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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

BIDEN HARRIS Elected!

Electoral College: 306 to 232

Popular Vote: Biden-Harris win by 5.6+ Million votes

Our congratulations go to ACT's and the Arroyo Democratic Club's endorsees and members who were elected (or reelected) on November 3:

Assemblyman Chris Holden, State Senator Anthony Portantino, Congresspersons Judy Chu and Adam Schiff, PUSD Members Jennifer Hall Lee (District 2), Patrick Cahalan (District 4), and Tina Wu Fredericks (District 6).

Best wishes in the months ahead and grateful thanks for your past service.

Victory! United Democratic Headquarters



The United Democratic Headquarters congratulates the staff, volunteers, donors and activists who worked hard making phone calls and texts, sending out postcards, delivering door hangers and lawn signs, donating to the campaigns of our candidates and supporting Democrats around the country. The election of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris is not only an enormous relief after four years of lies and corruption from the White House, but also it turns the

page to a new, if challenging, chapter for America.

Our UDH staff and volunteers worked closely with the Biden campaign – as well as state and national Senate and House campaigns to help with volunteer training, voter outreach and get-out-the-vote efforts. Through the work of our volunteer coordinator Caitlin Gallogly, field coordinator Michael Barth and campaign manager Jose Barrera, the UDH became a key component of the Biden effort in Southern California and throughout the state. Also Hannah Borison, Cheryl Brickey and Judy Boggs in-

terns, Mya Taylor, Sosse Krikorian and Madeline Peña. Through the efforts of our postcarding team led by Karen Rowinsky, Katie Dempster and Ron Garber, we sent over 50,000 handwritten postcards to voters around the nation.

We were able to be successful this year despite the challenges of conducting a virtual campaign during the pandemic. Even though many of our opponents ignored common sense requirements of masking and social distancing, the Democrats conducted a campaign that protected the health and safety of our volunteers and voters themselves. While we expect to return to brick-and-mortar headquarters and person-to-person campaigning in the future, we also will be embracing the success of our virtual campaign on social media as part of our future strategies.

Meanwhile, there are two hotly contested races in Georgia that may determine control of the Senate, and the UDH plans to be involved in electing Democratic candidates Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock. We will be announcing the details of our plans in the very near future. Please stay in touch via our website pasadenademocrats.com – we will need volunteers to help with our efforts in Georgia.

Congratulations again on a historic victory!!

~ Hoyt Hilsman

Chair, UDH Steering Committee



What Happened on Election Day?

Going into the election, the overwhelming majority of polls and vote models suggested a Blue Wave: a Biden/Harris victory by 8% or more nationally, and a blow-out in the Electoral College; a Democratic gain of 4-7 seats in the US Senate; a pick-up of 5-15 seats in the House; and Democratic gains in state legislatures sufficient to swing one (or both) chambers to the Democratic side in several states.



Fred Register

None of that came to pass. Biden/Harris won(!) a wonderful but modest victory. Yet there was only a small gain in the Senate with potential for more -- though the Democratic candidates in the Georgia run-offs are both definite underdogs. We lost seats in the House, and lost ground in state legislatures (both houses in New Hampshire went Republican).

So, what happened? The honest answer is that we don't really know – yet. For now, we only have exit poll data (which has been notoriously unreliable in the past) and some significant and ongoing survey data that continued right up to election day. It will be several months, at least, until we have really good data. Nevertheless, there are some preliminary indications:

Obviously, the polls were off: Nationally, when all the votes are in, it looks like Biden will have won by @4.5%. That is @3.5% below projections – worse than in 2016, but within the margin of error for most polls. In some battleground states (Georgia, N.C., Nevada) polls were spot-on. In others – Florida, AZ, Texas -- they were off about the national average. Once again, though, predictions were wildly off in the upper mid-west (Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Iowa): 6-7% off; even worse than in 2016.

Higher turnout did not necessarily equal Democratic success: It appears that @160,000,000 people may have voted. That's an all-time record and the highest percentage of eligible voters (@67%) since 1900. Democrats surged to the polls. So did disaffected liberals (only 1.8% for Third Party candidates vs. 5.7% in 2016). Yet, contrary to expectations, Trump and the Republicans nearly kept pace. How did they do it?

Trump spent early and lavishly on a GOTV operation, including traditional door-knocking: Democrats were also successful, but went all-digital because of the pandemic. In-person canvassing has been the Democrats' "secret sauce" for years. Without it, we

may have given-up a significant edge at the end.

As they went down the ballot, Trump voters “dropped off” at much lower rates than Democrats: Thus far, Republican Congressional candidates are only 1.1 million votes behind Trump; but Democratic candidates are 4.1 million behind Biden. This margin, which will probably grow as the count is completed, was a death blow for many Congressional (and legislative) candidates. There could be several explanations:

- The 8% of Republicans who voted for Biden (vs 4% of Dems who voted for Trump) may have stuck with their party in down-ballot races.
- Leftists, who held their noses to vote for Biden, may not have done so for moderates down-ballot.
- Some anti-Trump independents may have split their tickets to forestall a strong move to the left.
- Lack of face-to-face persuasion/GOTV may have been costly, since “new” GOP voters clearly out-performed “new” Democrats down-ballot.

Ironically, white voters without college degrees may have been critical for both candidates: These voters are at the core of the Trump’s support and were a major source of the new votes his campaign pulled out in November. At the same time, Biden seems to have made bigger gains (relative to Clinton) with this group than with any other – especially, but not exclusively, among women. Trump still won this group big, but his margin was significantly reduced. In other words, Trump succeeded in making these people a much bigger chunk of the electorate than expected (one reason polling was off), yet Biden survived because he won a bigger share of their votes.

Biden gains among older voters were offset to some degree by losses among minority voters: As Covid’s most likely victims, it

was no surprise that senior citizens turned against Trump over his handling of the pandemic. Less expected were Trump’s gains among Hispanic voters – and, possibly, among African-American men. Biden carried Hispanics by a large margin nationally, but lost ground compared to Clinton. This was especially true in Florida, where he won by less than 10% vs Clinton’s 30%. The losses in Florida were mainly due to Cuban-Americans and immigrants from South and Central America, but in some other states there was also fall-off among Mexican-Americans. Probably the most startling results were in south Texas. In one county there (Starr County; 96% Mexican-American; very culturally conservative) Biden’s vote was a bit below Clinton’s (each at 9,000+), but Trump’s vote nearly quadrupled to more than 8,200! Trump also had some success in targeting African-American men, though it isn’t yet clear how much he gained. Regardless, African-American support and turnout were absolutely essential to Biden’s victory.

Republicans hurt Democrats, especially in swing districts, by focusing on the party’s move to the left: Late survey data suggest that the Democratic “brand” was badly damaged among key groups of voters by Trump’s charges of socialism, by persistent violence connected with protests in Portland and some other cities, and by calls to “defund the police.” The charges of socialism appear to have been especially effective with Hispanic voters from Cuba and Central and South America. The issues around police and violence were especially harmful in rural areas and among older voters (helping Trump hold down his losses over pandemic incompetence).

Republicans invested heavily in targeting sub-groups with very specific negative messages on-line: Much of the outreach to different Hispanic communities, for example, and also to African-American men, was on-line. This effort built on similar and quite successful efforts in 2016. As the relative impact of TV

ads declines, the power of carefully-tailored on-line messages will likely increase. This is an area where Republicans appear to have a significant advantage, and Democrats will have to catch up.

As we gather more data, some of these trends may turn out to be mirages, while others will doubtless emerge. But two things are beyond doubt: We won!!! And Trumpism is still very much alive and kicking. So, we can't rest on our laurels. There's still work to be done.

~ Fred Register



Postcard Writers Extraordinaire

A very special "Thank You" to those who answered ACT's call for "HELP" writing postcards! This massive undertaking was coordinated nationwide by MoveOn.org. Our local leader, Fran Blackwell, dispensed packets to the worker bees. As a group, we wrote cards to registered Democratic, but low-turnout voters in Michigan and mailed them at the Post Office on dates specified by MoveOn.

In response to an article in the Phoenix, ACT members and friends joined forces to mail out 1,500 postcards. My gratitude to each and every one for writing pre-scripted messages and providing postage: Sally and Arden Beer, Dolores Guerrero, Betsy Kahn, Margaret McAustin, Judy Nollar, Barbara Paul, Liz Pomeroy, Juanita West Tillman and her crew, and to their Delta Sigma Theta Sorority-Pasadena Area, who provided postage for Juanita's group.

Best News: Michigan went for Biden. In 2016, Michigan went for Trump. 2018 was the first big, national push for this concept. I like to think it was a huge success. Thank you again to all!

~ Barbara Paul



Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Tuesday, November 10.

A week later, and it's still not totally, finally over. As I write, Georgia and Arizona are still counting, still Too Close to Call, but President-Elect Biden seems to have a sufficient lead in both to end up with 306 Electoral Votes (which, in a bit of poetic justice, is exactly the margin by which Trump defeated Clinton in 2016). We'll have run-off elections on Jan. 5th in Georgia for both Senate seats (and control of the Senate, to boot). And keep an eye on Alaska, with 176,000 votes still outstanding.

But the bottom line is that President Trump, however grudgingly, is on his way out, President-Elect Biden and Vice-President-Elect Harris are on their way in, and normalcy is slowly reasserting itself. Our nation, and democracy, appear safe, for the time being.

That good news notwithstanding, we did take a

shellacking last Tuesday. The results were a far cry from my predictions. Florida, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas and Iowa all slipped away, as did all the Senate Toss-Up seats, except for the two in Georgia; about 10 House seats were lost; and we made zero progress in flipping state legislative chambers, despite strong expectations and positive polling. So how do we explain all that, despite the record turnout which, under traditional logic, should have helped us?

It seems clear that we indeed boosted turnout, and sometimes margins, in metropolitan areas, even while the President was capturing a notably higher share (though still small) of the African-American vote. We dramatically expanded our margins in the suburbs. But the GOP campaign did, in fact, unearth and promote a substantial increase in turnout in rural areas, even over his excellent performance in 2016.

For specific examples, we can look at Michigan, Pennsylvania and Georgia, and compare the 2012, 2016 and 2020 results in central cities, suburban counties

and rural counties. (I'm posting the actual data on our web site, but will just summarize it here to save space.) In Michigan, Wayne County includes all of Detroit; Oakland is a major suburban county just west of Detroit; and Hillsdale is farm country west and south of Detroit. In Pennsylvania, Philadelphia County includes the city of Philadelphia; Montgomery County is a suburban area just to the north of Philadelphia; and Bedford County is a rural area in the south central part of the state. In Georgia, Fulton County includes Atlanta; Cobb County is suburbs just to the north; Bartow County is a rural area further north of Atlanta.

In all three states, we see Democrats doing substantially better this year in the core urban

areas than in 2016, meeting or exceeding the 2012 levels. But the President also increased his vote, going up by 20 – 30,000 in all three cities. Clearly, the Trump advertising had an impact and appeared to be luring central-city voters, particularly younger African-American men, into his camp, despite that advertising being blatantly false.

But it was the suburbs where Vice-President Biden really ran up his margins compared to 2012 and 2016. In the Detroit suburbs of Oakland County, the Democratic vote went up by 90,000, compared to an increase of 35,000 for the GOP; in Pennsylvania's Montgomery County, Dems went up by 57,000, compared to 20,000 for the Reps; and in Cobb County, Georgia, Dems went up 60,000 versus 13,000 for the GOP.

In the rural counties, however, the GOP had a spectacular surge. In Georgia's Bartow County, Dems increased their turnout by 4,000, but the GOP surged by 8,000 votes over their 2016 totals, which were record highs. We saw the same in Bedford, Pennsylvania and Hillsdale, Michigan – the absolute numbers may have been small, but in all three states,

there are lots of small, rural counties, and relatively few large, urban or suburban counties. In the Blue Wall states and in Georgia, the urban / suburban population density was enough to carry the state. But in North Carolina, Ohio, Texas and other states, the margins weren't enough to offset the increased rural GOP vote.

Clearly, we Democrats had underestimated the ability and success of the Trump campaign operation to identify potential Trump supporters who had not voted in 2016, and to turn out both those new voters and traditional GOP supporters. Their face to face, door to door campaigning, which we ridiculed, may have been quite effective. They did, in fact, find hidden Trump



voters, both in the hinterlands and in the inner city / suburban areas (although there, at least, those hidden Trumpers were well outnumbered by Democratic "occasional voters"). This may help explain why the national polls and state polls seemed to be so consistently off. Those hidden Trump voters may simply be unconnected to politics or resistant to talking about politics and thus nearly impossible to poll. Further, the turnout projections of the pollsters were probably far enough off the mark that they led pollsters incorrectly to weight what responses they were able to get from phone interviews.

So where does that leave us? Are we doomed to have base versus base elections, with both Houses of Congress hanging by a thread? Can the Trump world sustain the turnout levels they saw this time without Trump himself on the ballot (the 2018 results would suggest not)? Can the President sustain his brand while out of office, as his tax returns, poor business conditions, civil suits and tell-all books eat away at this reputation?

My expectation is that the Trump brand, and the Trump charisma, will slowly fade away. Once he is out of office, and the daily crises revolve around a Democratic administration, fewer and fewer people will worry about his tweets, and slowly mainstream GOP leaders will feel unbridled and able to distance themselves from the former President.

But the underlying disgruntlement, the angst, the racism and fear of immigrants, the disdain for the coastal elites and political correctness, the economic insecurity that President Trump tapped into will still be out there. It is unrealistic to expect that in two or even four years, the Biden Administration will rescue us from the pandemic and restore the economy in a way that fundamentally touches all the families that are hurting so enormously. In fact, the economic challenges we face are likely to get more severe; the potential for eviction that

innumerable families and small businesses face, when the COVID moratoria are ended and they have to catch up on skipped rent payments, is only the first of the problems that the new Administration will have to tackle.

Is it reasonable to think that we can convince some, or even a few, of the GOP voters that their world view was fundamentally flawed? Probably not. Can the President-Elect truly meet his commitment to be the President for all Americans, even those who voted for Trump? And what will that mean in terms of policies or tone or appointments? I think progress will come slowly as the economy improves, as the Administration's actions turn out to be relatively unthreatening, as the public discourse becomes less strident, as the President can turn the focus toward improving health care and reducing drug costs rather than building walls and deporting immigrants.

We also will have to temper expectations, as the President is forced to compromise with GOP Senators (even if we do win both Georgia seats). I believe the President will be able to find some common ground, and will be able to make some inroads into the Republican caucus, but it is unrealistic to expect any truly fundamental legislation. President Biden will be forced to rely primarily on Executive Orders and personnel changes and the bully pulpit. That may not be enough to satisfy some of the progressive elements of our party, but I think it's the most we can reasonably expect.

~ Jon Fuhrman



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



Dear Act Friends,

What an amazing election cycle we have lived in and witnessed. Although we have our work cut out for us regarding the two Georgia Senate races the Biden / Harris victory was special and necessary for our democracy. Once again, we can hold our heads up high and be proud of the values, behaviors and rhetoric expressed and embodied by the President and Vice President Elects.

Four years ago, the results did not go our way in the race for the White House and the spirit that filled my Election Night party was low. I still remember the Planned Parenthood team in tears as we watched the returns and projected what the Trump administration would do to women's reproductive rights and healthcare. I am pleased for everyone who anticipated Hillary's success can now celebrate electing two strong democratic voices to the Presidency and the Vice Presidency. And as Senator Harris expressed, she may be the first woman to be elected to one of the top offices in the land but will not be the last.

I am also incredibly grateful to ACT for its strong support of my campaign efforts since I first showed up at an ACT Steering committee meeting in 1998. I smile when I think about Judy Boggs laughing at me when I said that I was a Democrat, and I was going to run for the La Canada City Council. In 2020, we have a far different La Canada as Joe Biden crushed Donald Trump 6824 to 3685. Judy Boggs would be thrilled! If I recall, President Obama carried La Canada by just 10 votes in 2008. Biden's margin of victory was 3139. Amazing! I am

excited to be returning to the State Senate. In an ordinary first year of a two-year session there would be a lot to do. During Covid, the issues and challenges are magnified.

I hope to continue working on education, mental health and gun reforms this year. I just completed an exciting mental health town hall driven exclusively by teens. If you would like to listen to this important presentation, it is posted on my state website. It can be found imbedded on the cover page or you can go to: <https://sd25.senate.ca.gov/video/2020-10-30/-mental-health-covid-19-teenagers-whats-relationship>. It was a very informative discussion on teenage mental health and I recommend you tune in with your teen or individually.

Thank you again for your tremendous support and encouragement. ACT is an amazing organization and I have been honored to be a member for over two decades.

Respectfully,

~ 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.



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



**From
41st District
Assemblymember
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris will be the President and Vice President of the United States! Yes, we have work ahead of us and it will be a difficult journey, but let us celebrate – or breathe a sigh of relief – for a presidency that will be based on science, empathy, and unity! At the state level, democrats will continue to have a supermajority in both the Assembly and Senate which will allow us to continue our work to pass policies based on our progressive values. I won my election with over 65% of the vote and I thank you for your ongoing support!

What seems like an eternity ago, upon the last day bills could be signed into law, Governor Newsom signed my legislation that requires diversity on corporate boards. The bill requires publicly held corporations headquartered in California to have at least one director from an underrepresented community by the close of 2021. The new law, a first of its kind in the nation, represents a big step forward for racial equity. While some corporations were already leading the way to combat implicit bias, now, all of California's corporate boards will better reflect the diversity of our State. I always knew this would be a significant achievement, but it really hit home when I saw it covered in Saturday Night Live's Weekend Update!

In the District, we launched our sixth annual Young Legislators Program. This unique program offers high school seniors in the 41st Assembly District a front row seat to the public policy and political arena. While we are meeting virtually this year, I have no doubt this program will again have a lasting impact on the students. During the four-month program,

students will meet virtually once a month to become better advocates on issues they care about, gain valuable leadership skills, and learn about the legislative process. Please share this opportunity with family and friends in the 41st Assembly District whose child is a high school senior.

We are also holding a holiday shoe drive where we will again partner with Shoes That Fit to provide new athletic shoes to school aged children in need. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 health pandemic, we will not have the Open House, but the children still need our help, so instead we have organized a 'give and go' shoe drive drop off in front of my district office. You can make a difference by donating a new pair of athletic shoes in any size on Saturday, December 5, 2020 10:00 am - 11:30 am at 600 North Rosemead Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91107.

Sincerely,

~ Chris R. Holden

Assemblyman Holden represents some 420,000 people in the foothills communities of Altadena, Pasadena, South Pasadena, Sierra Madre, Monrovia, San Dimas, La Verne, Claremont, and Upland. He can be reached via his website at: www.asm.ca.gov/holden and fill out the contact form.



ACT/ADC Webpage

The current issue of *The Phoenix* (and past issues) can be found on our webpage, ACTPasadena.org. It is in color and sometimes with extra items that we couldn't fit in the print version.

You will also find information about activities, links and items of interest. The page is continually updated.

Bruce Wright, our website manager, has added a 'Member Letters' feature. Submit your letters-to-the-editor to him at brucewright@sbcglobal.net.



My Two Cents

By Ron Garber



So, I completely threw away my first draft of this column. It was predicated on a Biden victory coupled with a comfortable control of both houses. There still is an outside chance of the Senate going 50/50 with V.P. Harris as the tie breaker, depending on a double runoff in Georgia on Jan. 5, but I've changed the emphasis of what I now want to talk about.

Trump's gone and it's a given that, that's wonderful but this was not a good election for us. We were supposed to add seats in the House, but we lost them, and we were supposed to convincingly retake the Senate and that didn't happen as well. Trump got 5 million more votes this time around and Biden's margin of victory in California exceeded the margin of the final national tally, which means that Trump actually got more votes in the other 49 states and DC than did Biden. Many have said that another Republican would have won.

I'm a Progressive (capital P) and cannot find anything in what AOC or Bernie Sanders have proposed to be wrong, but I'm also Pragmatic (also with a capital P) and I'm telling you that the bulk of this country does not lean that far left. The vote for President was a referendum on Trump and it just barely went the right way. But Republican candidates running for legislative seats branded their opponents as Socialists - and not just any old Socialists, but Venezuelan and Cuban Socialists - no matter what their political philosophy.

What really irks me is the idealistic, usually young Bernie followers who take everything Bernie says to be the gospel except when he tells them to vote for either Clinton or Biden. There are Progressive writers who will tell you that voting for Clinton or Biden is no

better than voting for a Republican, but I counter with asking how much different do you think our futures would be if Clinton had chosen the last 3 Supreme Court Justices instead of Trump.

Nationwide, 45% of registered voters are Democrats and 40% are Republican with 15% either registering as Decline to State, Independent or a third party. Depending on the importance of the election some of the non-D or R will never vote for one of the established candidates but usually they represent swing votes. Due to quirks of gerrymandering, the electoral college, and the fact that states like Wyoming, with less than a million residents, get the same number of Senators as does California with over 40 million. We do not prevail with a simple majority but need a super majority to compete. Many independents who would vote for a moderate Democrat would not vote for AOC or Bernie Sanders and if a Progressive is on the ballot that motivates Republicans to come out.

We can govern as Progressives, but you don't get to govern if you don't get elected. So, if we're to have a future we need to campaign as moderates, and we need to define ourselves as something other than Socialist.



I originally was going to write a column on affordable housing and homelessness, but I saw an advanced copy of Rick Cole's op-ed appearing in this edition and was convinced that he's got the topic covered far better than my poor powers to add, detract or persuade. I highly commend to you his fine work as well as that of Jon Fuhrman, whom I anxiously look forward to reading after this grueling election.

~ 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.

ACT and ADC Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, December 3

Socializing 6:30 p.m.; Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Please join ACT's and ADC's Zoom Meeting on Thursday, December 3. Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. Note that festive headgear and holiday beverages are very much in order! Rejoicing and toasting are in order too! Co-Chair Barbara Paul will preside.

Our program on 'Housing' will begin at about 7:30 p.m. We are pleased to present featured speakers **Jill Shook**, an educator and author of [Making Housing Happen: Faith-Based Affordable Homes](#), and founder of Students and Tutors Achieving Real Success (STARS), a ministry at Lake Avenue Church, and **Rick Cole**, former Santa Monica City Manager and former Pasadena Councilperson and Mayor (among his many roles). See Rick's article "Housing is a Human Right" in this *Phoenix*.

While we will miss our traditional holiday potluck, we expect to have a great time. We hope everyone can join in. All are welcome.



Neighborly Harmony / Suppression

I have waited for a month for my Biden flag. Now, it is in the front yard of the house I rent. My neighbor, who lives in the house across from me, in our courtyard, is watering her lawn. She mumbles, "Political signs can cause problems." I shoot back, "My sign is part of my free speech rights."

"Yes, but....," she says, "... we have to live with our neighbors in this complex. We don't want to offend anyone."

She and I speak more about keeping the peace, then I go to back inside. I text a few friends who tell me to keep the sign up. I go to bed, resolved that I have done the right thing. As I lie here, I think about how I am new to this

group of people and that we have all become so close in so short a time. We have helped each other and heard each other's stories. I don't want to ruin the relationships I have here.

One of the neighbors, who lives in the back house, has told me how much she admires what the current administration is doing, so I know how she feels. She knows my politics. I do live in the front house, and the entire neighborhood might feel that I represent the entire complex. I get up, put on a robe, and take down the sign in favor of neighborly harmony.

As I lie here, I know that I am postcarding, (my new word?), donating, and doing more, for my progressive colleagues, and I fall into a lovely sleep. Yet... I do see fewer car decals and yard signs. Have we become afraid to differ with one another in favor of "neighborly harmony"?

~ Marcielle Brandler



The Real Master of Biden's Victory

Kudos to Jen O'Malley Dillon, the first female Democratic Campaign Director, for masterfully guiding President-Elect Biden through a pandemic, race riots and the likes of Trump!! Running a campaign while your candidate is working in his basement for two months was a test. Nothing could have prepared one for this campaign.

Dillon began her political career in 1999, working on several campaigns and holding various positions. In 2008, she joined Obama's campaign and served on his transition team. Next, she was a DNC Executive Director. In 2012, back to Obama; this time to serve as his Deputy Campaign Manager. Afterwards, she worked in political consulting. She was Beto O'Rourke's Presidential Campaign Manager and then moved to Joe Biden's 2020 Presidential Campaign in March of this year.

~ Barbara Paul

Housing is a Human Right

By Rick Cole

Since FDR, Democrats have been dedicated to medical care as a human right. It took decades, but Medicare and the Affordable Care Act have brought that vision closer to reality.



But what about housing? It was a cornerstone of the New Deal, but since the Reagan Administration, the Federal government has systematically retreated from support for housing. The Trump Administration's failures under HUD Secretary Ben Carson have been utterly absent from the campaign.

You can't miss the affordable housing crisis in Southern California, particularly the steady rise in homelessness. California is struggling to overcome twin failures: the abandonment of Federal responsibility to address the shortcomings of the private market and decades of anti-housing policies practiced by California communities.

The depth and urgency of the current crisis is real. The imperfect annual count of homelessness in Los Angeles County estimated 66,000 unhoused residents just prior to the onset of the pandemic. Half the tenants in our County were "rent-burdened" – defined as spending more than 30% of their incomes on rent. Nearly a third pay *over half their income*.

Prior to COVID, State government was finally moving to confront the magnitude of the crisis. Governor Gavin Newsom devoted his entire State of the State address to just one topic: homelessness. State legislators introduced a raft of housing bills.

The pandemic shifted attention to immediate relief for tenants facing evictions from loss of jobs and income and "Project Room Key," an ambitious effort to temporarily convert empty hotels and motels to house vulnerable people

experiencing homelessness. Both efforts have stayed off catastrophe. But the underlying challenge looms on the other side of public health emergency: the huge shortfall in housing supply, particularly affordable housing and specifically "permanent supportive housing" for the chronically homeless.

Pasadena obviously can't solve this problem on our own. We need policy changes and funding from both Washington and Sacramento. But we have a responsibility to do our share and to lead by example.

Pasadena currently does many things right. It is one of the few cities in the San Gabriel Valley that's embraced "inclusionary" requirements for market rate projects to include affordable units either on or offsite. It has its own Housing Authority issuing Federal housing vouchers. It also is one of just three cities in our County with their own "Continuum of Care" responsibility for homelessness – and according to the annual count has *reduced* its unhoused by 57% since 2011 compared to the 83% *increase* countywide.

Yet Pasadena faces an acute problem of displacement. Rents have soared, with prices for a decent two-bedroom apartment starting at \$1700 a month, with newer units renting for twice that and more, putting daily pressure on low-income residents (who in Pasadena are usually people of color). Census figures will confirm a significant reduction in the City's African-American population over the past decade. Students, immigrants, young people and families with children are all faced with a Darwinian struggle for decent affordable housing in Pasadena.

Yet local elections, for so long dominated by homeowners in low turn-out spring voting, pay little attention to these issues. While renters make up 58% of Pasadena's population, they are severely underrepresented and underserved in city government and civic life. Virtually the only mention of their concerns in the

hotly contested Mayoral race was both candidates condemning rent control and arguing over who is better for protecting “single-family neighborhoods.”

That needs to change. Over the next year, State law requires Pasadena to update its Housing Element of the General Plan. In the past, it’s been a largely technical exercise with little public discussion and no attention to tackling affordable housing and homelessness. Recently, the Pasadena Council unanimously voted to appeal its “fair share” allocation of needed housing that is the basis for that plan.

While ACT is active at election times, it has tended to go quiet after the votes are counted. Groups like Making Housing and Community Happen, Pasadenans Organized for Progress and the Pasadena Tenants Union have struggled to get Council attention and support for progressive housing policies. Powerful defenders of the status quo are far more influential.

I don’t think anyone in ACT would quarrel that health care is a human right. Do we have the same commitment to decent housing for all? Now that the election is behind us, I welcome discussion and feedback – do we have a commitment to enacting truly progressive policies as well as electing “progressive” candidates?

~ Rick Cole



Share Your Ideas

Our Program Chairs, Ann Hickambottom and Ron Garber ask ACT and ADC members for their ideas for programs for upcoming meetings. Is there a topic you have been dying to learn about? Or a speaker we should hear? Please share your thoughts with Ann or Ron.

Reach Ann at amhickambottom@gmail.com and Ron at ronagarber@yahoo.com.



Thanks from PUSD’s Measure O

Dear ACT,

On behalf of our campaign committee chair Tammy Godley and the rest of committee, I’m writing to thank ACT very much for your \$4,000 contribution to the campaign for PUSD’s Measure O and for your important endorsement of the Measure.

Now passed by voters, Measure O is a real boost for our public schools - bringing \$516.3 million for important, much-needed technology and facilities improvements - improvements that will over the coming years make our public schools safer, more up-to-date, more environmentally sound, more efficient, and better able to take advantage of evolving technology - all enhancing the important teaching and learning that go on there.

The campaign also allowed us to spread good information about our public schools, helping the community appreciate how good they really are, leading, we’re sure, to broader community engagement and support that over time will only further strengthen our public schools.

Again, our thanks and appreciation for all your support!

With all best wishes, ~ George A. Brumder





Calendar

- Nov 23 UDH Steering Meeting via
Monday Zoom. 7 p.m.
- December 3 ACT Steering and ADC Meeting
Thursday via Zoom. Program: Rick Cole
6:30 p.m. and Jill Shook on Housing.
Socializing at 6:30 p.m.; meet-
ing, 7:30 p.m.
- December 5 Give-and-Go Shoe Drive drop off
Saturday in front of Assemblymember
10-11:30 a.m. Chris Holden's District Office,
600 N. Rosemead Blvd., Pasa-
dena.
- December 8 State election results certifica-
tion deadline.
- December 14 Electors vote in all states and
Washington, D.C.
- January 5 Runoff Election for two Georgia
Tuesday Senate seats.
- January 6 Vote count finalized; results cer-
tified in the House.
- January 20 Inauguration!



December Phoenix Deadline

We expect that the deadline for the December *Phoenix* to be Monday evening, December 7. Please send items for publication to Chuck Hains at hains27@sbcglobal.net. (Chuck will continue to contact regular contributors with a deadline reminder.)

Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Maggie Chamberlin, Reston, VA
Patrice Marshall, Pasadena



Special Thanks to Our Sustaining Members

Bill & Jill Hawkins
Bridget Marvin
Phlunte & Eddie Riddle

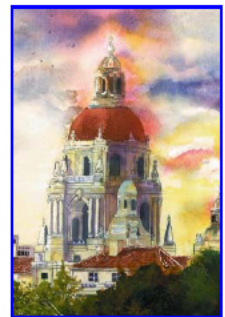


Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Political Account


Eddie & Phlunte Riddle
Emily Stork



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



2020 ACT and ADC Membership

A **RED CHECK** () on your address label on this *Phoenix* tells you we are still looking for your 2020 membership renewal check. Use the form below or renew online at www.ACTpasadena.org.

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



[Grateful thanks to all of you who have so generously renewed and contributed this year!](#)

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.