

Endorsement Ballot Inside



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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

ACT Endorses Minimum Wage Increases

The ACT membership, by a 96% majority, endorsed the following position: That ACT supports the adoption of a minimum wage in the City of Pasadena with the goal of reaching \$15 per hour according to a timeline defined by the City Council.”

The details of the vote were as follows:

Proposal:	Affirmative position:	68	97.1%
	Negative position:	1	1.5%
	No position:	1	1.5%

October 1 Steering Committee Meeting to Explore Fracking

The ACT Coalition-Building & Outreach Committee will provide a speaker(s) on their Proposition Against Fracking, both the pros and cons. Members are invited and encouraged to attend and become more informed of the process known as hydraulic fracturing to extract natural gas (aka fracking.) The proposition presenting ACT’s proposed stand can be viewed in its entirety in this issue of *The Phoenix*. After we consider the issue the Steering Committee will decide its position and is likely to place an issues ballot on fracking in the next *Phoenix* for a membership vote.

Alexandra Nagy, Southern California Organizer for Food & Water Watch, will address the complete process of fracking, as opposed to the conventional oil recovery method, and how it affects our lives on a daily basis. Even more important, how it will affect future generations. The topic of policy positions and legislative strategies will also be

discussed. Ms. Nagy received her Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science and Urban Planning from UC Irvine.

Food & Water Watch is a non-profit organization advocating for common sense policies resulting in healthy, safe food and access to safe and affordable drinking water. They have locations in 15 states, Washington DC and Europe.

Also at this meeting we will review the results of our PCC board ballot and decide on any contributions to campaigns.

Everyone is welcome. Please join us on Thursday, October 1, at a location to be determined. (7 p.m. for coffee and 7:30 p.m. for the meeting.)

Please check our website for the location of the meeting, at

<http://WWW.ACTPASADENA.ORG>.

ACT Proposed Proposition Against Fracking

PROPOSITION: Prompt action must be taken by public and private entities, including supporting a moratorium or a ban on the process of hydraulic fracturing aka fracking in order to preserve the air we breathe and water we drink, by protecting and defending our people, state and climate for both present and future generations through various procedures available.

Rationale Supporting Proposition: Fracking poses a direct and immediate threat to our drinking water, air, food, health, wildlife, climate, economy and stability of the earth's crust and fault lines. It has been implemented in CA for more than 30 years. As of this date, nearly ½ of all new oil wells in CA employ this procedure. The depletion of our water supply is continuously occurring - one frack requires 2-8 Million gallons of water laced with toxic chemicals, sand and ceramic particles. One well can be fracked more than once and operates 24/7. CA has 50,000 injection wells, 2500 in aquifer areas, which are also contaminated in the process. All fracking produces wastewater which has been analyzed indicating carcinogen contamination. Tainted wastewater is stored on site in pits, injected into deep underground wells, or treated at a wastewater treatment facility. Methane gas (25 times more powerful than carbon dioxide) is released in the process, combined with other gases affecting the air we breathe and the ozone. The fracking process is triggering ground instability resulting in an increase of earthquakes. A new international push has surfaced to maintain a 2 degree C temperature limit goal by 2050, 1/3 of our oil reserves must be left in the ground to avoid going above that temperature.

Extractive industries are gearing up to frack an estimated 15 Billion barrels of oil in the

Monterey Shale Formation-the nation's largest reserve, which includes CA's most productive farmland, critical water resources and wildlife extending from Salinas Valley to LA Basin.

The state of New York has maintained a fracking moratorium since 2008 to study the effects. In May, 2015, their Dept. of Environmental Conservation released its document analyzing health and environmental updates, concluding it is too dangerous to proceed. In a historic move, Governor Cuomo banned fracking. NY is now in the process of formalizing the ban. Governors of other states need to take note of this bold move-one being California's Governor Brown.

Senator Pavley's SB4, signed by Gov. Brown (2013), proved to be more of a regulatory tool rather than halting fracking. It does require an EIR and Independent Scientific Study due to release July 9, 2015. If real dangers are found, SB4's vagueness could eliminate the Governor's authority to issue a moratorium. Daily, fracking continues on with little government oversight.

Visit: californiansagainstfracking.com for additional details.

ACTION: The ACT Steering Committee and the ACT Coalition-Building and Outreach Committee are authorized to take such steps as they deem appropriate to implement this Proposition.



Special Thanks to Sustaining Members

Wendy & Don Cobleigh, Pasadena
Larry & Petite Morrison, Pasadena

And really special thanks to Benefactor

Jaylene Moseley, Pasadena

And Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Political Account

Ken Carmichael, Pasadena

Wonderings and Wanderings

By Inman Moore



The "All" Syndrome

I wandered down to the Caltech Campus recently to see my old Japanese philosopher friend, Tenjin. There he was in the Garden of the Associates as big as life sitting astride his water buffalo and reading some tome or other. He briefly looked up from his book and said, "Well, friend, what brings you here today?"

I said, "Tenjin, I am disheartened by a philosophy that seems to permeate our society these days. I gather from some things being said that all Mexicans are bad people. All Iranians are hell bent for war. All Muslims are terrorists. All Christians are bigots. All Democrats are unrealistic starry eyed dreamers. All Republicans are somewhere to the right of Attila the Hun. All women are too emotional to hold down significant political office. All young people are not prepared to make serious political decisions. And the list goes on. I call it the 'All' Syndrome.

At any rate, the 'All' syndrome is most unhealthy. It is the cause of many mistaken political decisions. It causes us to needlessly go to war. To needlessly mistrust our neighbors next door and our neighbors around the world. It is at the root of people like Donald Trump foolishly stating he would deport eleven million illegal Mexicans in the fallacious belief that all (or most all) Mexicans are not to be trusted. The 'All' syndrome may not be the root of all evil, but it is certainly close. It is doubly dangerous, because we are all somewhat susceptible to it.

Even people I love and appreciate get caught up in it. Bill Maher, a favorite of mine, is not exempt. While he rightly condemns people who say "All Muslims are terrorists," he turns right around and condemns religion as though

all religious groups are the same. Of course they are not. There are hundreds of different religious groups in America. They definitely are not all alike. I agree wholeheartedly with Bill that some religious groups and beliefs are terrible. But Bill needs to take note that a great many religious people share his views on most subjects."

Tenjin looked at me for some moments and said, "Inman, you may have something there. It does seem, given some thought, that there is a common field of knowledge that binds your societies together. Perhaps you should strive to build on what you share in common while continuing to hammer out your differences. Perhaps this was what motivated the group of nations who negotiated the Iran deal. This just might save your civilization from the terrible tragedy of another world war." At this point I thanked Tenjin, and walked out of the garden at Caltech hoping and praying for a better day.

Inman Moore



The Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters' (UDH) annual Oktoberfest! Fundraiser will be on Sunday, October 18, 2-4 p.m. at Hillmont House, 939 N. Hill Street in Pasadena. This event supports our 2016 United Democratic Headquarters and sponsorships are needed. Levels are \$125, \$250, \$500, and \$1,000. Mail checks (payable to United Democratic Headquarters) directly to P.O. Box 92404, Pasadena CA 91109, or to make contributions by credit card contact UDH Chair Patricia Horton at 818 388-3204.

This is always a wonderful event. We hope to see everyone there. If you are unable to sponsor, individual tickets will be \$35.

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Sunday, Sept. 6.

Sometimes we political pundits are rather smug about our understanding of how things really work in the political world. And then someone like Donald Trump comes along and upends our entire universe of certainty.

We knew for a fact he couldn't possibly go anywhere. He had no base. He had no experience. He was a showman, with as many people laughing at him as with him. He knew nothing about the intricate details of immigration policy, tax policy, foreign policy. And the polls clearly showed far more people – even among Republican voters -- would absolutely never vote for him than would consider voting for him.

And yet, here he is. He's poised, not just to be a credible candidate, but to be the odds-on favorite for the Republican nomination. He continues to lead in the polls, both nationally and in the key early primary states. He con-

tinues to be the center of conversation, among Republicans and in the national press. He apparently is funding his own campaign at increasing levels, while avoiding the time, cost and hassle of raising money or creating a super-PAC to do so on his behalf (while consistently needling his opponents for being beholden to those special interests). He is building an infrastructure in Iowa and starting to build one in New Hampshire, in part at least by raiding key players from the failing campaigns of some opponents. And the crowds at his appearances just continue to build.

What is it about him that people find so appealing? Some of his statements are just appallingly racist and sexist, yet there seem to be no consequences. He has been effectively demolishing Jeb Bush, with snide comments about Jeb's low energy and insinuations about his wife's Mexican heritage. Shortly after a Jeb Bush interview with Univision in which Jeb criticized Trump, at some length and in fluent Spanish, Trump responded in an interview with Andrew Breitbart, saying: "I like Jeb. He's a nice man. But he should really set the example by speaking English while in the United States." So much for the Republican National Committee's grand plan to reach out to the Hispanic community and broaden their tent.

No other mainstream candidate could ever survive such blatantly xenophobic comments. Yet the Donald not merely survives, but thrives. His polling numbers are getting better, not worse; whereas earlier this summer nearly 2/3 of all voters said they could never ever vote for him, that number has now fallen sharply. One recent poll even had him running ahead of Hillary Clinton nationally.

It seems to me that he has tapped into a deep vein of anger and disillusionment among many Americans. They are listening, not so much to what he says, as to how he says it. They hear the music in his rap, the put-downs

of the elites, the way he disses the “ruling class”, and his promises to be great, to win, to dominate. They hear him talking to them, rather than at them. Trump does have an inspired way of campaigning. He doesn’t write speeches – he just wings it. But it’s not entirely spontaneous. He really is somewhat of a genius in marketing, and he is out there selling his brand, and knocking down the brands of others. His jabs at Jeb Bush are ingenious, finding just the right buttons to push to make you laugh at Jeb and to diminish Jeb. I have no doubt he spends quite a bit of time thinking about what to say, just how to stick a fork into an opponent, and then simply weaves that in to his stream of consciousness delivery. And he has the timing of a good stand-up comic. When all of that is folded together, it’s a pretty lethal combination.

He does have vulnerabilities. He really doesn’t know a lot of details about foreign or domestic policy, and he can get caught on specific questions. Further, he’s changed his position of a multitude of issues over the years, migrating from a much more centrist Democratic stance to one more acceptable to the Republicans. On key issues, though, like health care and gay rights (and social issues in general), he’s still much further to the left than most of the Republican Party. So far, puzzlingly, this seems not to matter much. Even with three marriages and casinos across the country, he still leads among Evangelicals. But at some point, will the house of cards collapse?

It’s been almost three months now, and the Trump bandwagon doesn’t show much signs of slowing down. In 2011, as we went through Republican candidates du jour, the electorate turned from one candidate to the next on a nearly weekly basis. That’s not happening

yet, but we do have a full four months before the first caucuses in Iowa. More critically, we have another Republican debate in two weeks. The CNN moderators will, no doubt, want to “make their bones” journalistically by trying to get under Trump’s skin, and more of his fellow candidates will be trying to take him down a notch or two. Yet the Donald will still be front and center, right in the middle, and therefore most prominent, among the eleven debate participants. Will he, once again, dominate? Can he get away with breezy dismissals of details (such as how he would deport 11 million undocumented immigrants) by saying it’s just a

matter of good managers, and we’ll love how he does it, and he’ll make us a great country again? By all logic, that shouldn’t be enough, not by a long shot. And yet...

So, with some trepidation, I’ll go out on a limb and say Mr. Trump will be the Republican nominee. He will win in Iowa, by a modest margin, and New Hampshire as well. He’ll roll on through the Nevada caucuses and be competitive in South Carolina, do well

in several of the Super-Tuesday primaries on March 1, and then win Florida’s winner-take-all primary (by a narrow margin). With that, both Bush and Rubio’s campaigns will disintegrate, and Trump will cruise on in to the convention, with pretty much everyone shaking their heads in wonder.

On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton still has to be the odds-on favorite (and my personal choice). With all her travails, she still leads in Iowa by 45% to 17%, in one of the latest polls. Her fundraising shows no signs of lagging. Bernie Sanders seems to be catching up to her, or maybe even passing her, in New Hampshire, but she has time to recover. Moreover, she has the campaign breadth and fund-



ing to crush Sanders in the March 1 Super-Tuesday primaries, many of which are in southern states less accepting of Bernie's hard left orientation. Lastly, Clinton reportedly has commitments from over 400 of the "super-delegates" – elected officials and party big-wigs – which represents nearly 1/5 of the votes she needs for the nomination. Thus, from an institutional perspective, Hillary still seems to have a substantial advantage.

The e-mail controversy continues to plague her campaign, and in particular, she may be vulnerable to charges about mishandling "secret" information. I put that term in quotes, because if you begin to dive down into what was secret, it appears that some of it may not really be so secret. A significant part of this controversy stems from a long-running argument within the intelligence community over what really is secret. On the surface, that would seem a pretty straightforward question. But the devil is in the details.

By the strict rules of the intelligence community, if an operation (let's say drone strikes in Yemen) is secret, it remains secret even if discussed on the front page of the New York Times. Thus, if a State Dept. employee sent an e-mail to Secretary Clinton saying: "Did you see the NYT article about the drone strikes in Yemen? What should we say about it?", that e-mail technically should be classified. Obviously, the cat is already out of the bag, so it's hard for laymen to understand how referring to a newspaper article will endanger national security. My sense is that quite a few of the "secret" e-mails fall into that type of category, discussing issues already in the public domain but not yet formally declassified by the relevant security agency. The problem for Mrs. Clinton, however, is that she cannot disclose those sorts of details without again supposedly breaking secrecy rules, nor can Congressional Democrats defend those e-mails without breaking secrecy rules. So the issue

will continue to hang over her campaign, and Republicans will continue to rub her nose in it, until something more interesting comes around to capture press interest (like a government shutdown in October over defunding Planned Parenthood or lifting sanctions on Iran).

Will Vice President Biden toss his hat in the ring? My guess is he will not. He has not yet hired any staff. He has not started any fund-raising, even for an exploratory committee. There is no super-PAC raising money to push his candidacy. Perhaps he is happy to bide his time, standing back in reserve, in the unlikely case that some overeager prosecutor tries to indict Hillary. I think part of the Vice-President wants to try for it, wants to be President, but a larger part knows full well the incredible grind it would be, the institutional advantages Hillary already has, the division it would cause in the party, and the likelihood that he would fail even if he tried. Further, my guess is that Biden's wife, Jill, is distinctly unenthusiastic. So my guess is that Biden will not run, that Bernie will make a spirited run and push Hillary somewhat toward more assertive policies, but that Hillary will be the nominee.

I can't wait for the Hillary and the Donald to debate one on one. That will be true theater.

-- Jon Fuhrman



ACT's Web Page

Visit ACT's web page, www.ACTpasadena.org. Site manager Bruce Wright has included photos, links and more. The online *Phoenix* is in color and sometimes has items that we couldn't include in the print version due to space limitations. Contact Bruce with suggestions at brucewright@sbcglobal.net.



Research Committee Report

The Research Committee met on the afternoon of August 16, 2015, to interview the candidates for Pasadena Community College Board of Trustees, District 2. The meeting was attended by, Marguerite Cooper, Jon Fuhrman, Dale Gronemeier, Dolores Hickambottom, Monica Hubbard, Marilee Marshall, George Van Alstine, Ed Washatka, Joanne Wendler, Tim Wendler, Felicia Williams, and Bruce Wright. (12)

The Research Committee, meeting on the same afternoon, interviewed candidates for District 4. (Marguerite Cooper, Jon Fuhrman, Dale Gronemeier, Dolores Hickambottom, Monica Hubbard, Marilee Marshall, Edward Washatka, Joanne Wendler, Tim Wendler, and Bruce Wright.) (10)

Given the fact that PCC is on probationary status largely due to governance issues, as addressed in the External Evaluation Report, Prepared for the Accrediting Commission on March 2, through March 5, 2015, questions were primarily directed to the candidates with respect to their knowledge of the report. The recent unsuccessful PERB appeal regarding the implementation of a trimester schedule without engaging in negotiations with the faculty, lead to the decision that PCC must pay the faculty back pay plus 7% interest for the winter session they were not allowed to teach. The candidates were also asked more general questions to determine their views on governance and proper relationships between administration, faculty and students. All of the candidates were also asked about recent allegations of racism in hiring at PCC. They were not knowledgeable about the specific racism allegations but all candidates are concerned and have progressive views about the unacceptability of racial discrimination of any sort on campus. Lastly, although, perhaps only tangentially relevant, as it impacts the

community of students and employees at PCC, they were asked whether they supported the Livable Wage Ordinance. All but one candidate supported the ordinance.

DISTRICT TWO:

(1) **Martin Enriques**, a consulting social scientist, was articulate and thoughtful. His family has lived in Pasadena for three generations and he claims to have been politically active in progressive causes for 30 years. His main activity has been Voting Rights here in Pasadena and the surrounding communities. While Martin is definitely progressive he does not bear further mention because he does not have a resume, has no campaign budget, and no endorsers he could name. He is, therefore, not considered a viable candidate at this time.

(2) **James A. Osterling**, is a CPA, and holds a B.S in Business Administration, Accounting Major, Iowa State University and a Masters of Business Administration (Majors in Management, Finance and Marketing) from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University, Chicago. For the last ten years plus, Jim has been an Associate Adjunct Professor at the Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California (USC) teaching real estate and finance courses in the Planning curriculum. In addition to his teaching duties, he has served as a mentor and provided career guidance to his students and assisted many with the transition to careers or advanced degrees.

He currently serves on the Altadena Community Standards District committee and on the Board of Directors of the Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy (AFC).

Jim is endorsed by ACT members Tim Wendler and Terry Tornek, among others.

(3) **Tom Selinske**, graduated from PCC in 1977 and went on to obtain a BS in business administration from Cal Poly, and in 1994 obtained an MBA from Pepperdine.

Tom served two terms as a PUSD board member, elected in both 2007 and 2011. He also, while a student at PCC, created the PCC Flea Market in 1977; the market grew to generate over \$150,000 a year for scholarships and student activities. He currently teaches "Leadership, Entrepreneurship, & Management Strategy" at the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising. He has also held community leadership roles in The Pasadena Educational Foundation and Leadership Pasadena.

Tom is endorsed by ACT member and long time Board member, Jeanette Mann, as well as Elizabeth Pomeroy among others.

Discussion

Neither Jim nor Tom, although pleasant, articulate and generally competent, generated much enthusiasm. The differences in their responses or suggested approaches to the problems at PCC were minimal, if any. They are both adequately financed and have reasonable campaign goals. The recommendation was based in large part on their endorsers. One person stated that some of Jim's endorsers had "tea party connections" which some people felt did not outweigh the endorsements of which we approved. We approved of most, if not all, of Tom's endorsements. One person correctly noted that we at least had some experience with Tom on the school board whereas we had no similar experience with Jim.

The research committee voted 7-4-1 to recommend the endorsement of Tom Selinski

The steering committee voted 17-3-0 to recommend the endorsement of Tom Selinski

DISTRICT 4

(1) William Thomson has a Juris Doctorate from Georgetown University and a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering from Bucknell University. He currently represents the University of Southern California on patent mat-

ters and counsels clients on patent, trademark, copyright, trade secret, and licensing matters. He is also a frequent lecturer on intellectual property issues.

Bill served as the Mayor of Pasadena (1988 to 1990), as a Pasadena City councilmember (1981-1997), and as the chair and a member of the Rose Bowl Operating Company and the Rose Bowl Aquatics Center. He was elected in November 2007 to represent District 4.

Public education is and has always been Bill's stated passion and priority. He is especially proud of the fundraiser he and his wife held for PCC last year. Bill does not support the Pasadena Livable Wage Ordinance, but would not be opposed to a state wide increase in the minimum wage.

He is endorsed by Jeannette Mann and Steve Madison, among others.

(2) Hoyt Hilsman holds a B.A. from Columbia University and a J.D. from Columbia Law School. .

Professionally, Hoyt is an award-winning writer and journalist and is a former instructor at PCC and UCLA. On a volunteer basis he has taught creative writing in the public schools in East Los Angeles, has been a volunteer at Union Station Homeless Shelter, and the Writers Guild.

He has served on numerous local boards and commissions, including the Community Development Committee, the Northwest Commission, and as chair of the Pasadena Community Access Corporation. He is currently President of the Democrats of Pasadena Foothills and is a member of the Livable Wage Coalition.

Hilsman is endorsed by ACT members Chris Holden, Anthony Portantino and Terry Tornek among others.

Discussion

While, we are all aware of and discussed the progressive stand taken by Bill in the 70's

which has earned him the enduring respect of ACT, we felt that Hoyt would bring a breath of sorely needed "fresh air" to PCC in this troubled time and that he would be in the better position to restore relationships of trust between the Board, the faculty and students.

The research committee voted 8 - 2 - 0 to recommend the endorsement of Hoyt Hilsman.

Following a lively discussion, the steering committee voted to recommend the endorsement of Bill Thomson. Those who favored Bill pointed that he was more experienced than Hoyt and also cited all the positive accomplishments of PCC during Bill's tenure on the Board.

The steering committee voted 14-7-0 to recommend the endorsement of Bill Thomson.



ACT & ADC ENDORSEMENT BALLOT



For PCC Elections

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 2015 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 wish to vote.

Ballot Deadline Ballots must be received by 5 p.m. Wednesday, September 30th. Further endorsement election information can be found in this *Phoenix*.

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

Endorsement Requirements

1. A 60% majority of ballots cast is required to endorse a candidate. 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 Instructions

This is a double ballot, one for ACT and one for the Arroyo Democratic Club. Following each candidate's name, the first set of check boxes are for ACT voters and the second set are for ADC voters. The ADC guidelines are identical to ACT with the exception that only Democratic candidates have boxes for vote check marks.

California Historian Kevin Starr is Featured Speaker on the Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs Distinguished Speaker Series

Wednesday, October 14, 6-8 p.m.
Cal State LA 5151 State University Dr
Los Angeles, CA

To register:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ebi53qveb49ac107&oseq=&c=&ch=>

Kevin Starr is University Professor, professor of history at USC, and Associate Dean of USC Libraries. He previously served as the state librarian for California. Professor Starr has written extensively on the history of California and in 2006 then President George W. Bush awarded him the prestigious National Humanities Medal for his work as a scholar and historian. He is the inaugural director of the Academy for Polymathic Study at USC.

-- Monica Hubbard



ACT & ADC ENDORSEMENT BALLOT



For PCC Elections

(Note: ADC, as a Democratic club, cannot endorse candidates who are not Democrats. In District 2, only one candidate, Martin Enriques, is a Democrat. In District 4, only one candidate, Hoyt Hilsman, is a Democrat. Candidates must receive 60% of ballots cast, including No Endorsement votes, to receive an endorsement.)

Pasadena Community College District 2:

Research Committee recommends endorsing Tom Selinske (7 - 4 - 0).

Steering Committee recommends endorsing Tom Selinske (17 - 3 - 0).

Vote for one	ACT Voter: #1	#2	#3	ADC Voter: #1	#2	#3
Martin Enriques		
James Osterling		
Tom Selinske		
No Endorsement.....					

Pasadena Community College District 4:

Research Committee recommends endorsing Hoyt Hilsman (7 - 3 - 0).

Steering Committee recommends endorsing Bill Thomson (14 - 7 - 0).

Vote for one	ACT Voter: #1	#2	#3	ADC Voter: #1	#2	#3
Hoyt Hilsman		
Marshall Lewis		
Bill Thomson		
No Endorsement.....					



**From
41st District
Assemblymember
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

Midnight September 11 marks the end of the 2015 Legislative session with hundreds of bills being approved in the final days.

As I write this, I am very pleased that the majority of my bills have passed the Legislature, though there are still some key measures waiting for approval. The Governor has already signed four of my bills into law and has until October 11 to take action on the remaining measures.

Among my bills this year: **first-of-its-kind-in-the-nation legislation** to help small businesses by giving franchise owners stronger protections against corporate owners. I worked closely with Democratic leaders, franchise owners and labor to craft compromise legislation with franchise corporations.

I took a harder look at mutual water companies and authored legislation to make sure they were open and transparent. I also fought for extending the statute of limitations in Human Rights cases and provided used car buyers with more protection from abusive practices. I also headed a bi-partisan effort to expand access to community college courses for high school students through Concurrent or Dual Enrollment.

I am hopeful Governor Brown will sign these important bills into law.

As you probably have read, environmental goals are the subject of intense debate in these waning days of the session. SB 350 (de Leon) would make California a leader in the fight against climate change by reducing gasoline consumption.

Oil companies have mounted an expensive lobbying campaign to win support in killing the bill. As of this deadline I am working with Assembly leaders to help pass this critical legislation. There are several amendments under consideration to provide more oversight. Recently, some of the state's biggest utilities added their support. If the Assembly doesn't pass the bill by Friday the 11th, we'll have to wait until next year.

I want to let you know about an important hearing on Regional Transportation Solutions – "Moving Goods, Moving People", that I'm chairing October 15 at the U.S. Court of Appeals, 125 S. Grand Avenue, Pasadena. Space is limited so please call for reservations at 626.351.1917. Check out my website for further details: www.asmdc.org/members/a41.

It was great seeing so many of my ACT friends at our annual block party in August. I look forward to seeing more of you as I present my Capitol Update in communities throughout the 41st Assembly District.

Chris R. Holden

Holden can be reached at: www.asm.ca.gov/holden



President Obama Wants You

President Obama has proclaimed September 22 as National Voter Registration Day in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. The right to vote is one of the most fundamental rights of any democracy providing equal opportunity for all. We are all aware of recent challenges to this fundamental right that have set up roadblocks along the way. As a result, we must work harder to achieve this right.

The League of Women Voters has taken the lead. Help is needed to get as many volunteers registering on September 22 as possible. The League will be registering locally-Pasadena and Altadena at 6 locations. This is a perfect opportunity for ACT members to assist

the League with their efforts. There will be 2 shifts: 9-Noon, 12-3. A short training session of 15-30 minutes will be given to each volunteer. Let's answer President Obama's call and support the League by giving only 3 hours to this cause.

I will coordinate with the League and provide you with all the information necessary to register voters. Contact info:

seasideatdelmar@gmail.com

Each one of us has the potential to make a difference, **together we make change.**

-- Barbara Paul



From 25th District State Senator Carol Liu...



Sacramento Update

We are now in the final weeks of this year's legislative session. Usually this is a time of mad scrambles and some surprises as members use techniques like "gut and amend" to move bills that were stuck in a committee or failed passage in one of the houses. This year, however, has been relatively calm and the process straight forward. But that doesn't mean without controversy.

Still in questions are the outcomes for the Democrats' climate change package accelerating the shift away from fossil fuels. I am pleased to say my own small piece of the package, putting more focus on sustainability in the state transportation plan, has been sent to the Governor's desk.

As a matter of practice, I try to move all of my bills ahead of the end-of-session fray. It just makes the last few days less frenzied. My bills already on the Governor's desk include:

- SB 64, State Transportation Plan
- SB 68, Minor Parents Reunification Services
- SB 219, Alternative Custody
- SB 255, Commission on the Status of Women
- SB 445, Homeless Youth School Enrollment
- SB 575, Long Term Care Insurance
- SB 675, Hospital Discharge and Transitional Care

You can find out more about these measures at www.leginfo.ca.gov. The Governor has until October 10th to sign or veto bills.

I have several bills awaiting further action and some that are now two-year bills, the latter meaning I will have to work with the opposition to see if we can find middle ground and amend the bills in January to move them along. These include SB 608, The Right to Rest Act that addresses the criminalization of homelessness. Homelessness is a growing problem in our state. I recognize the impact it has on communities and businesses, but I also believe we are a humane society that can find another way besides criminalizing the homeless to assist this segment of our population. I look forward to working with our advocates, local community representatives, and the League of Cities to see if we can come up with a mutually agreeable approach.

I will also be working on the SB 547 and SB 571, bills directed toward making the state's aging and long term system more effective and navigable for consumers. Folks over 65 will make up one-fifth of the state's population by 2030. If we don't meet this "silver tsunami" with a manageable and affordable set of services and supports, the state is going to be overwhelmed. This older population is also projected to be the highest growth segment of Californians living in poverty.

My work in education reform including community schools, teacher quality, and early

childhood education will be at the forefront of my 2016 legislative agenda, as will my work in aging and long term care and poverty. Meanwhile, I am looking forward to the Governor (hopefully) signing my 2015 legislation.

I hope you all enjoyed a restful Labor Day weekend and I send best wishes to all students, teachers, and professors who have returned to school.

-- Carol Liu

Senator Liu can be reached at senate.ca.gov/LIU.



**From
43rd District
Assemblymember
Mike Gatto**



Do you have a \$25,000 idea?

The 21st century has presented us with many exceptional challenges, from resource protection, sustainability practices to energy conservation, as well as knowledge sharing and privacy preservation. Our ability to meet these challenges and improve the quality of life for Californians will require creative solutions -- innovation will be the key to our success.

In 2011, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) launched the "Experimental Crowd-Derived Combat Support Vehicle Design Challenge" with a \$7,500 prize. More than 150 submissions came in during the month-long contest, and it was ultimately won by Victor Garcia, who was working an entry level job at a truck manufacturer. Within fourteen weeks, his prototype was built and delivered, with keys, to President Obama.

That's why I introduced Assembly Bill 2138, a bill that creates up to a \$25,000 prize for Californians who provide intellectual property to solve a specific problem or otherwise streamline a system within a state agency. AB 2138 was signed into law in September 2014 by

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.

California's "\$25K Find a New Way" contest will reward actual intellectual property, not just vague ideas. As in the DARPA example, the agency did not acquire a mere idea, (i.e., "you should build a new combat transport"), but actual intellectual property (plans and blueprints), that would normally cost millions of dollars and a significant amount of time.

Now, as a result of my AB 2138, the [Department of Transportation](#), the [Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control](#), and the [Department of General Services](#), will be holding "\$25K Find a New Way" Innovation Contests to facilitate solutions for some of the state's most pressing challenges. Winners will be announced by December 31, 2015. Submit your idea before October 13th, 2015 at

www.findanewway.ca.gov.

This is a remarkable opportunity to cultivate California innovation. The people of California are creative, resourceful, and innovative. Incentives like this showcase Californians' creative solutions to resolving the inefficiencies of government. I look forward to seeing your submissions.

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



***Democratic Party Delegation
Selection Process***

This is your official notification about Arroyo Democratic Club delegate selection. Our meeting will be Thursday, December 4 prior to the ACT Steering/ADC meeting at a location to be determined.

Selection of Representatives to California Democratic Party Pre-Endorsing Conferences:

1. The Club is entitled to elect one representative, resident in the Assembly District and duly registered as a member of the Democratic Party of California, for each full (not a fraction

thereof) 20 members in good standing registered to vote in that Assembly District who were listed on the roster submitted to Los Angeles County Democratic Party and to the appropriate Regional Director of the CDP no later than July 1 of the year immediately prior to the endorsing process.

2. For purposes of this Section: a. Only members in good standing as of the July 1 deadline shall be included on the roster; b. The status of such members shall be certified by the Club's President, Secretary, or Treasurer; and, c. The Club's representatives to any particular pre-endorsing conference must be selected from the roster described above and that the overall list of representatives to all conferences be equally apportioned between men and women, to the extent possible.

3. Said representatives shall be selected by the Steering Committee at a regularly scheduled meeting at which the selection process has been agendized and described in the prior month's Phoenix.

4. No later than October 1, of each odd numbered year, the Club shall inform its membership of the process for selection as a Representative to the California Democratic Party Pre-Endorsing Conferences.

--Tim Wendler, ADC VP



Successful Judy Boggs Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who made our Judy Boggs Fundraiser a big success. We have raised \$5168 already, nearly meeting our goal for next year of \$6,000 to fund two interns at the United Democratic Headquarters. Our grateful thanks go to everyone who attended and everyone who worked to make the event a success. (Especially to hosts Marilee Marshall and Bruce Wright who opened their lovely home for us and did the preparation heavy lifting!)

Our special thanks go to our sponsors:

Gold Sponsors:

Linda Centell & Ed Washatka
Beth Gertmenian
Dale & Temetra Gronemeier
Marilee Marshall & Bruce Wright

Silver Sponsors:

Bill & Claire Bogaard
Ellen Coles
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Joanne & Tim Wendler



Next Meeting - Progressive Discussion Group

Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group meets on every first and third Friday of the month, 9 a.m. at Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena. The next meeting is on Friday, September 18. The topic is wage theft, an aspect of the living wage problem. The speaker will be Tia Koonse of the UCLA Labor Center.

Come, join the discussion. Everyone is welcome. Order breakfast, coffee, etc., or not. Check with Inman Moore at 626-795-2201 or inmanmoore3@gmail.com for additional information.

Phlunte Riddle, State Senate Candidate, 25th District

Numbers Count. Now I know why there are fewer women than men in the Legislature. After six and a half months of campaigning, I recognize it takes real commitment and 200% effort to be taken seriously as a candidate. Running for elective office presents a challenge for women raising families, pursuing careers, and/or advancing their education. It's NOT impossible, but it is very difficult. Fortunately, the opportunity to run for the office of Senator, 25th District, comes at the right time in my life and career.

In August 2015, we celebrated the 95th anniversary of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. My mother-in-law is 97 years young and shares the history of this struggle from a woman of color's perspective. She is an amazing woman of courage. In the past 95 years, there has been great opportunity to continue to educate and embrace the power of the vote and its phenomenal impact on our lives and the lives of our families. I appreciate and value casting my vote and teaching others the importance of voting.

As I study the history of elections to the California State Legislature it is disheartening to see the decreasing number of capable Democratic women being elected. Of the 120 California legislators presently serving, only 31 are women with 13 of those, women of color. This is in spite of women making up 58 percent of the state's population. With California's diverse population and the increasing number of women obtaining higher education, excelling in the workplace, and breaking *glass ceilings*, it is perplexing that women and women of color continue to be underrepresented. Clearly, women's voices and perspective make a difference especially when it comes to bringing issues like early childhood education, domestic violence, equal pay, and discrimination to the forefront.

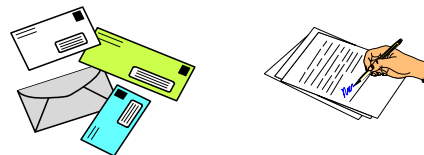
I admire and am inspired by women who made the difficult decision to serve the public through political office, especially our own Senator Carol Liu who became the first Asian Pacific Islander elected to the Senate in 2008. As she completes her thirteenth year, she is the longest serving Asian Pacific Islander woman legislator in history. When she terms out in 2016, Senator Liu will leave a legacy of education, human services, public safety, and environmental policy that benefits all Californians.

I will not be the first African American woman elected to the legislature, but I do believe I would be the first woman police officer. With that comes another unique perspective that I can bring to deliberations based on my experience in public safety, education, and community collaboration.

As I seek to follow in the footsteps of the accomplished women who have gone before me, I am honored to have the personal endorsement of current Senators Holly Mitchell (D-20th) and Connie Leyva (D-30th) and retired Assemblymember Yvonne Brathwaite Burke. I am also proud and honored to have received the endorsement of the Legislative Women's Caucus.

In my travels back and forth to Sacramento and across the 25th Senate District, I have met so many wonderful people who have encouraged me and offered their support. I look forward to continuing my journey on the campaign trail.

Phlunte Riddle



Drilling for Answers

By John Grula, reprinted from the
Pasadena Weekly with permission



Assemblyman Chris Holden's failure to get Democrat support for a groundwater monitoring bill raises concerns

It's no secret that California is at least several years into a serious water crisis. Rising to the challenge of this crisis will require sacrifice on the part of all of our citizens. In particular, our state's top politicians must have the courage and vision to help lead us out of this mess or things will only get worse.

As it turns out, one of California's top politicians is our local representative in the state Assembly, Democrat Chris Holden. First elected to the Assembly in 2012, the former Pasadena City Council member has already risen in his second term to the post of Majority Floor Leader, second in rank only to the Assembly Speaker in the Democratic chain of command. His has been a rather meteoric rise to the top of the power structure in Sacramento.

This brings us to a little story about what happened recently in the Assembly to a common-sense piece of legislation, Assembly Bill 356, or the Oil and Gas: Groundwater Monitoring Bill. Introduced by Assemblyman Das Williams (D-Carpinteria), this bill would have required the monitoring of groundwater near injection wells that are used to dispose of waste water from conventional oil and natural gas extraction wells as well as those stimulated by fracking or acidizing.

The waste water from fracked or acidized oil and gas wells is contaminated with brine and chemicals, some of which are very hazardous to human health, and there is major concern that these harmful compounds could end up

contaminating underground aquifers from which drinking and irrigation water are obtained.

Let us recall just how important these aquifers have become during our current drought. Central Valley farmers, according to reports in the Los Angeles Times, are drilling into and pumping them like crazy in a desperate attempt to obtain water for their thirsty crops. At the same time, other places in the Central Valley, such as the Porterville area, have pumped their aquifers so much that groundwater levels have plummeted and wells and faucets are now running dry, the Times reports. Groundwater is being rapidly depleted all over our state and to contaminate it in any way is potentially a criminal act.

Back to AB-356, which would have required the monitoring of groundwater aquifers to get baseline readings now, before contamination occurs. Sounds pretty sane and sensible, right? What harm could this collection of scientific data possibly do, and without it how will we know when contamination of an aquifer has occurred?

Guess what? The Assembly recently rejected AB-356. How and why did this happen? This is where Holden comes into the picture. After supporting AB-356 in a May 28 vote in the Appropriations Committee, Holden failed to vote on the bill when it reached the Assembly floor on June 4. He was joined in not recording a floor vote on AB-356 by 19 other Assembly members, 16 of whom are Democrats.

As a result, AB-356 failed to get the 41 "yes" votes it needed for passage. So, in this case, Holden's failure to vote was essentially a "no" vote and AB-356 was killed. As the Majority Leader in the Assembly, Holden almost certainly influenced the other 15 Democrats who did not vote on this bill and, if so, is the person most responsible for its demise. Both phone and email inquiries to Holden's Pasadena off-

ice seeking an explanation were not answered.

This is not the first time Holden has failed to vote on bills that will affect the oil and gas industry. How do we explain his dereliction of duty? After all, the voters don't send politicians to Sacramento so they can fail to take a stand on important pieces of legislation.

It turns out that Holden is beholden to the oil and gas industry. According to a report released last year by California Common Cause and the ACCE Institute, "Big Oil Floods the Capital," in 2013 he accepted \$7,100 from the oil industry. While that may not sound like much money, 2013 was only Holden's first year in the Assembly. At this rate, and if he remains in state government for more than a decade in either the Assembly or Senate, he could easily zoom to the top of the "Big Oil" list.

If our state is going to survive the drought we're currently experiencing, people and their water needs must be put first and the oil industry is going to have to sacrifice as much as if not more than the rest of us. Assemblyman Holden's lack of leadership is not what we need now from California politicians. Let us hope he finds the courage to do the right thing the next time he gets an opportunity to vote on AB-356 or whatever legislation replaces it.

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



BOOK REVIEW

In her new book, *The Age of Dignity: Preparing for the Elder Boom in a Changing America*, author Ai-jen Poo says the country is on the cusp of a major shift.

The baby boom generation is reaching retirement age at a rate of 10,000 people per day. By 2050, 27 million Americans will need some form of long-term care or assistance,

Poo is the director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance and the co-director of Caring Across Generations, an organization focused on improving the long-term care system in the U.S. She also received a MacArthur fellow in 2014.

There is a real risk of poverty for those seeking nursing home care. The average nursing home stay for a private room is about \$87,000 per year.

There is a growing need for home-care workers. Home care is already the fastest-growing occupation in the country. The average wages of a home care worker are less than \$9 per hour. So the workers that we're counting on to take care of our families cannot take care of their own on the poverty wages that they're earning. Now is a moment, with such a huge increase in the need for care, for us to transform that and bring the kind of dignity and value to that work that is long overdue.

There is a fundamental problem in the current U.S. health care model. The way that we approach aging and dying in this country is from a place of scarcity and fear, and what this book is saying is that getting older is actually a blessing and an opportunity. Living longer is about loving longer, learning longer, teaching longer, connecting longer

This is a book of problems finding solutions. It's the solution to the personal and economic challenges we face in this country. It doesn't just heal or comfort people individually; it really is going to save us all. CARE must become part of the infrastructure. We have infrastructure for railroads, highways, electricity, the internet. *Now we need to build an infrastructure for CARE*

--Grace W. Tiessen



Address Label Red Checks ✓

A red check on your address label on this *Phoenix* means we haven't yet received your 2015 membership dues. Hey, it's time! Please use the form below and mail your check c/o ACT/ADC, P. O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074. Or you may renew online at www.ACTpasadena.org. ACT and ADC dues are still a bargain, especially if you join both organizations.



Thanks to everyone who has already renewed. And special thanks to those who have renewed at very generous levels along with those who have made additional contributions to the political and/or operating accounts.

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

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 |
| \$15 Student or limited income | \$150 Patron |
| | \$275 Benefactor |

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

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| \$35 Single | \$60 Single Sustaining |
| \$20 Each additional member per household | \$85 Double Sustaining |
| \$15 Student or limited income | \$125 Patron |
| \$20 Gift Membership (NEW!) | \$275 Benefactor |

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

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
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| \$15 Student or limited income | \$125 Patron |
| | \$275 Benefactor |

Extra Contribution

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

Name Home Phone

Address Office Phone

City ZIP

Email address

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



Calendar

- Sept 18
Friday
9 a.m. Progressive Discussion Group at Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena. Tia Koonse from the UCLA Labor Center discusses wage theft. Contact Inman Moore at 626 795-2201 for details.
- Sept 22
Tuesday National Voter Registration Day. To help the LWV register voters contact Barbara Paul at seasideatdelmar@gmail.com.
- October 1
Thursday
7 p.m. ACT Steering Committee/ADC meeting at a TBD location. Program: Fracking. Coffee at 7; meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.
- October 2, 16
Friday Progressive Discussion Group. Details same as September 18.

- October 18
Sunday
2-4 p.m. UDH Oktoberfest! Fundraiser at Hillmont House, 939 N Hill Ave., Pasadena. Funds support our 2016 United Democratic HQ. Tickets \$35. See item inside about sponsorships.



An Endorsement Ballot for PCC Districts 2 and 4 is included on page 10. See the Research Committee and Steering Committee recommendations in the Research Committee Report on page 7 in this *Phoenix*.



Wanted: A Photo of you in a Special Place

Let us know where you've been recently. Please share your high-resolution photo with us at hains27@sbcglobal.net for inclusion in *The Phoenix*.



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Pasadena, California
91114-7074