remaining \$12 billion plus budget gap. Meanwhile, the Governor is keeping up a steady conversation with Democrats, Republicans, and the stakeholders impacted by his proposed budget cuts.

I believe that there may be ways to avoid program-by-program cuts in human services by combining programs to deliver services to their target populations more efficiently. I've initiated roundtable discussions with the childcare community and with the adult day care community to explore some alternatives. This approach may also work in other areas where multiple programs provide overlapping services to the same population.

If you would like to try your hand at balancing the state budget, [The Sacramento Bee](#) has created an interactive budget exercise that you can find at:

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/02/04/3377894/erase-californias-budget-deficit.html>.

You can track the Senate's state budget activity at

<http://www.senate.ca.gov/ftp/SEN/COMMITTEE/STANDING/BFR/home/>

While we deliberate over the budget, the Legislature is also busy introducing bills. I have re-introduced bills I authored last year to reform K-12 education governance (SB204) and establish a state higher education fee policy for the CSU and UC (SB181). This year I am also authoring bills to reform the mandates process, which is cumbersome and time consuming for our public schools and only produces pennies on the dollar in reimbursements (SB64, SB112, and SB113). Another bill, SB 103, encourages all state departments and agencies to conduct more meetings via the Internet to save travel time, money, and air emissions. My SB21 will assist senior citizens and others who are injured or disabled but want to return to their homes rather than stay in costly nursing homes or care centers. The deadline for introducing legislation is February 18th and I will be introducing a few more measures before then.

Senate Committee assignments were announced in late January and mine are as follows:

Human Services Committee, Chair
Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
 Subcommittee No.1 on Education, Chair
Education Committee
 Subcommittee on Early Learning, Chair
Governance and Finance
Banking and Financial Institutions
Public Safety

Senator Carol Liu represents nearly 850,000 people of the 21st District, which includes Altadena, Burbank, Glendale, Pasadena, La Cañada Flintridge, San Gabriel, Temple City, several City of Los Angeles communities and portions of cities and communities stretching West to Reseda. Visit www.senate.ca.gov/LIU.

From 43th District Assemblymember Mike Gatto

Mike's Committee Workload

With a new year upon us, I remain honored to represent you in our state's capitol, and mindful of the great task before us to repair our state's finances.

In 2011, I will continue in my efforts to reform our government institutions, to repair our struggling economy, and to be a vigilant guardian over our state coffers.

My new position in the Assembly and my committee assignments put me in a position to do so. Recently, I was named the Assistant Speaker Pro Tempore of the Assembly. The Assistant Speaker Pro Tempore presides over meetings of the Assembly when the Speaker Pro Tempore cannot, and helps shape Assembly policy.

I have also taken a strong workload of committee assignments, with which I believe I can help the people of the 43rd District and the state of California. Those committee assignments are:

- **Appropriations Committee:** This committee supervises expenditures of public funds.
- **Arts, Entertainment, Tourism, Sports, and Internet Media Committee:** It is my wish to use this committee to do everything possible to strengthen the entertainment industry, and other industries vital to the Southland economy.
- **Banking and Finance Committee:** This committee considers laws governing finan-



cial institutions, including real property finance. It is my hope to use this committee to help shape policies that will revive our struggling real-estate market.

- **Governmental Organization:** This committee oversees public records, open-meeting laws, natural disasters, and tobacco and alcohol regulations.
- **Water, Parks, and Wildlife:** This committee regulates our water supply, our parks system, and wildlife throughout the state. As a longtime Silverlaker, and big fan of Griffith Park, these policies mean a great deal to me.

I am ready to get to work, and optimistic that we can start to solve the challenges facing our state. As always, please feel free to send me your thoughts and ideas on any issue important to you. You can e-mail me at:

assemblymember.gatto@assembly.ca.gov.

Assemblyman Gatto represents all or parts of Silver Lake, Franklin Hills, Los Feliz, Atwater Village, Glendale, Burbank, North Hollywood, Valley Village, and Van Nuys in the California State Assembly.



March Phoenix Deadline

The deadline for the March *Phoenix* is Sunday, March 6. Please send items to Chuck Hains at Hains27@SBCGlobal.net. We will prep *The Phoenix* for mailing on Thursday, March 10 at 7 p.m. at Chuck's house, 1391 La Solana, Altadena. (Volunteer mailers please verify time with Ellen Coles, 626-798-2024.)



ACT & ADC Members: 2011 Dues Are Now Due

Yes! 2011 ACT and Arroyo Democratic Club dues are due! Technology makes renewing your ACT and/or ADC memberships very easy. Just go to ACTPasadena.org and follow the steps.

Of course you can use the membership renewal coupon printed here and mail it in with your check, if you choose. Either way, know that ACT and ADC need and appreciate your continued membership and involvement.



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

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

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

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

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

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

Extra Contribution

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

 Name

Home Phone

 Address

Office Phone

 City

ZIP

 Email address

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

Feb Mar

Calendar

- February 18 Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group at Conrad's Restaurant, NW corner Lake & Walnut, Pasa. Call Inman Moore for info at 626-795-2201. We meet on 1st & 3rd Fridays.
- March 1 Tuesday 7 p.m. ACT Steering Committee and ADC meeting at the home of Wendy Gordon and Michael Gottlieb, 1535 Ontario Avenue, Pasadena. Guest Speaker Dr. Mark Rocha, PCC President. All members are welcome and urged to attend. Coffee at 7 pm; meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

- March 4 Friday Friday Morning Discussion Group. (Details same as 2/18.)
- March 6 Sunday 4-6 p.m. League of Women Voters Pasadena Area 75th Anniversary Celebration, CalTech Athenaeum, 551 S. Hill Avenue, Pasa. Tickets \$75. Information at: www.lwvpasadena.org/celebrate
- March 8 Tuesday Local Elections. Polls open 7 am to 8 pm.

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