

ACT Endorsement Ballot

ACT's Research Committee has completed its interviews of local candidates; their write-up starts on page **five**. Your Endorsement Ballot is on page **ten**, with recommendations from both the Research and Steering Committees. Don't forget to vote -- the deadline for receiving ballots is Wednesday, April 4th

This year, the Research Committee asked each candidate to complete a short pre-interview questionnaire (the five questions were in the February *Phoenix* lead article). Only those candidates who returned the questionnaire were interviewed. All questionnaires will be posted on ACT's Web site.

Get Well Soon

We send heartfelt wishes for a speedy recovery to former ACT Demographics Chair **John Hunnewell** who is experiencing some health issues and underwent surgery on March 16th. John, we hope you are back home and 100% very soon.



Please Send In Your Current Email Address

We are collecting current Email addresses for all ACT and ADC members. Please send in yours to Jon at jon fuhrman@charter.net.



New Time for Friday Morning Discussion Group

The Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group meets on first and third Fridays at Conrad's Restaurant, NW corner Lake Avenue and Walnut Street, Pasadena, now at a <u>new time: 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.</u>

Everyone is welcome. You may order breakfast, coffee, etc. or not. Call Inman Moore for information at 626-795-2201.



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Wonderings and Wanderings

By Inman Moore



Rush Limbaugh recently put both his feet in his mouth by calling a respectable young woman a prostitute and a slut. It is not the first time Rush has denigrated women. His favorite term for women leaders is "Feminazis." Anyway, I want to thank Rush for reminding me of certain facts.

My mother was a woman. My grandmother was a woman. My great grandmother was a woman. My great-great grandmother was a woman. I suspect that your mother was or is a woman. Indeed women make up more than half the population of the world. It used to be in America that outside of the home a woman should be seen but not heard. The only exceptions were teaching and nursing. But they were not allowed to preach, or to be lawyers. doctors, engineers, scientists, businesspersons, or politicians. So, women could make and wash our clothes, cook our food, give birth to and raise our babies, but they could have no say about politics, science, theology, and economics.

Today, women are everywhere: business, lawyers, science, politics, theology, engineers, doctors, butchers, bakers, and candlestick makers. It is taking us men some time to adjust. Rush Limbaugh, for example, is having a terrible time with that adjustment. Some man, no doubt defeated on the field of love, penned these words.

"God made the world and rested then.
God made man and rested again.
God made woman at man's expense
And neither God nor man has rested since."

This emergence of women onto an equal playing field has not been easy. Phyllis Read

and Bernard L. Witlieb, in *The Book of Wo-men's Firsts*, wrote "It is difficult to imagine or to underestimate the price many of these women paid in the currency of loneliness, self-doubt, ridicule, and insult. They were often considered to be in flagrant violation of the laws, written and unwritten, of God and man. Many were jailed for their beliefs and activities. They were seen to be violating the natural order, the way "everyone" knew things were supposed to be. They persevered against odds that should have been overwhelming—and they triumphed."

March is Women's History Month. Hurrah for women! I love them!! Long may they live and prosper!!!

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Upcoming San Gabriel Valley Democratic Women's Club Meetings

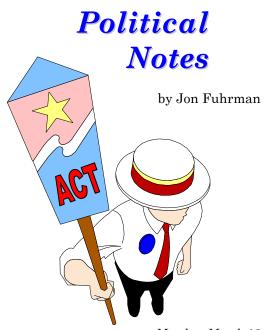
State Senator Carol Liu will discuss her reelection campaign at the San Gabriel Valley Democratic Women's Club meeting on Friday, April 13, 10 a.m. at the Community Room of the Altadena Public Library, 600 E. Mariposa Street, Altadena. Everyone is welcome and urged to attend. (Men, too!)

The SGVDW's Club meets on the second Friday of each month, September through June, usually at the Altadena Public Library at 10 a.m. An informative speaker or program follows a brief business meeting.

At the May 11 meeting, **Congresswoman Judy Chu** will provide a re-election update. The June 8 meeting will feature a post-primary election results summary courtesy of campaign consultant **Fred Register**.



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Monday, March 12.

Tomorrow Alabama and Mississippi make their primary choices. Will Santorum sweep the South, throwing the race further into the air? Will Gingrich resurrect his campaign with at least one win? Or can Romney add conviction to his claim of mathematical inevitability?

Whatever happens, it seems Romney still can't quite close the deal. Every primary he's won has been with a distinct minority of the party vote (except in Virginia, where only Ron Paul was on the ballot, or his base in Massachusetts and neighboring Vermont, where even the Republicans are relatively liberal). Further, turnout has been consistently modest. In Virginia, the turnout was less than 6%; even with just Romney and Paul on the ballot, that simply doesn't communicate enthusiasm or commitment. The latest polls show a virtual

tie between Romney, Santorum and Gingrich in the two deep-South states. If Romney can win at least one of those states, he may finally establish himself as the inevitable candidate. If not, however, things might start sliding downhill surprisingly quickly.

Curiously, Romney may be running low on cash. His campaign clearly had not anticipated such intense hand-to-hand combat in every single early primary and caucus. His campaign had raised \$18 million in the three months ending last July; then \$14 million in the third quarter; and then another \$24 million in the last quarter, leaving him with a cash balance of nearly \$20 million (even after all the spending on ads in Iowa in anticipation of their caucuses).

In January, he raised another \$6.5 million, but spent nearly \$19 million. That drew down his cash balance to under \$8 million. And while he had to advertise in the expensive Florida media markets in January, February just continued the cash drain with intense battles in Colorado, Missouri and Minnesota, and then Arizona and Michigan and then preparing for the March Super Tuesday vote. Indications are that the Romney campaign is now running on fumes. Without at least one win tomorrow, it makes it tougher to attract new money and increases the expenditures needed to stay competitive in Illinois and Louisiana this month and in the major mid-Atlantic states in April.

Overwhelmingly, Romney's money has come from major donors. Of the funds raised so far, 89% fall in the "itemized contribution" category -- donors who gave at least \$200 and, more typically, closer to the maximum of \$2,500 per person per election. In contrast, Santorum has received more in "non-itemized contributions" -- those under \$200 from any single source -- than in "itemized" contributions. Those donors can give more and can do

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so frequently.

Romney does hold a commanding lead in actual (or estimated) delegates won. Nonetheless, winning the nomination with a consistent 40% of a minority party does not bode well for success in November. My guess, though, is that Romney will not win either Louisiana or Mississippi, setting the GOP up for a really wild ride to August's convention.

In California, we're still sorting out the ramifications of redistricting while simultaneously trying to make sense of the state's fiscal condition. Even at this late date, candidates are dropping in or out of new districts. Even the

Secretary of State is struggling to determine who is an incumbent in which district, and whether the filing period expired last Friday or, if an eligible incumbent fails to file, continues through this Wednesday.

Pundits are just now starting to gauge how the Republican Presidential primary, and our new "top two regardless of party" primary system, may interact in June. With Romney looking at a

long slog, it is quite possible that California's primary, usually an afterthought, may in fact determine the Republican nominee. California Reps adopted the CD-winner take all rule: whoever wins each Congressional District wins all that district's delegates. If one candidate swept the state, even narrowly, that person could win over 150 delegates, perhaps enough to put him over the top.

While Romney may have the better organization, more endorsers and more money, Santorum may have the true loyalists. This sort of situation is tailor made for a group like the California Republican Assembly, the most conservative of the Republican state-wide grass-roots organizations. Those sorts of

stakes could very well lead to exceptionally high turnout among Republicans; in contrast, on the Democratic side, there is really nothing very exciting at all, which could mean a dismally low turnout. That disproportion could play havoc in potentially swing districts where two Republicans, even though they split the strong Rep turnout, might both still outpoll a Democrat, thereby locking the Democrat off the November ballot.

The state's fiscal condition seems equally enigmatic. The February revenue numbers came in \$99 million short of expectations, which would seem like another blow to the Gover-

nor's budgetary plans. In fact, however, it wasn't such bad news; tax refunds were \$250 million higher than expected, which means that the regular, monthly income tax withholding was actually \$150 million higher than the budget called for. The tax refunds are a one-time issue, but the steady monthly withholdings go on and on and on. That tracks with the solid jobs numbers we've been seeing on the national scene and the drop in

state unemployment numbers. Further, the state spent \$1.7 billion less than anticipated so far this year, reflecting the unrelenting budget cutting of the last few years. Together, there may be some sliver of hope that the Governor's May revise might not be quite as severe as feared. Nothing else much is going the Governor's way, so let's hope that he, and we, all catch a break on this spring's revenues.

-- Jon Fuhrman



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Research Committee & Steering Committee Endorsement Votes

The Co-Chairs of the Research Committee would like to thank the following volunteers for their work on preparation, report writing and attendance at the meetings on February 25 and March 10, 2012. They are: Ralph Hurtado (Co-chair), John McLean (Co-Chair), Brian Walsh (Co-Chair), George Van Alstine (Co-Chair), Roberta Martinez (Co-Chair), Susan Kane (Co-Chair, unable to attend, but organized Congressional Candidates) Kathy Rodarte, Marguerite Cooper, Jacqui Corby-Jones, Dolores Hickambottom, Beth Gertmenian (provided meeting location), Kevin Sea, Bruce Wright, Jon Fuhrman, and Marilee Marshall.

As previously reported in the *Phoenix*, the Committee process this time included a pre interview questionnaire that was to be returned before scheduling of the appointment. These questions appeared in the February *Phoenix* and they will be posted along with the candidates' answers on the ACT web site.

One important suggestion for future endorsement efforts is that the invitations to participate be sent after the closing of filing. This year we did our outreach before that date and it caused some concern among Committee Members and candidates. We also recommend that the Steering Committee review our endorsement process and see if it can be shortened, either by the use of electronic voting or by altering the meeting scheduling. Just for clarification, all candidates that filed by our meeting date were invited to participate and fill out a questionnaire. All people submitting a questionnaire were interviewed. Following are the Reports for the Assembly. State Senate and two Congressional Districts in our membership area.

Both the Research Committee and the Steer-

ing Committee also made recommendations for President and U.S. Senate Primaries. The vote to recommend endorsement of President Barack Obama was 12-0-0 from the Research Committee and 20-0-0 from the Steering Committee. For the U.S. Senate, the Research Committee voted 10-1-1 and the Steering Committee voted 16-2-0 to recommend endorsement of Dianne Feinstein.

27th Congressional District

The 27th Congressional District has been redrawn to include much of the Pasadena area, formerly represented by Rep. Adam Schiff. The incumbent, Rep. Judy Chu, previously represented a district more to the south and east of the 27th's future boundaries. Rep. Chu has been a member of Congress since winning a special election in 2009 to replace Hilda Solis upon her nomination to be Secretary of Labor in the Obama Administration. Her two opponents are Bob Duran (R) and Jack Orswell (R); neither responded to ACT's invitation.

Rep. Chu has touted her membership on the House Education and Judiciary committees and her position as Vice-chair of the Progressive Caucus (which is the largest in the Congress). During her brief tenure in the House of Representatives, Rep. Chu cites her efforts to beat back the anti-teacher sentiment in the Department of Education, helping reform Pell Grants—and saving \$70 billion—by shifting them from the banks back into the government, and serving as whip to ensure the Dream Act's passage in the House (though it died in the Senate).

The three main issues for Rep. Chu remain education, jobs and comprehensive immigration reform. For education, Rep. Chu seeks research-based solutions that incorporate a framework that includes collaboration at the school of all interested parties, wrap-around community services, designating savings from

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war drawdowns towards education and teacher training. With Immigration, Rep. Chu wants to continue fighting for a comprehensive solution that was previously elusive. "We are not going to deport 14 million people," said the Congresswoman, noting that we should not have this shadow existence that exploits people. Chu said that she is open to a solution that allows people to apply for citizenship. On the jobs front, Rep. Chu seeks a fair tax system as being an important objective, and to that point, helping with the re-election of President Obama (she is one of 38 campaign co-chairs). Rep. Chu looks forward to the expiration of the tax credits and will support President Obama's plan.

In the international arena, Rep. Chu does not see the United States' ability to provide military help, but could provide assistance to achieve civil society. Military intervention also does not seem sensible. There is a wariness on the impact Europe's sovereign debt crisis has on the United States, but Rep. Chu does not see the United States getting too involved.

Rep. Chu was a co-sponsor of the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) and was disappointed to see its defeat. The Congresswoman strongly supports the workers of the entertainment industry, which seemed to be her main driver in supporting the ill-fated legislation and has indicated that she and the other supporters will make another attempt at this bill in the future

Recommendation: The Research Committee voted 13-0-0 and the Steering Committee voted 21-0-0 to recommend endorsement of Judy Chu.

28th Congressional District

The 28th Congressional District has been redrawn to move a few miles to the west, so much less of Pasadena is within its borders than in the old 27th. Adam Schiff (D) has been its representative

since 2001. Other candidates for this office include three Democrats (Jonathan Kalbfeld, Sal Genovese and Massie Munroe) and three Republicans (Phil Jennerjahn, Garen Mailyan and Jenny Worman). Only Sal Genovese and Phil Jennerjahn have formed "Contributor Recipient Committees." None of the seven challengers seems to have significant name recognition or history in elective office. Only two of the challengers responded to ACT's questionnaire and both were interviewed.

Adam Schiff

Adam Schiff is running for his 7th term in Congress. His major committee assignment is the "Committee on Appropriations" and the subcommittees on "Commerce. Justice. Science and Related Agencies" and "State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs." He also serves on the Intelligence Committee and the Intelligence Appropriations Panel. He has been very aggressive in seeking official U.S. Recognition of the Armenian Genocide. He continues to identify himself as a member of the "Blue Dog Coalition," a group of Democrats who have tried to become a bridge to the Republican majority.

In his interview with the ACT Research Committee, Adam expressed as his main goal for the next term "to close the yawning gap between rich and poor, to get the economy moving again and get people back to work, to restore public education and equal opportunity." He believes America needs to "refocus on manufacturing" and to develop a more productive workforce through education. On the international scene, he is opposed to direct intervention in the Syrian civil war because of "what we've learned from Iraq and Afghanistan." He supports SOPA (Stop Online Piracy Act), though some of his constituents have made him more cautious about some of its provisions.

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Jenny Worman

Jenny Worman describes herself as "socially liberal, fiscally conservative." Although she is a Republican, she identifies herself as "progressive" because of the "socially liberal" part. Actually, her printed statement of her positions sounds very much like a Ron Paul commercial: end illegal wars and bring troops home now, end "crony capitalism," end existing trade agreements, end foreign aid except for humanitarian emergencies, abolish the Federal Reserve Bank. She is against SOPA because it infringes on freedom of speech ("Google & Facebook are our biggest assets.") Asked about immigration, Jenny would be against granting any amnesty, but would allow for some sort of Dream Act.

Massie Munroe

Massie Munroe is a civil engineer and a Democrat. She sees the biggest problem in the world as a move toward "global government led by very powerful people." The U.S. is involved in the production of "space weaponry so developed that they make nuclear weapons an outdated matter." In the creation of this arsenal, human experimentation is being done that amounts to torture of people (disproportionately women of color) who are being held Massie said, "Everything is in slavery. energy technology," and she was consistent with this message, answering questions about immigration and the Syrian civil war with the same formula: "Energy technology is the answer." At the end, she referred us to do a web search on "HAARP" and "Nick Begich." This leads to a complex set of conspiracy theories based on very questionable pseudoscience.

Recommendation: The committee voted 13-0-0 to recommend endorsement of Adam Schiff for re-election. Concerns were expressed about some areas where he may seem to be to the right of most ACT members' comfort zones,

notably reflected in his support of the Patriot Act and his self-identification as a "Blue Dog Democrat." But his overall commitment to the right causes seems beyond question, and his longevity in Congress increases his potential to accomplish positive things during the next two years. The Steering Committee voted 19-0-0 to recommend endorsement of Adam Schiff.

25th State Senate District

Only Carol Liu (D) accepted the invitation to be interviewed; Gilbert Gonzales (R) and Ameenah Fuller (D) are also candidates. Sonny Sardo (R) appears not to have completed the filing process.

Carol Liu, the first Asian American Woman elected to the State Senate, is completing her first term in the Senate after six years in the Assembly and eight years on the La Canada City Council. Carol attended public school and graduated from San Jose State College. After earning a lifetime teaching credential and a credential in education administration at UC Berkeley, she taught 14 years in the Richmond, California public schools before becoming a school administrator for six years.

Carol considers herself a progressive. She is pro-choice, supports equal rights, and is committed to helping people raise themselves out of poverty. She voted for single-payer health-care and authored bills to enable alternative custody for incarcerated mothers who are non-violent offenders.

Carol has a full campaign staff with Vickere Murphy as campaign manager; Fred Register as campaign consultant; Jon Fuhrman as campaign treasurer; and Wendy Soltes as local fundraiser.

She has been endorsed by the California League of Conservation Voters; Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley; Glendale Democratic Club; CA Democratic Party PrePage eight The Phoenix March, 2012

endorsement Caucus (81%); Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg; NWPC-CA, Congressman Adam Schiff, Assembly members Anthony Portantino and Mike Gatto, and a page and a half of local organizations, elected officials, and individuals.

Carol thinks she is the most qualified candidate because of her experience. Four more years in the Senate would allow her to continue working to improve public education. She chairs the Human Services Committee and sits on the Education, Budget and Fiscal Review (Subcommittee No. 1 on Education); Banking, Finance and Insurance; Governance and Finance; and Public Safety Committees.

Carol's key goals for the next four years are:

- Reforming public education: In K-12 the financial system is a nightmare; in community colleges governance is a nightmare. The funding formula for K-12 must be rethought, but she does not agree with the Governor's proposed changes to the funding formula because it will create winners and losers. Higher education is seriously underfunded. Last year for the first time, state funding was less than student fees at the CSU and the UC.
- Reducing the population of state prisons. Those convicted of non-serious, non-sexual, non-violent crimes should be housed in county jails with mandatory rehabilitation services funded by the state. Carol has worked very hard to find ways to close women's prisons and return women convicted of non-violent offenses to their families and communities. 70% of women in prison have children who usually must go into foster care.
- Addressing poverty by bringing together non-profit organizations serving low-income people to find new funding and more efficiently to use their resources.

Carol voted for the bill to eliminate redevelopment agencies. One-time funds of \$2 billion are available for affordable housing. These funds should allow communities to continue one-time affordable housing programs. The issue is how to give tools to the communities to address blight and to provide affordable The legislature is exploring this issue, and she expects that there will be cleanup legislation. She sees the state's role in creating jobs as one of creating a healthy environment where businesses can thrive and hire people. There are concerns that the state has created an unfriendly business environment through over regulation, especially regulations to protect workers and the environment. Although some changes have occurred in the past year, it is unclear if there have been enough. On the other hand, most venture capital in the country comes to California.

Carol suggested one way of creating a more effective legislature would be to increase the number of women in the legislature. There are 12 women Senators, 30% of the body. Six are up for re-election; two are termed out. She supports allowing undocumented people the opportunity to apply for driver's licenses. It's better to know who is on the road and to hold them accountable. Carol thinks the way to improve the state's educational system is to fund it adequately. Cities and schools must work together to share resources, such as health services and libraries, and create community schools. She believes that the state has a resource problem that the Governor is trying to address through his tax initiative. As for capital punishment, she supports the law although she signed a petition to put the issue of capital punishment on the ballot.

Recommendation: The Research Committee voted 11-0-1 and the Steering Committee 21-0-0 to recommend endorsement of Carol Liu for Senate District 25.

Continued on page thirteen

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ACT ENDORSEMENT BALLOT

For the June 5th Primary



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. Wednesday, April 4th. Further endorsement election information can be found on page five in this *Phoenix*.

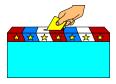
Why do we vote? ACT's endorsement can mean access to donor files, computer data, and such financial contributions as are voted by the Steering Committee.

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		X		
Candidate Y			X	
No Endorsement				X



Arroyo Democratic Club ENDORSEMENT BALLOT

For the June 5th Primary

Endorsement Ballot Instructions

The ADC guidelines are identical to ACT with the exception that only Democratic candidates are listed.

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ACT & ADC Endorsement Ballots for the June 5th Primary

Please see the Research Committee report starting on page 5 in this Phoenix.

This is actually TWO ballots. The ACT ballot is on the left, and the ADC ballot is on the right.

Although no write-up is attached, the Research Committee recommended endorsing President Barack Obama for re-election, by a 12-0-0 vote; the Steering Committee concurred by a vote of 20-0-0. Further, the Research Committee recommended endorsing Senator Dianne Feinstein, by a 10-1-1 vote; the Steering Committee concurred by a vote of 16-2-0.

Note: Rather than list all possible candidates for U.S. President and Senate, we provide members with a space to Write In any candidates not listed below. Households with multiple votes may write-in multiple names or vote multiple times for one write-in choice.

U.S. President			
The Research Committee recommen The Steering Committee recommend			
Vote for one ACT Voter: #1 Barack Obama (D)	#3 Vote for one ADC Voter: #1	#2 	#3
U.S. Senate			
The Research Committee recommend The Steering Committee recommends			
Vote for one ACT Voter: #1 Dianne Feinstein (D)		#2 	#3
U.S. Congress 27th District			
The Research Committee recommend The Steering Committee recommends			
Vote for oneACT Voter:#1Judy Chu (D)\Bob Duran (R)\Bob Duran (R)Jack Orswell\Bob Duran (R)	#3 Vote for one ADC Voter: #1	#2	#3 _
No Endorsement			

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${\bf ACT~\&~ADC~Endorsement~Ballots}, {\it Continued}$

U.S. Congress 28th District	;						
The Research Committee recommend The Steering Committee recommend		_	,				
Vote for one ACT Voter: #1 Adam Schiff (D)	#2		Vote for one		0000 0	#2	#3 0 0 0 0 0
No Endorsement					_	_	_
California 25th State Senat	te Di	ist.					
The Research Committee recommend The Steering Committee recommend				0)			
Vote for one ACT Voter: #1 Carol Liu (D)	#2		Vote for one			#2	#3
California 41st State Assen	ably	Dist	rict				
The Research Committee recommend The Steering Committee recommend			,				
Vote for one ACT Voter: #1 Michael Cacciotti (D)	#2 	#3 	Vote for one	ADC Voter:		#2	#3
Donna Lowe (R) ☐ No Endorsement ☐		J					

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Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Thomas Castaneda &
Richard von Ernst, Pasadena
Dale & Temetra Gronemeier,
Sierra Madre
Allen & Karen Gross, Pasadena
Betsy Nathane, Pasadena
Isabel Ramirez, Pasadena

Special Thanks to Sustaining Members

Joan & Andreas Aebi, Pasadena

Sally Beer, Altadena Betsy & John Blue, Pasadena Walt & Zan Cochran-Bond, Altadena Ellen & Donald Coles, Altadena Larry Eggers, Pasadena Yudie & Jane Fishman, Sierra Madre Andrea Gordon, Altadena Wendy Gordon, Pasadena Allen & Karen Gross, Pasadena Jim Haight, Pasadena Jim & Ginny Heringer, Pasadena Tom & Monica Hubbard, Altadena Paul Hunt & Gina Frierman-Hunt, Sierra Madre Judith Johnson, Pasadena John & Virginia Kimball, Pasadena Donald Marsh, Pasadena Margaret Marsh, La Canada Ross & Muriel Mitchell, Pasadena Connie O'Donnell, Altadena Elizabeth & Tom Polenzani, Pasadena Charles & Eileen Read, Pasadena Michael Reagan & Carolyn Garner-Reagan, Pasadena Arnold Siegel & Susan Futterman. Pasadena

Norri & Betty Sirri, Pasadena

Special Thanks to Our Patrons

Maureen & Bob Carlson, Pasadena Jon Fuhrman & Susan Kane, Pasadena Al & Rose Marie Lowe, Hayward Bobbie & Henry Moon, Altadena Mary Lois Nevins, Pasadena Dianne Philibosian & Thomas Seifert, Pasadena

And Thanks to Members for Additional Contributions to ACT's Operating Account

Walt & Zan Cochran-Bond, Altadena Ken Chawkins, Pasadena Ellen & Donald Coles, Altadena Larry Eggers, Pasadena John Grula & Joan Depew, Pasadena John & Virginia Kimball, Pasadena Margaret Marsh, La Canada Mary Lois Nevins, Pasadena Norri & Betty Sirri, Pasadena

And Thanks to Members for Additional Contributions to ACT's Political Account

Joan & Andreas Aebi, Pasadena
Ken Chawkins, Pasadena
Ellen & Donald Coles, Altadena
Larry Eggers, Pasadena
Dale & Temetra Gronemeier,
Sierra Madre
John Grula & Joan Depew, Pasadena
Doug Hayes & Janice Nelson Hayes,
Sierra Madre
Arnold Siegel & Susan Futterman,
Pasadena
Marta Stern, Altadena
Marjorie & Joseph Wyatt, Pasadena

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Research Comm., continued from page eight

41st Assembly District

Two Democrats -- Chris Holden and Michael Cacciotti -- responded to ACT's invitation. Other candidates include Victoria Rusnak (D), Ed Colton (R) and Donna Lowe (R).

Chris Holden

City Councilman Chris Holden has served for 23 years as a member of Pasadena's City Council. He has also served on public agencies like the Light Rail Alignment Task Force, Chair of the Fair Oaks Project Area Committee (the first PAC established in NW Pasadena) and on the Human Relations Commission. During his terms on the City Council he has served as Mayor, worked to insure a balanced City budget, supported the Library Tax, actively opposed the privatization of the City's Water and Power Department during the challenging times of deregulation, helped encourage collaboration with and among our local nonprofit agencies and contributed to regional efforts serving on the Bob Hope Airport Commission for 9 years including a term as its Chair.

His primary goals are initiating policies, legislation and/or regulations that stimulate job creation and growth within the AD and beyond, and strengthening and diversifying the economy through prudent public investment in projects such as the Gold Line extension, business economic development and housing development. He also plans to work with the University of La Verne to create opportunity for increasing area water supply. He also plans to continue advocacy for early childhood and preschool education. He believes that all children need the be exposed to strong basic education as early as possible, as it serves as the foundation for the continued success in elementary, secondary and post secondary education. He will support legislation to ensure that vocational education matches the demands of the labor market, requiring closer cooperation between the public and private sectors.

Chris expressed concern that some cities misused redevelopment funds thereby more easily justifying their elimination. He fears that dissolution of RDA's will have, at minimum, a short-term negative effect on future development. Cities and Counties will need to develop an alternative, new mechanism to stimulate economic development and affordable housing. He would support a bill like AB26, aimed at helping uncompleted affordable housing projects that were underway when the RDA's were terminated. He also mentioned that Pasadena was developing a Task Force to deal with the issue in the City.

Holden suggested the following: Host three annual, open, facilitated workshops that would prioritize initiatives that would be reflected in State and local budgets. He restated his belief that a collaborative approach that insures community participation and input would be key to the success of this activity.

Holden is open to allowing undocumented people the opportunity to apply for a driver's license. This idea he feels is an important element of a major issue of immigration policy that needs to be addressed.

He believes that a major investment of public funds should be to insure strong and viable public education agencies at all levels. He restated his feeling that a priority focus should be on preschool education and on public/private partnerships that create relevant vocational education that facilitates job access. This includes comprehensive analysis of the labor market to accurately target education and training to match jobs available or projected such as green jobs. The PCC Education Center programs are a possible model.

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He sees the revenue side as the most problematic as it is forcing decisions on service/program cuts that serve those California residents with the greatest need. He feels the impact on those residents is disproportionate. He would strongly encourage exploration of increasing governmental efficiency to reduce State government expenditures. He supports the Governor's proposed extension of taxes.

Chris indicated that he does not support the death penalty except in instance of murders of law enforcement and robbery resulting in murder. He added that current science could provide more effective tools to prevent accused violators who are not guilty from receiving the death penalty.

Michael Cacciotti

Michael Cacciotti has been a member of the South Pasadena City Council for 8 years and is currently in his third term as Mayor. During that time there have been no lay-offs or furloughs. Previously he served on several local city commissions, volunteers at South Pasadena's local Senior Center and has served as youth, high school, and college soccer coach for over 30 years. He is an environmentalist and serves on the South Coast Air Quality Management District Board as well as on the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Board. From 1987-91 he worked for the Deputy Speaker; He is a Deputy Attorney General for the State and was an attorney with the Department of Transportation.

Michael has lived in the district for almost 20 years. He and his wife, Annie, live in South Pasadena with their rescue dog, Winston. He considers himself a progressive and believes government needs to help the poor and working class, and be accessible and accountable to everyone. He stated he would promote investing in 21st Century systems for transit, energy, and education.

He believes fundamental change is needed in Sacramento. He has extensive and broadbased experience in public agencies as an elected official and as an employee. He opposes the extension of the 710 freeway but did not spend 3 times the city's reserve on it.

The three most important things he wants to accomplish are: First, because of his experience as a soccer coach, he knows firsthand that our youth development programs and education system from K-12 to higher eduction need more resources. Second, his passion is energy. He showed us the charging element for his electric automobile. We spend too much on foreign oil. We need to support alternative fuel creation: We also should create incentives for buying hybrid cars. Third, he wants to develop infrastructure for more public transportation.

He will also advocate for affordable housing because it will assist his job creation agenda. The State can also create jobs through regional transportation. The Gold Line extension will create thousands of well-paying jobs for 20-30 years. We should also proceed with building the infrastructure for the bullet train, although the plan should be reworked.

Michael believes he is a consensus builder, which will make him an effective legislator and improve the effectiveness of the Legislature. He is used to working with large agencies and governmental bodies. While give and take is very difficult, it is the only way to get things done.

When it comes to licensing undocumented people he will defer to experts: Chief Beck, Sheriff Baca and other polices agencies. He sees this as a public safety issue and believes all drivers should have a basic knowledge of the driving laws.

The State should not only provide better resources to our educational system but also re-

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spond to immediate needs for science, technology, environment and math.

He believes the State has both a spending and a revenue problem. When first elected to Mayor he went through the entire budget and found numerous places that were antiquated, unnecessary and needed to be cut. But there is also a revenue problem that must be addressed. He would go through the whole budget and try to find wasteful spending.

He has opposed capital punishment his entire life. The cost of appeals runs into the millions and that would be a considerable savings since there are so many people on death row.

Recommendation: The vote to recommend endorsement of Chris Holden was 12-0-0 (Research Committee) and 17-1-1(Steering Committee)

* * * * * * * * * *

From 43th District Assemblymember Mike Gatto

The Middle Class Scholarship Act: A Better Path to Success



Lawmakers too often ignore the middle class. You know: the hardworking families who pay their taxes, follow the rules, and who neither hire high-priced lobbyists nor attend noisy protests. California 's public universities and community colleges were once affordable for the middle class. With a relatively low cost, California 's families were given the opportunity to have a world-class education.

But thanks to the national recession and chronic budget shortfalls, fees have risen dramatically over the last decade. While lowincome students could rely on Cal Grants and Pell Grants, and some on the opposite end of the spectrum can shrug off increases without a care, the middle class bears the brunt of these higher costs. Ineligible for grants, they are forced to pay ever-increasing fees.

Since the 2003-2004 school year, California State University (CSU) student fees have increased by 191%, from \$2,046 to \$5,970, and fees at the University of California (UC) have increased by 145%, from \$4,984 to \$12,192.

To keep college affordable for all Californians, I co-authored Assembly Bills (AB) 1500 and 1501, which create the Middle Class Scholarship, a program that will cut UC and CSU fees by two-thirds. Under the proposal, approximately 150,000 CSU students will save over \$4,000 per year, while about 42,000 UC students will save up to \$8,169 per year. Additionally, community colleges will receive \$150 million to expand affordability efforts. And all of this will be done without raising taxes or fees on California residents or businesses.

How is this possible? The program is funded by closing a tax loophole that currently allows multi-national and out-of-state corporations to be rewarded for outsourcing jobs. This loophole allows them to choose to pay taxes based on how many people they employ in California. Yes, I know. It's hard to believe that such a law is even on the books. As it stands, we actually reward certain entities for shipping jobs overseas or out of state. Closing this loophole would put California policy in line with 23 other states, such as Massachusetts.

The Middle Class Scholarship is a win-win for California because it cleans up a senseless loophole, while placing the emphasis back on education. I promised to undertake this kind of tax reform while running, and I am always mindful too, of the great education I was able to get at our public universities. If you, or the students in your family want more information on the proposals, please visit my website at http://asm.ca.gov/gatto.

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From 44th District Assemblymember Anthony Portantino



Dear Friends,

Ten thousand college students recently came to the Capitol to protest the rash of budget cuts to higher education. There was a tremendous energy in and around the Capitol as students pressed their case. I had the opportunity to meet with students from PCC, UCLA, UC Riverside and Glendale Community College. I looked for the UCSB contingent to see if any of the students knew Sofia, but couldn't find them.

One of my concerns is the spin being circulated by some policy makers that "triggered cuts" aren't really cuts. The thinking goes something like this, "if I vote for a budget that assumes revenue and no cuts, but the revenue doesn't materialize, then I didn't cause/vote for the cuts - the lack of revenue caused them." This is a misleading approach to budgeting. We either make higher education a priority or we don't. We need to stop the games. You might recall that I voted against the triggered cuts to education last year, because there was not a thorough conversation about our priorities and the triggers were placed in the budget as a gimmick to meet constitutional demands placed on the legislature under Prop 25. I will continue to press my case to make higher education a priority and not a pawn.

This past week, the California School Boards Association held a legislative briefing for administrators, elected officials, teachers and parents in the San Gabriel Valley. I joined Senators Carol Liu and Ed Hernandez and Assemblymembers Curt Hagman and Mike Eng on a legislative panel. There were also representatives from the PUSD and GUSD in attendance. Much of the discussion centered on how to best communicate with your representatives. I was surprised to see that only a handful of the elected officials, principals and superintendents in attendance had the cell phone of their legislators, when I asked them to raise their hands. I was proud that most of the folks who raised their hands were folks in my district. Having the ability to call them and have them call me when late night legislative decisions are being made is an asset that makes my work more effective.

I continue to push a "good government" agenda this year. The Pasadena Star News recently ran a very good editorial (Our View: Update state's '70s Political Reform Act) in support of many of my proposals. You can check it out: www.pasadenastarnews.com/opinion.

AB 1129/AB 2256 Legislative Open Records Act - I'm simply asking that the Legislature follow the same rules as every other state agency and release budget and spending records. We are amending the bill to strengthen the Legislative Open Records Act.

AB 1887 Budget Accountability for Legislature - Ensures fiscal accountability by ending the practice of rolling over budget surpluses in Senate and Assembly budgets. The bill recommends that any year-end surplus be returned to the state's General Fund and used for Cal Grants. The measure also requires the State Controller to perform an annual audit for two years and then oversee the transition to a more independent process. Last year we opened the books; now let's bring in some accountability.

AB 2162 Political Reform Act/Financial reporting - Every year, politicians must file a state-

ment of economic interest. The various reporting categories on the Statement of Economic Interest forms haven't been updated since 1974. The broad financial ranges make it impossible to paint an accurate picture. I want to change that and bring more transparency and accuracy to the exercise.

In addition, my Sac State Intern, Deana, came up with an excellent bill proposal that we introduced. AB 1956 calls on the State to expand the definition for eligibility of tattoo removal to women who have been forced into prostitution and trafficking. Let these young women have assistance in removing the marks of their pimps and start a new life.

The Pasadena Sun recently ran a comprehensive budget expose on the "now" open budgets records. The paper confirmed that my budget had been cut and I spent less last year then the year before. They also confirmed that I now have the smallest budget of any Assembly Democrat.

My thanks also go to the California Police Chiefs' Association for naming me as their Legislator of the Year. As someone with many relatives in law enforcement, it is a great honor to be recognized by Chiefs from around our great state.

Family news: I took the family to the last home basketball game at UCSB. They won. Bella spent half of the game in the student section with her big sister. This week marks the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scouts. Ellen is the leader of Bella's troop, so they are both participating in several commemorations. Of course, there are too many cookies in my house these days and I'm doing my best to make them disappear – one cookie at a time.

Assemblymember Anthony Portantino represents the 44th Assembly District of California. He can be reached by Email at:

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

From State Senator Carol Liu...



Sacramento Update

The Legislature has begun its work to consider the Governor's January budget through its budget committees and subcommittees, working towards adoption of a new budget in June 2012. It is already clear that Legislature will be making some counter-proposals. After its first hearing, an Assembly budget subcommittee voted to reject Governor Brown's proposed cuts to Cal Grants.

The Senate Budget Subcommittee on Education, which I chair, held its first subcommittee hearing to examine the Governor's Prop 98 and K-12 budget on March 8th. We took our first look at the trigger cuts he proposes if the voters don't pass a tax initiative, and his mandates reform, categorical flexibility, and weighted student formula proposals.

While we will be proposing some alternatives to the Governor's proposed budget cuts, many of us remain committed to tackling the budget deficit and \$33 billion state debt. It has been heartbreaking for me, a former teacher and school administrator and Chair of the Senate Human Services Committee, to vote for budget cuts. But, attacking the state's budget deficit head on is the only way we will emerge from this crisis. California's budget is fundamentally broken. Our years of relying on personal income tax and the tax on capital gains have left us victim to broad economic swings in the economy with no reserve to see us through downturns.

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Budgets adopted in the last three years have cut California's \$26 billion structural budget deficit by half. This has improved the state's credit rating and ability to sell bonds for the time being. The Legislature faces more anguished decision-making to reduce the projected \$10 to 13 billion deficit in the current and coming fiscal years. After that, we <u>must</u> focus on long-term structural budget solutions that will buffer the state from future economic swings and protect funding for schools, public safety, and essential services for those is need. You can follow the budget process via the link on my website: http://sd21.senate.ca.gov/

Closer to home, recently, I was pleased to cohost the Los Angeles Regional Collaborative for Climate Action and Sustainability's (LARC) spring quarterly meeting with University of Southern California Sea Grant Program. Burbank Water and Power graciously allowed us to hold the event at their recently inaugurated EcoCampus.

On March 9th representatives of local, regional and state government joined those from business, utilities, and non-profits to share their activities and experiences and exchange information and ideas on how to integrate adaptation planning, hazard mitigation, and emergency response. The Governor's Office, CalEMA, and the State Resources Agency presented overviews of their current projects and various policy changes in the works. We plan to continue this collaborative process to help create a more seamless approach to managing the extreme weather and hazard events climate change will bring.

Last year I launched GREEN21: Greening the 21st Senate District in the 21st Century. I created a Council of sustainability leaders from business, local government, academia, non-profits, and labor and asked them to share their experience, information and ideas on how to accelerate the greening of the 21st

District. Co-hosting the adaptation and emergency response event with LARC and USC Sea Grant is a logical extension of the GREEN21 program and our overarching theme, "the power of partnership."

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.



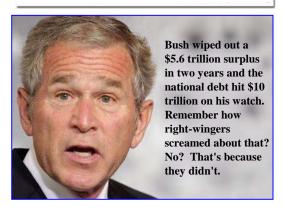
For Some Liberal Bumper Sticker Humor

Try:

http://politicalhumor.about.com/od/politicalbumperstickers/ig/Liberal-Bumper-Stickers/
(Beware! Some are great, but some are offensive!)



8 years of insanity and NOW you're mad?



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Renewing Your ACT and ADC Membership for 2012

Our grateful thank you to each of the nearly 200 ACT and ADC members who have already renewed or joined for 2012. Your support is vital to both organizations.

If you have not yet renewed, remember you can now renew online at http://www.actpasadena.org/

- or mail your check to ACT and/or ADC,
- P. O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074.



I'd l	ike	to join both groups for one low	price	(Che	cks payable to ACT/ADC
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I'd l	ike	to join ACT (Checks payable to ACT)			
0000	\$35 \$20 \$15 \$20	Single Each additional member per household Student or limited income Gift Membership (NEW!)		T -	Single Sustaining Double Sustaining Patron Benefactor
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Calendar

March 16 Friday 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. 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. NOTE NEW TIME.

April 4 Wednesday 7 p.m. ACT Steering Committee and ADC Meeting at the home of Marilee Marshall and Bruce Wright, 654 S. Madison Avenue, Pasadena. Socializing at 7 p.m.; meeting at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome and urged to attend.

April 6	Friday Morning Discussion
Friday	Group. (Details same as 3/16.)
April 13 Friday 10 a.m.	San Gabriel Valley Democratic Women's Club at Altadena Library, 600 E. Mariposa St. Speaker will be Carol Liu.
April 20	Friday Morning Discussion
Friday	Group. (Details same as 3/16.)

Phoenix Deadline

The Phoenix deadline is normally the Sunday that follows the monthly ACT meeting. The Phoenix is prepared for mailing the next Thursday evening.

The deadline for the April *Phoenix* will be Sunday, April 8. Please send items to Chuck Hains at Hains27@SBCGlobal.net. *ThePhoenix* will be prepared for mailing on Thursday, April 12 at 7 p.m. at Chuck's house, 1391 La Solana Drive, Altadena. (Volunteer mailers please call Ellen Coles at 626-798-2402 to verify date and time.)



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