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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

Think Globally and Act Locally:

Help open the United Democratic Headquarters and save the world!

With Trump and Cruz rolling through Republican primaries, the unthinkable is starting to look inevitable. Having either man anywhere near the White House would be a tragedy of global proportions. Yet here it comes.

Winning in November is now absolutely essential – which means turning out Democratic voters in huge numbers. Thus far, however, the opposite is happening: In state after state Democratic turnout is far below 2008 (our last contested primary); meanwhile, Republican turnout is surging to record levels.

No one can predict what crazy twists lie ahead. But one thing is certain: the grass-roots work of our local United Democratic Headquarters (UDH) has never been more crucial. The UDH is all about getting out the Democratic vote – both locally and in hotly contested states.

The party conventions are early this year, so the fall campaign will start early, too. We need to open our Democratic Headquarters as soon as possible and **GET TO WORK!!!**

Unfortunately, UDH is still several thousand dollars short of what we need to open early -- and to sustain our efforts through November. So please use the enclosed envelope to send a check and help open the doors (make checks payable to: UDH -- or United Democratic Headquarters).

Please give generously. This year, with the stakes so very high, it really could help save the world!





California State Democratic Convention – San Jose *March 6*

Despite attending four national party conventions during the 80's, I had never attended a State Democratic Convention until last month in San Jose. I volunteered to help out during the 43rd Assembly District endorsement process.

As I reflect on my experience, I can say the occasion was, well, very interesting. Three of my big take-aways were these: First, Joe Biden can still give one hell of a rallying speech. I thought. Damn! If only. Second, marijuana legalization was finally very much a buzz on the convention floor and hallways. For some of us, that issue's been around longer than Joe Biden. Third, in partisan party politics sometimes it ain't over even when you think it should be over.

The principal purpose of the convention was for candidates to earn the endorsement of the Democratic Party for their respective campaigns. The biggest win went to State Attorney General Kamala Harris who won the party endorsement to replace Senator Barbara Boxer with a jaw-dropping 78% of the endorsement vote in her race against US Representative Loretta Sanchez. For Sanchez, and her rah-rah supporters who exhorted delegates on their way to the voting booth with chants of Lor-et-ta, Lor-et-ta, the tally was disheartening. Still, as demoralizing as the results might be, it's not over until they count the ballots in the June primary.

ACT Member Anne Wolf who attended the convention as an alternate told me Harris's

performance during her speech to introduce Vice President Joe Biden was "overwhelming." "She seems almost presidential," Wolf continued. Democratic Club of the Pasadena foothills member Karen Wingard, who was an LA County central committee delegate, was also impressed with Harris. Wingard said, "I thought it was great when Kamala took Trump's line, 'make American great again' and asked 'make America great again for whom?'"

So the race to replace Barbara Boxer has a clear favorite but local endorsement races were more competitive. Chris Holden was endorsed without a vote because he is running unchallenged in the 41st Assembly District. Anthony Portantino, however, won endorsement for the 25th Senate with a spot on 70% of the required delegate vote during the pre-endorsement conference on January 30. The precise performance by Portantino brought out a challenge from one opponent who contested two of the provisional ballots. The challenge was denied and Portantino's endorsement was made official during the consent voting at the convention. He's definitely not claiming the race is over since he has to finish in the top two against four Democratic candidates and a Republican to survive the primary.

In the 43rd Assembly district race to replace Mike Gatto, no candidate could muster the 70% on January 30 or the lower 60% on February 27 at the convention. The top vote getter in both instances was, Glendale City Clerk Ardy Kassakhian over second place finisher Glendale City Councilwoman Laura Friedman. So both candidates will face off against each other and three lesser democrats in the

June primary. It should be noted that former Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard and State Senator Carol Liu have endorsed Friedman.

After the long day Saturday of speeches, caucusing and counting endorsement ballots, I decided to head off to one of the after parties. The one I chose was hosted by the Brownie Mary Democratic Club with entertainment provided by the Dell' Arte players of Humboldt County. The Brownie Mary Club, named after a woman who baked and served marijuana brownies to AIDS patients in San Francisco, is hard at work trying to get marijuana legalized – finally. The Dell' Arte players performed songs and dances from their soon to be released film - *"Mary Jane: A Musical Potumentary."* Seriously. It was hard for me to decide what was the better highlight, the music or the healthy servings of ice cream and brownies.

So now I am infected with convention fever and with your support, I am hoping to attend the National Democratic Convention in Philadelphia.

-- Ed Washatka



Hillary Clinton Delegates Need Support

All ACT members and their Democratic friends, who are registered to vote in Judy Chu's 27th Congressional District, have the chance to send two ACT leaders to the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, July 25-28.

All that is required to send ACT Co-Chair Jeanne Register and ACT Treasurer Ed Washatka to the Democratic convention as local Hillary Clinton delegates is to show up at the Clinton Campaign's Caucus on May 1, vote for Jeanne and Ed, and leave. It's just that easy! Register, who represents the greater Pasadena area on the state board of the National Women's Political Caucus and Washatka are

long time Clinton supporters and are especially excited about Clinton's 2016 campaign platforms.

"We think she has very strong positions on the full range of issues," said Washatka, "like raising income and providing tax relief for working families, making high quality education available to every child, protecting Social Security and Medicare from the threat of privatization, and defending the Affordable Care Act to name a few."

Three male and three female Clinton delegates will be selected at the May 1 caucus. The exact caucus location has not been announced at this date. Plans are being made to provide transportation to voters once the site is known. For more information contact Ed Washatka at ed.washatka@charter.net or 310-489-9951.

-- Ed Washatka



Special Thanks to Our Sustaining Members

Joan & Andreas Aebi, Pasadena
 Lynne Appel, Pasadena
 Ellen Coles, Altadena
 Sharon Dooner, La Canada
 Jim & Priscilla Gamb, Pasadena
 Greg Harrison & Nichole Mihara, Pasa.
 Thomas & Monica Hubbard, Altadena
 Bruce & Betty Ann Jansson, Pasadena
 Dorothy Matthiessen, Pasadena
 Connie O'Donnell, Altadena
 June Thurber Paine & Garrett Paine, Pas.
 Esther Schachter, Pasadena
 Arnold Siegal & Susan Futterman, Pasa.
 Michael Reagan & Carolyn Garner-Reagan, Pasadena

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Tuesday, March 8.

After Super-Tuesday, it seemed like the real excitement would be in the Republican Presidential primary. Donald Trump couldn't possibly prevail, could he? Who might take him down? Surprisingly, though, the real excitement and prolonged struggle might actually be on the Democratic side.

On the Republican side, after tonight's wins by Trump in Mississippi, Michigan and Hawaii, the ball game is pretty much over. Donald Trump will be the GOP nominee, and all the establishment's horses and all the establishment's men and all their money don't seem to be able to do anything about it. True, Trump's actual delegate lead is not all that impressive. Further, Nate Silver reported that while Trump won the absentee votes and early ballot votes in Louisiana by a 40% – 20% margin, Trump actually lost among the votes cast on Election Day, suggesting that Mitt

Romney's speech and the Super-PAC attack ads might have had some traction. But I think his wins tonight show his supporters are holding tight. Further, the vote in Michigan pretty much mirrored the results of six separate polls taken just days before the election. Those same polling organizations are finding similar leads for Trump in Florida and Illinois, although Ohio is a much closer call.

My guess is that Trump will win Florida handily, and win Ohio narrowly. More importantly, he will likely also sweep Illinois, Missouri and North Carolina, which collectively have more delegates (193) than Florida and Ohio (165). Of those 5 states, only North Carolina allocates its delegates truly proportionally. In Illinois, the statewide at-large delegates all go to whoever has the most votes; but the Congressional District delegates actually run on the ballot individually, so it may be tough for news outlets to figure out which local dignitaries are pledged to which Presidential candidates. Missouri gives some of its state-wide delegates to the winner, and the rest are allocated proportionally within each Congressional District; however, if a candidate gets over 50% in any district, that candidate gets all the delegates from that district.

These complex rules help explain why the press focuses on Florida and Ohio where the system is much simpler: the winner, even by 1 vote, gets all the delegates. That's also why numerous Super-PACs are spending over \$30 million to barrage Florida with anti-Trump ads in the next week. Their impact, however, is somewhat diluted given that over 1.2 million votes have already been cast, through absentee ballots and early voting. (Nor do the Super-PACs have the wherewithal to do similar ad campaigns in Illinois, Missouri and North Carolina, leaving Trump unchallenged in those states.) Sen. Cruz seems ready to engage in a really high-stakes gamble: he supposedly is opening 10 field offices and will dedi-

cate serious resources to Florida, not so much to win the state, but to pull votes from Sen. Marco Rubio to prevent Rubio from winning. Cruz seems to be calculating that if Rubio loses Florida, he would be out of the race, making it essentially a Trump-Cruz contest. Of course, the flaw in that strategy is that if Rubio loses Florida, Trump will win the state. He would then gain close to 200 delegates that day, putting him more than half-way toward the magic number of 1238 delegates.

Even if Trump sweeps all the states in next week's primaries, he won't yet have a mathematical lock on the nomination, but he could well end the week with over 700 delegates. Further, more and more of the future primaries have winner-take-all components. For example, Arizona votes on March 22, and is winner-take-all, like Ohio and Florida. Wisconsin votes on April 5, and whoever wins in each Congressional District sweeps all the delegates from that district. New York, which votes on 4/19, has proportional representation, but if any candidate gets over 50%

(which, in New York, Trump could very possibly do) they get all the delegates. Further, in late April, all the primaries are in northeastern states, not an area of strength for Cruz.

So the calendar and the system are conspiring to make Donald Trump the inevitable candidate. It's been an exciting run, a real spectacle with genuine suspense and excitement. That's an element that commentators have glossed over, I think, particularly in their analyses of why the turnout in Republican contests has broken records while the turnout in Democratic contests has lagged well behind that seen in 2008. There's been much discussion of an excitement gap and projections of what that might mean in November. But is it

real? No one has looked very hard at the actual numbers, particularly at the caucus numbers. In Maine, for example, 18,000 Republicans attended their caucuses, a 3-fold jump from 2008, and far more than attended Democratic caucuses. But no one mentioned that in 2008, 292,000 votes were cast for John McCain (not to mention the 401,000 votes for Barak Obama). So the tremendous caucus turnout was actually only 6% of the votes cast on the GOP side 8 years ago; that seems a lot less impressive. In the Louisiana primary, about 300,000 votes were cast on the Republican side. But in 2012, Mitt Romney got 1.15 million

votes, so the effective turnout of Republicans was, in fact, relatively modest. And it was an open primary, so independents and Democrats could also vote. Thus the fears that discrepancies in turnout paint a foreboding picture for Democrats in November are probably not well founded.

On the Democratic side, Secretary Clinton had hoped to put the race to bed tonight, but Sen. Sanders surprised everyone – including every polling organization.

Curiously, the pollsters that got it so wrong on the Democratic side were modestly accurate on the Republican side. So how could almost everyone get reasonably accurate numbers on one side of the aisle, yet be totally wrong on the other side? One explanation is that on the Republican side, many voters had made up their minds months ago; relatively few were deciding in the last weekend, so polls (which have an inevitable lag time of several days, at least) from that last week were not much impacted by late deciders. That would imply that many Democrats changed their minds – particularly going from Hillary to Bernie -- after the Thursday night debate (which is possible, but somehow doesn't seem all that



likely). Another explanation is that the turnout models on the Democratic side were quite wrong – the African-American community centered in Detroit didn't turn out as strongly as predicted, and / or the communities in university towns (like Ann Arbor and Lansing) turned out more strongly than predicted. Further, the primary was open, and exit polling clearly suggested that while Clinton carried Democratic voters, Sanders carried independent voters by very large margins, and pollsters may have underestimated the number of independents choosing to vote in the Democratic primary.

Secretary Clinton, even though she lost Michigan, carried Mississippi by huge margins, so she actually will have extended her delegate lead by 15 to 20, depending upon the exact breakdown in Michigan. She now leads among pledged delegates by 760 to 546. Of course, her lead is hugely amplified by superdelegates; adding those in moves the count to 1217 to 568, giving her a bit over half the delegates she needs to close the deal. There are just under 3000 delegates yet to be allocated, and Clinton needs only 1166 of them, less than 40% of the remaining delegates. The inverse, of course, is that Sanders needs 60% of the delegates remaining; given the proportional allocation rules, that's an incredibly steep hill to climb.

Further, the polling in each of the major states next week had Clinton ahead by 10 to 20%. Of course, the polling in Michigan was utterly wrong. Could it be wrong again in Ohio, and Florida, and Illinois, and North Carolina? Yes, there could be a consistent systemic flaw in the turnout models, or there could be a genuine groundswell for Sanders among Democrats responding to his messages about economic inequality and insecurity. Yet, even in Michigan, Sanders was able at best to reach a draw; getting to 60% consistently in future states seems hugely improbable. But not impossible – and that is what haunts Secretary

Clinton's campaign.

Lastly, part of the Clinton campaign's calculus is that the superdelegates remain true to their announced allegiance. Superdelegates can change their mind at any time. They are free, even on the first convention ballot, to switch sides. Many, however, have known the Clinton family and Clinton operation for decades, so their allegiance is likely rock solid. Further, many agree with most pundits that Sanders would have a tremendously tough time as a general election candidate (and, indeed, bringing that sort of experienced political perspective to the convention was the central justification for having superdelegates). But others might go with the wind, especially if they sense a tide turning. Sanders, with his utterly remarkable success at grass-roots fundraising, has the money to continue campaigning up through the convention in July. Clinton, while roughly keeping pace with Sanders' fundraising in recent months, clearly had been hoping not to have to spend as freely as it appears she must.

So will Secretary Clinton and Senator Sanders keep slugging it out, week after week, primary after primary? Would that sort of fight exhaust both campaigns, or would it, in a perverse sort of way, attract attention and energy and interest to the Democratic campaigns? Sen. Obama had to fight tough primary campaigns in states like North Carolina and Indiana well into the spring of 2008, but the voter registration drives, the ground organization and their GOTV efforts in the primary laid the groundwork for stunning upsets in November when Democrats carried both those states.

It could be that three more months of contested primaries really would strengthen the winner's campaign. But I think Secy. Clinton would prefer not to go through that trial by fire. Sen. Sanders, though, would relish it. Every day is another opportunity to offer his

message, to recruit voters into his political revolution, and to push the national conversation further toward the issues of income inequality and injustice that frame his campaign. So he will be a happy warrior, win or lose, and is likely not to stop even after he cannot possibly win, because his definition of winning is not necessarily gaining the nomination, but rather raising the awareness of more and more voters and bringing back into the system those who had given up. In a way, perhaps he's right. Perhaps this is the way a "revolution" begins. Somehow, though, I just don't see us as a nation ripe for revolution.

-- Jon Fuhrman



Delegate Counts after Super Tuesday

Democratic Delegate Count

	Before Super- Tuesday	Pledged Delegates		Total Pledged Delegates	Super Delegates	Overall Total to Date
		On Super- Tuesday March 8	March 5			
Hillary Clinton	91	517	152	760	457	1217
Bernie Sanders	65	345	136	546	20	566
Unallocated		3	12			

Delegates needed for nomination: 2383

Delegates not yet allocated: 2967

Republican Delegate Count

(Republican numbers include super-delegates)

Donald Trump	82	256	124	462	N/A	462
Ted Cruz	17	217	127	361	N/A	361
Marco Rubio	16	95	42	153	N/A	153
John Kasich	6	21	27	54	N/A	54
Unallocated / Others	12	3	8	23	N/A	23

Delegates needed for nomination: 1237

Delegates not yet allocated: 1420

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

Roberta Cole, Shadow Hills

John Grula, Pasadena

Connie O'Donnell, Altadena

Nancy Warner & Christine Reynolds, Pasa.

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

Lyssa & David Axeen, Altadena

Ellen Coles, Altadena

John Grula, Pasadena

Betina Kyle-Collins & Lynette Clyde, Pasa.

Connie O'Donnell, Altadena

June Thurber Paine & Garrett Paine, Pasa

ACT Coalition-Building & Outreach Committee Report

Police Oversight.

CICOPP, in which ACT is a coalition member, is planning two public forums the last week of March and the first week of April on body-camera policy. On March 9, a number of people active in the police oversight issues met with Interim City Manager Steve Mermell on the Police Department's draft body camera policy; the draft is much more progressive than existing Pasadena Police Department policy on videos (which presently are limited to vehicle cameras). The policy will go to the Public Safety Committee in April.

On the issue of the Independent Police Auditor, we are in an interregnum awaiting the March 31 consultants report. We anticipate public hearings on the IPA in April and May and hopefully its passage before June.

Minimum Wage.

The City Council will be voting on an ordinance on March 7 and then again on March 14; the basic 3-year step increases and anticipated continuation after review for 2-year step increase to get to \$15 by 2020 was approved 7-0 by the City Council, with a minimum of exemptions. This has been a great victory for Pasadenans for a Livable Wage, the coalition of which ACT is a part. The last several weeks have been spent on the enforcement portion of the Ordinance. The Ordinance will contain some enforcement elements but will designate as its "Administrator" the Director of Finance, who will come back within 30 days with a plan for robust enforcement. We had thought that likely Administrator would be Horace Wormley, the Director of Human Services, Parks and Recreation. If the Director of Finance designation leads to enforcement by the Business License unit in finance, its reputation for aggressive enforcement of the

license tax may make it a good fit. But at this stage, the jury is still out as to whether the City is concretely committed to a vigorous enforcement against wage theft.

OIR Group McDade Shooting Report Public Records Act lawsuit.

Our application for attorney's fees is set for hearing April 14. We are seeking a lodestar sum of approximately \$175,000 with a 2.0 multiplier for an approximate \$350,000 total award. We have initiated an inquiry to the City Attorney's office about discussions on reaching a compromise settlement and anticipate settlement discussions in mid-March to late March.

-- Dale Gronemeier, Chair



Phlunte' Riddle for State Senate

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I am proud to be a member of ACT, and for its support to candidates and issues impacting our neighborhoods, our state, and our nation.



I'm running to be your next State Senator. Everyday people tell me they want real-life experience and leadership for our communities instead of just another career politician looking for a social promotion.

I spent my 29 year career with the Pasadena Police Department breaking through barriers and succeeding – and as a professor, and small business owner – to serve our neighborhoods and advocate for those in need.

As your next State Senator, I'll start on day one working for:

Better Jobs – Now, with legislation to in-

crease the minimum wage and fix the gender pay gap, we need to ensure robust implementation. We also need to invest in our decaying infrastructure and help small businesses create local good-paying jobs.

Stronger Schools – As a public safety leader, I saw firsthand what happens when our kids don't have strong schools to attend — they fall through the cracks and end up in the criminal justice system. We need to make more, and smarter investments in our schools and social support services.

Safer communities – I have the most experience helping law enforcement and our neighborhoods work together in creating safer communities. I'll also fight for more effective assistance for mental health and homelessness, here and throughout the state.

I've been incredibly humbled by the strong support from our local Democrats and so many of you. Thank you!

I'd like to invite you to some fundraising events coming up soon:

March 13th with **Congressmember Judy Chu and Senator Carol Liu**,

March 19th with **Assembly Majority Leader Chris Holden** and,

March 23rd with the **National Women's Political Caucus**.

Contact Jimmy@PhlunteRiddle.com for more information or to RSVP today.

I'd be honored to have your support.

-- Phlunte' Riddle



Really special thanks to Our Benefactors

Nancy Warner & Christine Reynolds, Pasa.

Wonderings and Wanderings

By Inman Moore



Presidential Politics

In all my life I have never seen anything like the recent Republican Presidential Debates. They are really lowdown and dirty. The only sane remaining Republican Candidate is John Kasich and he gives the impression that he would like to be anywhere else than in a debate where everyone is calling everyone else scheming lowdown liars. As I have watched in unbelief I found myself feeling very sad that politics have sunk so low.

For the Republicans who once elected Abraham Lincoln as president are now in an internal fight to the death struggle as to which candidate would be harsher toward immigrants of all races and color. We are a nation of immigrants! Are we now going to dismantle the Statue of Liberty and pack it somewhere out of sight?

Let's get real. We are not going to ship out eleven million non-citizens from "South of the Border" who have lived in America for years and whose children are American citizens. We are not going to ship out all Muslims and close all mosques. We are not going to close our doors to all future immigrants. We have prided ourselves as a nation with a heart. Surely we are not going to become a nation without a heart.

Rather than raising our military spending lets rebuild our roads. Let's assure the young that they can go to college and graduate without being thousands of dollars in debt. Let's make sure everyone has adequate health coverage. Much as we did for World War II veterans in giving them assistance in owning their own home, let's find a way to help young couples today have the same support.

In a sense we are all responsible for the fact

that political campaigns have become so sordid and ill mannered. It is high time that we get back to realizing that holding political office is an honor and trained politicians are to be desired. "Politician" is not a dirty word. And, for goodness sake, let's have conversations about how to stay on the road to civil rights for the rest of our lives.

America is a great country. Let's keep it that way with common decency, concern, and a keen vision for the future. May we have success built upon concern for the welfare of all our citizens! Surely that is the very least that we can do.

-- Inman Moore



Phone Banking at Portantino HQ is in FULL SWING!!
Come join us and help Anthony get elected!

Every night is something different!



Tea Time (Early Monday 10am-12pm)



Hamburger Mary Mondays (4pm-8pm)



Taco Tuesdays (of course) (4pm-8pm)



Hawaiian Luau Wednesdays (4pm-8pm)



Thursdays - Pizza Night (4pm-8pm)



Wild Card Saturdays (12pm-5pm)



Barbecue Sundays (2pm-8pm)

SIGN UP FOR A SHIFT TODAY!

WE NEED YOU!!

232 N. Lake Ave. Pasadena, CA
Stop by or give Bill a call at **(626) 705-2180**
team@anthonyportantino.com
#TeamPortantino

From 25th District State Senator Carol Liu...

Sacramento Update



I had a wonderful time as always riding in the Black History Parade to celebrate February as Black History Month. Congratulations to all the organizers for a splendid day!

In March, it is my honor to celebrate the accomplishments of outstanding women in the 25th Senate District. Each year State Senators honor women in their districts who have made unique and often unsung contributions to enhance the quality of life for others. These inspiring women make such a difference in our communities but they often work quietly behind the scenes. By honoring these Women of the Year we are able to commend these local heroes. This year my honorees are:

Honorable Judge Teresa Sullivan, a Superior Court judge at Edelman Children's Court in Monterey Park, which oversees foster youth cases in Los Angeles County. She previously served as Deputy District Attorney for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office for 14 years.

Maggie Belton, a retired Army nurse, former medical policy analyst at Blue Cross of California, and lay advocate volunteer with the Pasadena Senior Center. She is a former Board Chair for the Personal Assistance Services Council (PASC) of the Los Angeles County In-Home Supportive Services program. Maggie has been a voice for seniors and people with disabilities for over 20 years.

Dr. Laurel Bear, PhD, an educator in the Alhambra Unified School District for over 33 years. Currently, she serves as the Assistant Superintendent of Student/Employee Welfare

with the district, where she developed and runs the Gateway to Success Program, a nationally recognized community mental health and safety program.

Cristal Logothetis, the founder of Carry the Future and the co-founder of Reliable Translations Inc. Carry the Future provides baby carriers, slings, and wraps for Syrian refugee mothers who arrive on the Greek island of Kos. To date, over 3,500 baby carriers have been donated.

Lillian E. Sass, MA, the program coordinator for the Citrus College Foster/Kinship Education & Resource Programs. She is a commissioner with the City of Azusa's Human Relations Commission, former outreach manager for WINGS (Women In Need Growing Strong), a domestic violence agency, and has taught as an adjunct professor for 20 years.

Sen. Liu represents about 930,000 people in the 25th Senate District, which includes Burbank, Bradbury, Glendale, Pasadena, La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Montrose, Altadena, San Marino, Shadow Hills, South Pasadena, Sierra Madre, Sunland-Tujunga, Monrovia, Duarte, San Dimas, La Verne, Claremont, Glendora, and Upland.



**From
41st District
Assemblymember
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

We are only a few months into the 2016 legislative session and there is already so much to share. I'm happy to report that our victories in Sacramento continue. Earlier this month, thanks to a bi-partisan effort, the California State Legislature passed a package of major health care reform bills. The first is a lowered, but more broadly distributed, Managed Care Organization (MCO) Tax that will

secure federal funding for Medi-Cal. The second increases funding for developmental disability services by \$306.5 million.

The increase in funding for developmental disability services fulfills the promise of the Lanterman Act, allowing for thousands of individuals in California to finally get the care they need and deserve. This accomplishment is deeply personal for me as my niece suffers from Down syndrome. I'm proud that our efforts will make a real difference for my niece and many families throughout the State.

We also recently passed sweeping tobacco control legislation that raised California's smoking age to 21 and regulates electronic cigarettes as tobacco products. The new health care reforms, and focus on smoking, provides momentum to pass my tobacco cessation legislation, AB 1696, which requires smoking cessation medications, counseling, and assessments to be covered for Medi-Cal patients.

Finally, it was an honor to recognize the 41st District Unsung Hero, Danny Bakewell, Sr., and Woman of Distinction, Dr. Marilee Scaff at my District Office Open House on March 3rd. Bakewell, Sr., an American civil rights activist and co-founder of the National Black United Fund, had the courage to step up when duty called at a time when very few minorities were involved in community projects. Dr. Scaff, a centenarian, served as past president of the League of Women Voters and is to this day a leader on environmental issues in Claremont. We are blessed to have such amazing individuals in our community.

As we move along in the legislative session I look forward to working with you to improve the lives and communities in the 41st Assembly District and the State at Large.

Sincerely,

Chris R. Holden

Assemblyman Holden represents some 420,000 people in the foothills communities of Altadena, Pasadena, South Pasadena, Sierra Madre, Monro-

via, San Dimas, La Verne, Claremont, and Upland. He can be reached via his website at: www.asm.ca.gov/holden and fill out the contact form.



From 43rd District Assemblymember Mike Gatto



A Bill of Rights for Motorists

Before 2013, an alarming number of cities were ticketing motorists for parking at broken meters, something that is clearly not the motorist's fault. After hearing about this, I introduced and passed AB 61, which prevents cities from doing just that. However, AB 61 expires this year, but these reforms should not.

This month, I announced the creation of the California Parking Bill of Rights, which will substantially change how cities and other local governments manage and enforce parking laws, and provide relief from unjust citations. The legislation is designed to make your life a little easier, by prohibiting some of the most vexing practices.

My legislation will prevent cities from issuing tickets at broken parking meters and deter valets from denying motorists the use of metered parking spots. Additionally, the Parking Bill of Rights will require cities to promptly make parking available to motorists after street sweeping activities have concluded. After all, we should be allowed to park on the street after a street sweeper has finished cleaning.

Furthermore, this legislation will prevent cities from fining individuals for cars illegally parked due to criminal activity that was no fault of the owner. Cars are often stolen and left in metered spots and currently the car's owner is held responsible for that. Car-theft victims shouldn't have to pay high towing and storage bills because their car was dumped on

a city street by a thief.

Local governments need to understand that parking a vehicle should be an efficient and almost effortless practice, and not yet another inconvenient hassle, and one designed to separate motorists from their money. These simple and practical policy changes will make life easier for people like you, who just want to park their cars and go about your business.

Mike Gatto is the Chairman of the Utilities & Commerce Committee and the longest-serving current member of the State Assembly. He represents California's 43rd Assembly District, which includes Los Angeles, Glendale, and Burbank.

Gatto can be reached at www.asm.ca.gov/gatto.



Size Matters

And bigger is not better when it comes to Pasadena's overdevelopment problem



By [John Grula](#) reprinted from the Pasadena Weekly with permission

Is overdevelopment threatening the quality of life in Pasadena? If you just drive around town and take a look, it is pretty staggering to see the size and number of the various building projects that are currently in progress.

For example, check out the huge project next to Vroman's Bookstore. Then inspect the colossus up the street at the intersection of El Molino Avenue and Walnut Street, followed by the enormous spread across the street from Tops Burgers at Walnut and Allen Avenue. Finally, observe yet another monster at the intersection of Hudson Avenue and Walnut. We're talking about very large and multi-floor projects, which appear to be a mixture of residential and commercial development.

It's true that these construction projects are providing jobs to workers who suffered mightily during the Great Recession of 2008-09, and that's good. On the other hand, one has to

wonder how these projects are going to impact Pasadena's traffic flow, infrastructure and quality of life.

Cross-town traffic in Pasadena is already bad enough, especially at certain times of the day. These new building projects are just going to make the problem worse, as more people and their cars flood into our city. And where are all these additional people going to park their cars? There don't appear to be any parking structures being built to accommodate all the new traffic that is sure to come. Not that I love parking structures, but there is only so much room on the streets for parking. So this is potentially a huge problem.

These new building projects come on the heels of a gargantuan project recently completed across the street from the Pasadena Playhouse. Known as the Playhouse Plaza, this five-story behemoth is home to numerous commercial outlets. Its official address is 680 E. Colorado Blvd., but the entire development, which includes two restaurants in buildings separate from the main structure, stretches most of the way from Colorado Boulevard to Green Street. Despite the ample number of commercial inhabitants, the building still has a lot of empty space. Was this a case of overreach by the developers?

One can't help but wonder about the role that money is playing in all of this. Money to the city was almost certainly a factor in getting these projects approved. According to the Pasadena Star-News, the city brings in about \$224 million in revenue each year, with property taxes making up the largest portion of this revenue.

William Boyer, the city's public information officer, has recently stated that the new developments currently in progress will trigger a reassessment of the value of properties on which improvements are being made, and to the extent these improvements increase the value of these properties, the property owners

will pay more property tax. This will, in turn, increase the property tax revenue that will find its way back into the city's coffers.

Pasadena has long prided itself on maintaining a manageable community that places quality above quantity. The Pasadena Heritage Society is a good example of our community's respect for its history and architecture. Ostensibly its mission is to not let developers run roughshod over our city's landscape. Has it fallen down on the job? The destruction of the community-oriented tradition of our city would seem to be at risk.

Over the last few years Pasadena Heritage has been a major bottleneck in the efforts by All Saints Episcopal Church to expand and modernize its facility at 132 N. Euclid Ave., an effort that has now ended, due in part to intervention by Pasadena Heritage. Where was Pasadena Heritage with respect to all the huge new building projects described above? I invite the good folks at PH to comment.

As a member of the Pasadena community, I don't want our city to start to look like downtown Los Angeles, or even Santa Monica. So far I've focused mainly on issues like traffic and parking, but what about increases in air pollution and possibly crime that may result from all this new construction? When you have more people living in crowded conditions, this may be a recipe for a worsening of these problems.

The aesthetics of all these new structures is also a major concern. This is where Pasadena Heritage is supposed to exercise its clout.

Size does matter and bigger is not necessarily better. The huge development projects that have been completed or are still coming to fruition cannot be removed or stopped at this point. But let us as a city carefully consider whether any additional new construction is really in the best interests of our community. The road to hell is paved with good intentions,

so let us carefully examine our intentions.

John Grula, Ph.D., is affiliated with the Southern California Federation of Scientists.



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Have You Renewed for 2016?

Please renew your membership in ACT and/or ADC by using the form below and mailing your check c/o ACT/ADC, P. O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074. Or you may renew online at www.ACTpasadena.org if you choose. ACT and ADC dues are still a bargain, especially if you join both organizations.



If you have any questions about your membership contact Executive Director Jon Fuhrman at jon_fuhrman@charter.net or 626 795-5255.

P.S. Thanks to everyone who has already renewed. We are grateful for your prompt support!

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

\$40	Single	\$70	Single Sustaining
\$25	Each additional member per household	\$90	Double Sustaining
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Calendar

- March 18
Friday
9 a.m. Progressive Discussion Group at Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena. Contact Inman Moore at 626 795-2201 for details.
- March 22
Tuesday
7:30 p.m. ACT Coalition Building & Outreach Committee meeting at Gronemeier & Associates' office, 1490 Colorado Bvd., Eagle Rock.
- Apr 1 &, 15
Friday at 9 Progressive Discussion Group. Details same as 3/18.

April 7
Thursday
7 p.m.

ACT Steering Committee and Arroyo Democratic Club meeting at the home of Marilee Marshall & Bruce Wright, 654 S. Madison Ave., Pasadena. Research Committee Report on June Primary races. Socializing at 7 p.m.; meeting at 7:30 p.m.



April Phoenix Deadline

The April *Phoenix* deadline will be Sunday, April 10. Please send items to Chuck Hains at hains27@sbcglobal.net on or before that date. Mailing preparation will be Thursday, April 14 at 7 p.m. at a location to be determined. (Mailers will receive a telephone reminder.)



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