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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

It All Comes Down to Georgia

We waited, as they counted, and recounted, the Presidential ballots, with President-elect Biden finally winning by a mere 12,000 votes out of 5 million votes cast.

But it's not over. They are extending our collective angst as we await the run-off elections to determine control of the Senate. With both seats, we gain at least nominal control of both branches of government, and the ability to set the agenda and confirm executive and judicial nominees. The GOP could still filibuster, but some legislation can make end-runs around the filibuster.



The alternative is continued Republican obstruction, burying legislation and even nominations so they never even come up for a vote (lest we lure a few moderate Reps to our side).

Our United Demo Headquarters is extending our operations for the Georgia elections, organizing phone banks and postcarding. Check the UDH web site (www.pasadenademocrats.com) for details on how to support the effort. President-elect Biden's ability to achieve anything of substance hangs in the balance.

Online or Paper?

That's the question we will soon be putting to ACT and ADC members. Do you want to receive your monthly *Phoenix* online or would you like to receive the mailed paper version? If you have never looked at the online version, you should. Go to our website www.ACTpasadena.org and take a look. The online *Phoenix* is in color, so it has a livelier look, and it often contains items we couldn't fit in the paper version.

Both versions have their good points. Paper is

handy and what we are used to, but it does take time to prep for mailing and at least two days in the mail; sometimes more. And we are burning through some trees to publish it; the September Phoenix alone was twenty pages!

The online version looks better and is there for you to reference whenever you wish. (For the curious, an archive of previous *Phoenixes* is available on the website too.)

Please think about this question and do check the website. Then you can see what else it offers.

Election



Record Turnout: Several states (including California) still haven't officially certified their elections results. However, now that New York is finally(!) done counting, the outcome is fairly clear: \approx 158.5 million people voted in 2020. That is \approx 66.3% of all eligible voters, and 85-90% of all registered voters -- by far the largest in American history. The 2020 vote total was 16% higher than in 2016 even though eligible voters increased by only 4%. To see comparable numbers one must look back to 1900, when the eligible electorate did not include women, most minorities, nor a number of the current states. NOTE: There are probably a million+ votes of various kinds (write-ins, blank ballots, etc.) not yet included in this total, which will bring the final turnout to something like 159.6 million and 66.7%.

On average, the increase was a point or so higher in "battleground" states and a point or so lower elsewhere, with an especially powerful surge in the west/southwest. Eleven states saw turnout rise by more than 20%; two were in the southeast (Georgia and Tennessee), all the rest (including California +23.4%, and Texas +26.2%) were in the west/southwest.

State and Local Results: California gave Biden 63.5% of its votes. The state had record registration (just over 22 million) and record turnout (just under 81% -- almost 17.8 million). Some 72% of our ballots were cast by mail. Nationally, over 64% of votes were cast early -- roughly 65% of those by mail and 35% in person.

Locally, Biden won every city in the area, with the highest margins in Pasadena and South Pasadena (77%) and in Altadena (78+%). Pasadena had 81.2% turnout; Altadena was 82.6%; South

Pasadena was 89.5% and La Canada/-Flintridge was 87.5%. In Pasadena, about 4,500 people did not vote in the Mayor's race -- too few to have changed the outcome (Victor Gordo by @6,500 votes).

The Trump Effect: Whatever else history may say of Donald Trump, he's had an unprecedented impact on voter participation. Joe Biden is at 81-million votes and rising -- almost 12 million more than any previous president (Barack Obama had 69.5 million in 2008). Democratic theorists and organizers had long dreamed of such a turnout, but it took Trump's provocative presidency to make it happen. He lost. By a lot. Yet Trump ran up the second-highest vote total in US history: over 74 million -- 10 million+ more votes than in 2016.

Trump's campaign made no secret of their plans to find, register and turn out millions of new voters. There were many skeptics; yet they clearly succeeded on a remarkable scale -- so much so that a major question now hangs over the future of U.S. politics: Will all these new-found Republicans develop the habit of voting? Or will they fade back into sullen disengagement when Trump is not on the ballot? We'll get a preliminary answer in Georgia's Senate run-offs on January 5th.

Lest we forget, California was far from immune to the Trump contagion. He won more than 6-million votes here, far more than in any other state.

Crisis Narrowly Avoided: Nationally, Biden won by \approx 4.4% -- more than 7 million votes (with California and New York accounting for the entire margin). Yet Trump came shockingly close to a tie in the Electoral College (44,000 votes in three states) which likely would have been followed by a win in the House of Representatives. He was closer to victory, in fact, than was Hillary Clinton in 2016. It is surprisingly common for presidential elections to be decided by razor-thin

margins in several states; but no one has ever lost the Electoral College while winning an outright majority of the national vote (Gore '00 and Clinton '16 won pluralities). Trump's coalition clearly has a structural advantage in the Electoral College. If it endures, the nation will regularly flirt with Constitutional crisis.

Divisions persist: The divides that define our current politics intensified in 2020. Racial/ethnic divisions lessened only slightly, while economic divides weren't much changed. But the education and urban/rural divides were sharper than ever in this election. Biden swept urban areas and did very well in the suburbs yet won just 17% of the nation's counties -- almost no improvement over 2016. The suburban gains, though critical, may not be secure. Some suburban Republicans voted against Trump while remaining loyal to their party for Congress and other down-ballot races. They will likely swing back to the GOP in 2024 -- IF Republicans nominate a less repulsive candidate.

Meanwhile, Democrats continue to struggle with working class/non-college white voters. It appears Biden may have made gains among this group in suburban areas. In rural and small-town America, however, they went even more heavily for Trump than in 2016. Most African-American and Latino voters are also working class/non-college, and there are signs that Trump's limited gains in both communities were concentrated among those voters -- especially working men.

Some of these trends will be impossible to tease out until we have better data. For example, Biden appears to have lost support (relatively, not absolutely) in urban cores that are heavily African American. But this may simply be a case of more African Americans moving from urban cores into the suburbs. That movement (perhaps accelerated by Covid) probably also accounts for some of the increased Democratic strength in the suburbs.

~ Fred Register

ACT & ADC General Membership Meeting Via Zoom

Featuring our Judy Boggs Interns

Thursday, January 7, 7 p.m.

Join ACT and ADC at our January General Membership Zoom meeting. Meet our amazing Judy Boggs interns: Mya Taylor, Madeline Peña, and Sosse Krikorian. Learn how they and Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters (UDH) staffers created and executed an innovative and successful virtual campaign in this crazy year. We are very proud of them. They deserve our applause.

Come with your questions about how these dynamic young women were able to bring off such a unique campaign effort. A virtual campaign (with no bricks and mortar office) was totally new. We can learn a lot from their experiences.

Socializing will begin at 7 p.m. with the meeting following at 7:30 p.m. We will email a connection to the meeting to all members who have provided us with their email address. Our Zoom connection accommodates 100 attendees.

Note: We will be voting on ACT and ADC officers for 2021 at this meeting.



Program Ideas Wanted

Our Program Chair, Ann Hickambottom asks ACT and ADC members for ideas for programs for upcoming meetings. Do you have a topic that would interest ACT and ADC members? Know a speaker we really should hear? Have expertise to share? Please contact Ann with your thoughts at amhickambottom@gmail.com.



Confession Time!!

I was one of the 80,977,255 people who "rigged" the election for Biden.

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Tuesday, December 8

Yesterday was Pearl Harbor Day, but today is Safe Harbor Day – the last day, as ordained by an 1877 statute, on which a state’s slate of Electors can be challenged in court. It hasn’t been relevant in the last 150 years, because no Presidential contender has refused to concede. But what’s one more norm to shatter, as President Trump goes out with a bellowing roar of impotent whining. Apparently, the Trump legal eagles even cooked up a scheme with the Texas Attorney-General for Texas to sue the states of Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin in the US Supreme Court, alleging that changes they made in their own state election laws violated the US Constitution, and therefore the Court should enjoin them from casting votes in the Electoral College (and, what a surprise, thereby give the election to Trump). One of many natural questions might be why Texas waited until after the

election to sue, rather than bringing suit before the election, but I suppose we shouldn’t quibble. Notwithstanding this Hail Mary play and President Trump’s importuning of various state legislative leaders to disregard the popular vote and simply appoint Trump electors, President-Elect Biden is moving inexorably toward his inauguration. The Electoral College formally casts their votes next Monday, Dec. 14; the Congress receives their votes on Jan. 6, and any challenges must be sustained by both Houses of Congress, so regardless of the outcome of the Georgia elections, any challenge will be defeated in the House.

As we reflect on this whole election cycle, should we be comforted that “the system” worked, that a blatant attempt to subvert the election results failed because honest patriots took their oaths and the law seriously, and put that responsibility ahead of partisan allegiance? Or should we be appalled at how close we came, and had the Trump Administration and campaign been just a bit more clever, and a bit more prepared and organized, that they might well have succeeded? Thankfully, the gang that couldn’t shoot straight hadn’t really laid the groundwork for a real coup, either out of hubris or simple incompetence. Had they tilled the ground, and had legislative leaders in swing states been primed to react in unison, it’s possible they could have succeeded.

But there is a third rather interesting perspective on all this. It could be that President Trump’s bellowing faux outrage isn’t really about trying to turn around the election results. It could simply be the final act of the long con, immortalizing the Trumps as the ultimate grifter family. The President has raised, since the election, over \$207 million in contributions, but not for his Presidential campaign; rather, 75% of those contributions (per the tiny print at the bottom of those solicitations) goes to his new PAC – Save America – while the remaining 25% goes to the Republican National Committee.

This enormous pot of cash (which is still

growing) can be used by President Trump at his sole discretion. He can hire and pay family members for “consulting services”, he can pay for travel expenses, rent huge facilities (at Trump hotels and golf courses), pay for services, and even make an occasional modest contribution to Republican candidates here and there. Basically, this is slush fund at the family’s disposal, which he might well need to bail himself out as he leaves the White House and actually has to pay for his lavish lifestyle, fend off numerous lawsuits and investigations, and pay off debts that are coming due. Further, he also owns the list of donors to that PAC, which itself can be rented out for more millions in direct income.

As much fun as it can be to obsess about the Trumps, we do have more pressing concerns. Georgia will determine control of the Senate, and perhaps the fate of the Biden Presidency, in less than a month. The latest polling seems to give our folks a bit of an edge, but the entire election will come down, not to persuasion, but to a base-versus-base brawl. Whoever’s side turns out better will win. Can we Democrats, after narrowly and

historically winning the Presidential race, hold our voters (even though some of them voted for the GOP Senate candidates)? Will GOP attacks warning about socialism and communism scare the Trump voters enough to get them out to vote?

The increased turnout in November’s election is really a two-edged sword. It brought out occasional or unlikely voters on each side; now each side has to struggle to identify and retain those marginal voters. On the GOP side, with Trump not on the ballot, will those folks come out again? On the Demo side, we traditionally see a fall-off particularly among marginal voters from our side. So, who will have the better ground game?

There are some early tea leaves to be read. The

number of absentee ballot applications is already through the roof, well ahead of where we stood one month before the November election. Further, apparently about 60,000 of those are from voters who did not vote in November. My guess is that represents the work of African-American churches organizing their members, which would be excellent news for our side. Further, Democrats seem to be getting used to voting by absentee ballot or through early voting, so the strong absentee ballot numbers also bode well for our side. Lastly, the Republicans seem once more to be shooting themselves in the foot. There is a fringe group that is arguing that the election machines and software used in Georgia cannot be

trusted and that voters should boycott the election. Clearly, any decline in turnout among the hard-core GOP base redounds to our benefit.

Additionally, Democrats are trying to take advantage of remaining hard feelings in the GOP camp from their three-way race for the appointed seat. GOP conservative Doug Collins actually carried numerous precincts in rural areas, particularly in the northeast area of Georgia (which he represented in



Congress) and in the southwest rural areas. Dems are advertising there, highlighting Collins scathing attacks on the appointed Sen. Kelly Loeffler to try to depress the GOP vote. Even without the Democratic ads, Collins supporters might be less than enthusiastic to vote for Loeffler, and with such a tight race, even just 5 – 10% of those folks sitting out could swing both Senate seats.

One of the biggest unknowns will be how the COVID crisis impacts the vote. Democrats are primed to vote by absentee or through early voting, but the GOP electorate is far more focused on election day voting. If COVID decreases the likelihood of election day voting, that could further tilt the scales toward our side. Whatever

happens, we probably won't know the results until days after the election. Indeed, we may have another full, state-wide hand recount if the results are as close as the Presidential race was.

And until the races are resolved, the Senate is pretty much deadlocked. Without knowing which side has a majority, and therefore controls Committee chairmanships, the committees can't meet and do the traditional pre-Inauguration vetting of Cabinet and sub-Cabinet nominees, which means most Cabinet members won't be able to take the reins as Biden starts his administration.

Our own United Democratic Headquarters has continued operations to support phone banking and postcarding to Georgia. They have retained Caitlin Gallogly to help organize and train volunteers, and we are actively supporting the Ossoff and Warnock campaigns. So, keep your check-book open just a little longer, and keep phoning and writing. These Senate elections will be the difference between progress and gridlock.

Finally, allow me to indulge in a bit of reminiscing. Back in the 1988 – 1992 time period, ACT supported a number of new leaders in the San Gabriel Valley: **Gloria Molina**, who retired a few years ago after 24 years as Supervisor in LA County; **Lucille Roybal-Allard**, who is now a "Cardinal", chairing the Homeland Security subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee; and **Xavier Becerra**, who, after 12 terms in the House and service as our State Attorney-General, is now off to join the Biden Cabinet as Secretary of Health and Human Services. ACT as an organization was among the first to endorse and contribute to these candidates; ACT members played key roles in their successful campaigns, particularly Patti Bond, who managed many of their campaigns. I think we can claim these remarkable politicians as part of ACT's legacy, a legacy of which we can all be enormously proud.

~ Jon Fuhrman



Democratic Party Assembly District ADEM Elections



Every two years in January of odd years, the Democratic party elects approximately one-third of its Democratic State Central Committee (DSCC)/state convention delegates (the other two-thirds are through elected official appointments and elections by County Parties). These committee members elect statewide party officers, make endorsements in partisan races and on propositions, approve resolutions, and establish the platform of the CA Democratic Party. An Executive Board member will also be elected – the Eboard acts as the State Party's governing body when the state convention is not in session.

In past years, this was done at a caucus in each Assembly District in which any registered Democrat could attend and vote for up to 14 candidates. This time, with the need for social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, voting will be done by mail. If you would like to run for one of these positions, apply at <https://ademelections.com/?isCandidate=True> by December 15 (there is a \$30 fee). If you don't plan to be a candidate, but would like to vote for ADEM candidates, request a vote by mail ballot at https://bit.ly/REG_CADEMS by January 11 (these ballots must be returned and received by the CDP by January 27).

I am happy to answer your questions at timwendler89@gmail.com. I have joined a group of Dems running together to be delegates, Democrats for Justice (<https://www.facebook.com/DemocratsForJustice>), and would be happy to share more information about that if you are interested.

~ Tim Wendler
ADC President

**From
25th District
State Senator
Anthony
Portantino**



Dear Act Friends,

Not sure if it's a good or bad karma to be sworn in on December 7th. Seventy-nine years ago, it was a day of infamy as 2403 people died during the attack on Pearl Harbor. As the son of a WWII veteran who was part of the greatest generation, I appreciate my mother's and father's generation for all it sacrificed. Collectively, we owe much of our safety and prosperity to our parents and grandparents who served our country without a political party tied to that service or cause.

I was honored today to take the oath to serve in the Senate for my second and final term. Thank you for your support throughout all these years. It was important to hit the legislative ground running and I introduced three bills. As many of you know, mental health issues are especially important to me personally and for the thousands of young people across our district it sometimes can be a matter of life and death.

Over the years, I have partnered with our First District PTA on a series of Mental Health First Aid certificate workshops to help train parents, teachers, staff and administrators in recognizing and helping with mental health issues. Today, I introduced SB 14 to formalize mental health training in our schools. In addition, SB 14 treats mental health the same as physical health. A student struggling with depression and anxiety should not be treated differently than a student with a cold or a sprained ankle.

I also introduced an exciting housing production bill, SB 15. SB 15 is a reintroduction of SB 1299 which enjoyed strong support from business, labor and the local government. It created

incentives to turn dormant commercial real estate into work force housing. As a long time member and supporter of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and open space preservation I joined Senators Allen, Stern, Atkins and Hurtado in reintroducing SB 45 to create a strong fire resiliency and open space bond.

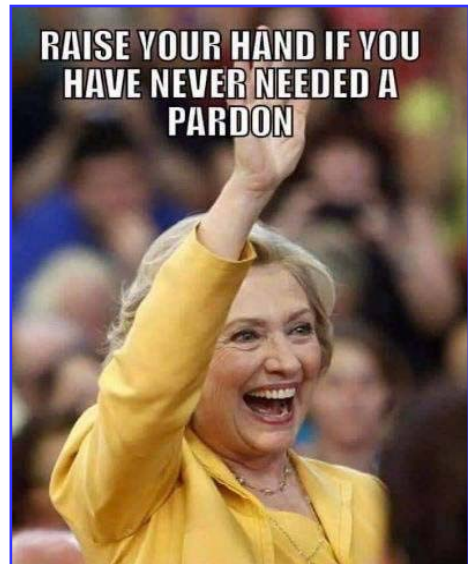
Please be safe, wear your mask and practice social distancing. We need to bend the curve and get this pandemic under control. January 20th can't come soon enough so we can have strong, science-based leadership in the White House.

Happy Holidays!

Anthony

~ Anthony

Senator Anthony Portantino represents California's 25th State Senate District, which includes Sunland/Tujunga, Atwater Village, and the Griffith Park areas of the city of Los Angeles, Burbank, Glendale, La Crescenta, Montrose, La Cañada Flintridge, Pasadena, Altadena, South Pasadena, San Marino, Sierra Madre, Monrovia, Bradbury, Duarte, Upland, Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, and Claremont.



**From
41st District
Assemblymember
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

The 2021-2022 legislative session has officially begun! On December 7th, I was sworn in for my fifth term to represent the 41st Assembly District. It is an honor and privilege to represent this district, and I thank you all for your ongoing support. I also congratulate all my newly elected and re-elected colleagues at the local, state, and national level representing Pasadena and neighboring communities. Right now, leadership is more important than ever to help us through these tough times. It will take a collective effort to make sure everyone in our community can thrive once we are out of this Pandemic.

It is promising to see reports on multiple COVID-19 vaccines showing great efficacy. While we can see the light at the end of the tunnel, we are still deep in the tunnel. As you know, Governor Newsom issued the strongest lockdown measures since March as the surge in cases reaches alarming rates. The measures are a necessity, and so is the recently announced billions in hiring tax credits, automatic sales tax extensions, and access to capital for California's small businesses.

As for my legislation, the first bill I introduced for my legislative package is my police reform legislation from last year, now AB 26. The bill establishes clear guidelines for police responsibility and accountability when witnessing excessive force by another member of law enforcement. I believe laws instituting core values such as responsibility and accountability are paramount to building public trust that has eroded between law enforcement and communities across California.

California law requires police officers to intercede when present and observing another officer using force that is beyond that which is necessary, but there are no universal measures used to determine that an officer has in fact interceded. Just as the previous version of the bill, AB 26 provides a selection of techniques to establish that an officer has in fact attempted to intercede. The bill also expands on current law to disqualify a person from being a police officer if they used excessive force that resulted in great bodily injury or death or to have failed to intercede in that incident.

Earlier this fall, Governor Newsom's Policing Advisors released their recommendations which included legislation to "Require officers to intervene to prevent or stop other officers from engaging in excessive force, false arrest, or other inappropriate conduct." Given the widespread public outcry for police reforms right now, we have another opportunity for California to lead on this issue.

In the District, we held our Annual Shoe Drive (minus the party) on the street in front of my office in partnership with Shoes That Fit, a local non-profit that provides shoes to children in need. It was amazing to see the generosity of folks in the community participate in the contactless 'give and go' shoe drive. We have not finished counting yet, but we may have collected the most shoes we ever have!

As we enter the holiday season, I wish you and your family the best, and cheers to 2021 being much better than 2020!

Sincerely,

~ Chris R. Holden

Assemblyman Holden can be reached via his website at: www.asm.ca.gov/holden and fill out the contact form.



UDH News:**Georgia On Our Mind**

We're still celebrating the victory of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, even though our corrupt and narcissistic president refuses to acknowledge their clear victory. We're looking forward to the moment when we can put Trump in the rearview mirror!

In the meantime, the UDH is pressing ahead in the two all-important Georgia Senate seats. We have asked Caitlin Gallogly to turn her fine organizing skills to the Georgia races and, along with Hannah Borison, she is providing support to the Ossoff and Warnock campaigns. We also want to thank Karen Rowinsky and Katie Dempster for their continued work in postcarding to voters.

While Georgia has only lately become a swing state, and the prospects for Democrats in off-season elections can be daunting, there are a few promising signs in the Georgia races. Trump's continued insistence on a "rigged" election may persuade some of his diehard supporters to sit out the Senate election. There may also be a percentage (however small) of suburban Republicans who are fed up with Trump's takeover of the Republican party and will actually vote for Ossoff and Warnock. Although these numbers may prove to be small, even a few votes can turn an election in a swing state.

Whatever the outcome of the Georgia races, we know that it will be a challenging time for the Biden administration with a ravaging pandemic and deep economic recession. We know that President Biden will need our support as he fights for both the progressive values that we share as well as our hope for a return to a functioning, compassionate government.

We also want to applaud the appointment of a dear friend and supporter of UDH, Xavier

Becerra, to the important role of HHS Secretary. We know that Xavier will serve this nation well in this time of peril. We will miss seeing Xavier here in California and at the UDH, but we know how critical his service is to our country.

~ Hoyt Hilsman, Chair UDH

**My Two Cents**

By Ron Garber

**Fanciful Idea**

In 1994, after a long stint of Democratic control under Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, the Republicans were poised to take control of the lower house by a margin of 40 to 39. The ever-cagey Brown was aware of a rift between one Rep Assemblywoman and the rest of the caucus. Doris Allen, a conservative Orange County politician who apparently wasn't conservative enough for Orange County was livid that the party had endorsed another, more conservative Rep over her. Brown asked her if she would like to be the Speaker and she agreed. Thirty-nine Democrats and Allen, who voted for herself, put her in the role of Speaker of the Assembly. While she would not be the last woman to hold that position, she was the first.

For a brief period, she was Speaker in name only as Brown continued to control the Assembly and it ended badly for her. She was recalled and passed away just four years later of cancer at the age of 63.

Why do I tell you this? As of today, and this is being penned exactly five weeks to the day before the Georgia Senate runoff elections, the projected Senate class of 2021 stands at 50 Republicans, 46 Democrats and two very quirky independents who caucus with the Democrats. I know it's not news to any of you that should the

Democrats take both Georgia seats a Vice President Harris would give the narrowest of edges to the Democrats, but should the Republicans take either seat or if any of the Democrats become incapacitated for any reason the Republicans again would control. Remember Obama had 60 votes, thereby negating the Republicans ability to filibuster until Teddy Kennedy became too ill to participate and surprise, surprise Massachusetts had a Republican governor like it does now and he naturally appointed a Republican. But I digress.

God forbid we fall short who would you like to see as Senate Majority leader, Mitch McConnell or say perhaps a Mitt Romney? It just occurred to me that Romney was that Massachusetts Governor, but again I digress. I think President Elect Biden, Vice President Elect Harris, Minority Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi should invite Mitt and his lovely wife to the most exquisite meal one can procure in Washington D.C. Ironically it could even be at a Trump property. Biden, in the name of bi-partisanship should offer Romney unfettered control of the Senate if he declares himself an independent and joins the Democratic Caucus in voting himself the leadership. Romney is a conservative but unlike McConnell he's fair and I believe he has everyone's welfare at heart. Further I think he can work with Biden and Pelosi. If we lose both Georgia seats, we may need help from one or two other Republican Senators as well and I can think of a couple of lady Republicans who might be willing to help. Fanciful but who knows?

Not wanting to bum you out, but I was just hit with some discouraging news. As I've mentioned in previous columns, I'm on a health kick and walk every day. The concourse around the compound of our townhouses runs .275 miles and I'm up to 22 minimum laps each day which is just over 6 miles. While I walk clockwise a friend, who is a nurse in an obstetrics unit of a major hospital, walks the course counter clockwise and

we exchange pleasantries daily. She told me that on the previous Saturday the unit was 50% Covid patients and the level of PPE she had to wear was oppressive. I pointed out that at least she would be one of the first to be inoculated to which she responded that there was no way she would take that shot until she was certain that it was safe.

Six months ago, I was finally able to get an appointment with my doctor, who for all intents and purposes had seemed to have fallen off the face of the earth. I have type two diabetes which I have been able to control for over 20 years and she sees me quarterly. When I arrived her nurse, who takes my vitals before the Doctor sees me, had her mask on but it did not cover her nose. I pointed this out to her and she said that it fogged up her glasses. Ten minutes later the doctor comes in and her mask didn't cover her nose either. Again, I pointed this out and she said it didn't matter as she had already had the virus. I related all this in a letter to the editor which was published by the L.A. Times. My point is if we can't trust the medical community to take this seriously how can we expect the non-medical community to? I've heard that in order to establish herd immunity we will need to have 70% of everyone inoculated. But I'm concerned that if the medical profession is not willing to trust, why would the rest of us? All that being said, know that I will be the first in line when my group category gets the go ahead for the shot.

~ Ron out



Your Photo in *The Phoenix*

Please share a photo (of you) at an interesting place with *Phoenix* readers. Send it to Chuck at hains27@sbcglobal.net for inclusion in an upcoming issue.

ACT Seeks Role in Police Oversight Commission Appointment Process

ACT would like to nominate one of our members to serve on the community selection panel for the Police Oversight Commission.

ACT Executive Director Jon Fuhrman will communicate to the Pasadena Public Safety Committee and City Council that ACT wishes to participate on the community panel. The panel will interview community members who wish to be appointed by the Council to serve as Police Oversight Commissioners. The panel will select six commissioner candidates and forward the names to the Council for consideration.

ACT was one of the first community-based organizations to join with the Coalition for Increased Civilian Oversight of Pasadena Police (CICOPP) in July 2014. At that time, CICOPP called on the City Council to establish a full time Independent Police Auditor position.

The new Police Oversight Commission and a full-time Independent Police Auditor reporting to the City Attorney were created by ordinance in October. The Commission will have a total of eleven members, one appointed by the mayor and one each by the respective council members and three appointed by the council as at-large members. These three at large members will be selected from the six candidates presented by the community panel.

It's expected that final details of the appointment process will be presented to the City Council at its meeting on Monday, December 14. City Attorney Michele Bagneris will present guidelines on application and selection procedures, public hearings, and presentations by applicants to the Council.

More details to follow soon.

NOTE: If you are interested in being appointed as a commissioner to the Police Oversight Com-

mission or any other city commission, please contact the Mayor or your council member.

~ Ed Washatka



Pasadena's 1970 Racial Reckoning

By Rick Cole



Fifty years ago, Pasadena faced a racial reckoning. In 1970, Pasadena earned the dishonorable distinction of being the first school district outside the South to be ordered by a Federal Court to integrate its schools. The school district lost a landmark civil rights case to a group of black and white parents who challenged the inequity of overcrowded and substandard schools in segregated minority neighborhoods.

“Elementary schools in Pasadena traditionally followed the most inflexible standards of segregation,” historian Julie Salley wrote in her essay, “To Fight the Good Fight.” “During the 1969-1970 school year eighty-five percent of the school district’s African-American elementary school children attended eight majority African-American elementary schools. At the same time, ninety-three percent of its white elementary age children attended the other twenty-one elementary schools in the district. Washington Elementary school, located east of the Arroyo in the Northwest section of Pasadena, for example, maintained an enrollment that was over ninety percent African-American. During the 1969-1970 school year twenty-eight white students and 1060 African-American students attended this school. The Linda Vista Elementary school, located approximately one mile away on the opposite side of the Arroyo, in an upper-middle class, all white section of Pasa known as Linda Vista, had 163 white children and one African-American child enrolled during the same period.” After a lengthy trial, District Court Judge Manuel Real

ruled, “The evidence in this case establishes that there is racial imbalance or segregation in the student bodies and faculties of the Pasadena Unified School District at all levels, elementary schools, junior high schools, and senior high schools.” He ordered the District to present a comprehensive plan to desegregate Pasadena’s public schools.

How the five members of the School Board reacted to Judge Real’s order echoes down to our own time. One week after Real’s decision, the School Board convened to weigh whether to appeal or comply with the Federal order.

I was there, among a standing room only crowd of parents, students and District staff. After an emotional debate, Board President Albert C. Lowe and members Dr. Joseph Engholm and LuVerne LaMotte voted against an appeal. Members Bradford Houser and John Welsh vehemently dissented. After the roll was called, Welsh spoke, his voice cracking with emotion, reading from a prepared statement:

“In my opinion we are today witness to the beginning of the end of local control, and under these conditions of Federal mandate where local officials, duly elected and responsible, are not allowed to function, conditions where those closest to the scene are not allowed to prevail and solve their own problems, I find it difficult to serve. . . There are challenging times ahead and I wish you Godspeed in working toward solving Pasadena’s educational problems.”

Welsh then packed up his papers and dramatically exited the room.

The trio who voted to move forward with integration were unlikely heroes. Lowe was a cautious and widely respected furniture store owner. Engholm and LaMotte had run as a slate five years before on a platform of defending “neighborhood schools.” All three were Republicans.

All three would be personally savaged by the angry backlash that ensued.

Signatures were quickly gathered to recall them. Lowe’s Furniture was targeted by a boycott and sales plunged. In the bitter recall campaign, they barely held their seats with a strong turn-out from black and brown voters. But Lowe was defeated in the next election, while Engholm and LaMotte chose not to seek re-election. Before long, five fervent anti-integrationists had swept all of the seats.

They fought the integration plan all the way to the United States Supreme Court, fired the Superintendent and methodically purged staff dissenters. It took seven years from the decision for those favoring school integration to claw back a single seat on the School Board.

In today’s climate, it may seem anachronistic to honor Lowe, Engholm and LaMotte. Looking back, it also bears remembering the courage of the parents who brought the lawsuit that prevailed against the District’s racist policies. There were myriad parents, teachers, activists, pastors and students who heroically rose to meet the moment and carry on “the good fight.”

Still, these three office holders stand as a shining model of doing the right thing in the face of old prejudices and excruciating pressure. Each had to answer with a vote to look forward, not back. Each had to search their conscience and transcend the comfortable clichés of “local control” and “neighborhood schools.”

As we again come to grips with Pasadena’s legacy of institutional racism and exclusion in our neighborhoods and schools, will our elected officials find similar courage? Will we?

~ Rick Cole

Rick Cole is a former Mayor of Pasadena



Impact of COVID 19 on the State Budget meeting

Pasadena Area Community College District Board Member Sandra Chen Lau announced that she will be Co-Hosting an online event on December 17 from 5 pm till 6 pm featuring special guest Christian Griffith. Griffith serves as Chief Consultant to the State Assembly Budget Committee.

Chen Lau will be joined by co-hosts Pasadena Unified School District Board Member, Michelle Richardson Bailey, along with Caroline Que Anderson, who was just elected to the La Canada Unified School District Board.

The discussion will be centered on the impact of COVID 19 on the state budget, especially as it pertains to education (K-12 and community colleges). Griffith is responsible for overseeing the drafting of the state's \$156B budget and will be available to answer questions.

Anyone interested in joining the meeting should rsvp to sandrachenlau.pcc@gmail.com. A zoom link will be sent upon rsvp.

~ Bill Hackett



January Phoenix Deadline

We expect that the deadline for the January *Phoenix* to be Monday evening, January 11. Please send items for publication to Chuck Hains at hains27@sbcglobal.net. (Chuck will continue to contact regular contributors with a deadline reminder.)



ACT/ADC Webpage

Bruce Wright, our website manager, recently added a 'Member Letters' feature to our webpage, www.ACTpasadena.org.

Submit your letters-to-the-editor to Bruce at brucewright@sbcglobal.net.

In addition to our *Phoenix* newsletter, you will find links to other viewpoints and calendar items on the web-page.



Calendar

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| December 14
Monday | Electors vote in all states and Washington D.C. |
| January 5
Tuesday | Runoff Election for two Georgia Senate seats. |
| January 6
Wednesday | Vote count finalized; results certified in the House. |
| January 7
Thursday
7 p.m. | ACT and ADC General Membership Meeting via Zoom. Program: ACT's three Judy Boggs Interns. Socializing at 7 p.m.; meeting, 7:30 p.m. |
| January 11
Monday | Last date to register to vote in ADEM election. See article on page six for details. |
| January 20
Wednesday | Inauguration! |

2021 ACT and ADC Membership

Get a jump on the new year by renewing your ACT and ADC membership now! Use the form below or renew online at www.ACTpasadena.org.

If you have any questions about your membership, please contact Executive Director Jon Fuhrman at 626 864-5255 or jon_fuhrman@outlook.com.



And grateful thanks to all of you who have so generously contributed to ACT and ADC in 2020!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Extra Contribution

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

 Name

Home Phone

 Address

Office Phone

 City

ZIP

 Email address

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

Information you provide will be available to other members and endorsed candidates upon request.