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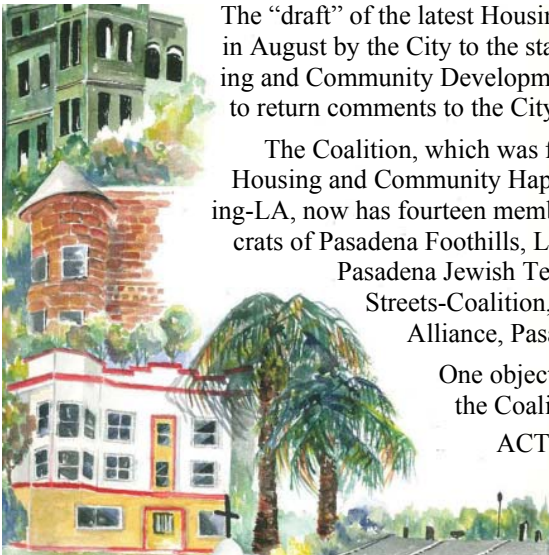
Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

## ACT and ADC Zoom Meeting

**Thursday, October 7, 7 p.m.**

Please join us on Thursday, October 7, at 7 p.m. for our ACT and Arroyo Democratic Club Meeting via Zoom. (Find the Zoom link for the meeting on ACT's webpage, <http://www.actpasadens.org>.)

**Program:** ACT Member Ed Washatka will provide background on the work of the Pasadena Affordable Housing Coalition which was organized last December. The goal of the Coalition is to organize the community to provide input into the City of Pasadena's Housing Element which will guide the City's housing policy until 2029.



The "draft" of the latest Housing Element was submitted in August by the City to the state's Department of Housing and Community Development. The state is expected to return comments to the City by early to mid-October.

The Coalition, which was founded by POP!, Making Housing and Community Happen, and Abundant Housing-LA, now has fourteen members after adding – Democrats of Pasadena Foothills, League of Women Voters, NAACP, ACLU, NDLON, Pasadena Jewish Temple & Center Social Justice Committee, Complete-Streets-Coalition, All Saints Church, Interdenominational Ministerial-Alliance, Pasadena for All, and Affordable Housing Services.

One objective of Ed's presentation is to encourage ACT to join the Coalition.

ACT and ADC's regular business meeting will follow the program. Socializing before the meeting begins at 7 p.m. The meeting follows at 7:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome.



Ed Washatka

## Upcoming ACT/ADC Meeting Programs

- October 2, 7 p.m. via Zoom  
Pasadena Affordable Housing Coalition  
presentation led by Ed Washatka.
- November 4, 7 p.m. via Zoom  
State Senator Anthony Portantino's Sacra-  
mento Update.
- December 2, 7 p.m.  
General membership meeting. Mid-term  
Election Strategy with Democratic leaders.  
Whether virtual or in person to be decided.

For sign-on instructions for Zoom meetings,  
please go to the ACT webpage, [www.ACTpasadena.org](http://www.ACTpasadena.org)



## UDH Notes



Congratulations to all our amazing UDH'ers, especially Caitlin Gallogly, Cheryl Brickley, Katie Dempster, Karen Rowinsky, Kali Falk and the UDH Steering Committee members for a resounding victory in the recall election. This victory would not have been possible without all the dedication of many volunteers from around the state and indeed the nation, who made phone calls, sent texts and wrote nearly 48,000 post-cards in support of the No vote.

This is not only a victory for California and the nation, it is also a win for voting rights, a woman's right to choose, justice for immigrants, combatting climate change and many other important issues for Democrats and progressives. However, the fight has just begun. The midterm elections are right around the corner, and there are several Republican House seats around the state that are in play. These will be close elections and will require hard work on the local level. With the slim Democratic margin in the

House, California will be critical to holding onto a Democratic majority.

Again, thank you all for a great victory. You can be very proud of your efforts.

~ Hoyt Hilsman,  
Chair, UDH Steering Committee



## Notice to Members of Proposed ACT Bylaw Changes

Here is **notice of proposed changes to the Election Procedures portion of the ACT bylaws**. The changes would 1) deactivate the Election Procedures Committee which has not functioned for some years. 2) Sanction voting electronically on ACT ballots. 3) Eliminate the signing of ballot return envelopes.

Members, please review and consider these changes and be prepared to vote on them at our General Membership meeting on Thursday, December 2.

*(The underlined words would be added and the ~~lined-out~~ words would be deleted.)*

### VII. Election Procedures

D. The Steering Committee Election Procedures Committee shall devise a system to ensure the integrity and privacy of each ballot and ballot envelope, to stamp, emboss or sequentially number each ballot and ballot envelope with the goal of ensuring the integrity and privacy of the ballot. Alternatively, electronic balloting using software approved by the Steering Committee, or some combination of electronic and paper balloting may be used.

E. If using paper ballots, each completed ballot sent in by mail shall be submitted in the ACT ballot return envelope. Each voting member in the household must sign the outside of the ACT ballot envelope.

## Richard Esbenshade



We sadly note the death of Dick Esbenshade, 92, at his Pasadena home on September 14. Ohio-born, Dick first came west on a scholarship to attend Stanford, where he majored in economics. He served in the US Army before going on to Harvard Law School on the G.I. Bill. He was an editor of the Harvard Law Review and graduated magna cum laude in 1956. He then travelled on a fellowship through Europe, including working in Austria assisting Hungarian refugees from the 1956 revolution.

Dick married Nancy Abrahams in 1958 and they moved to Los Angeles where he began his career as an attorney. He helped start the firm Munger, Tolles & Hills (now Munger, Tolles & Olson) in 1962 and stayed there until 2012. Centering their lives around family, including their five children and eleven grandchildren, Dick and Nancy enthusiastically travelled the world. They have been ACT members for decades. Dick was a dedicated Dodger fan, an avid reader, and a father and grandfather who always supported the sports efforts of his children and grandchildren.

We send sympathy to Nancy, Dick's wife of 63 years; children Richard S., Jill, Anne, Andy and their spouses; sisters Joyce and Ruth; twelve nieces and nephews; and eleven grandchildren. Dick was predeceased by daughter Lee and sister Anita.

The family suggests that any memorial donations in Dick's honor, be made to the Pasadena Educational Foundation or any other educational non-profit.

## Caravan for Choice

Organized by Planned Parenthood Pasadena/  
San Gabriel Valley & Community Partners

Saturday, October 2, 10 a.m.

Please join a **Bike and Car Caravan through the City of Pasadena**, beginning at the Rose Bowl (Rose Bowl Lot I, 355 N Arroyo Blvd) and ending with a drive-by rally at Pasadena City Hall. This event will be a safe way to come together to show **support for reproductive rights**.

Hosted by Planned Parenthood Pasadena & San Gabriel Valley, SMART, NAACP, YWCA, POP!, NWPC-Greater Pasadena Area, NWPC San Gabriel Valley, ACLU-Pasadena Chapter, Plan C, Black Women for Wellness, Indivisible, Swing Left, Active SGV, SGVLGBTQ Center, Rooted in Resistance, Peace over Violence and Glendora HS Women's Wellness.



## The Best of America

Through Recent Good  
and Not So Good Times



After 20 years fighting a losing war in Afghanistan, Pres. Biden is keeping his campaign promise to end that war. 200,000 plus were safely airlifted out by August 31. Biden updated us daily. Upon arrival in US, several airlines donated planes and staff and flew refugees to safety. Americans came to their aid to house and care for them. We lost thirteen fallen service members, who were overseeing the safety of getting Americans to the airport, victims of a suicide bomber. Biden and the First Lady went to Dover to attend the four-hour dignified transfer of their remains. Remember the days Bush didn't allow press to cover those fallen heroes coming home??

See **Best of America**, *continued on page eight*

## Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Sunday, September 19

Governor Gavin Newsom trounced the recall proponents. His current margin is 63.4% to 36.6%, over a 25-point margin. By any measure, that's a landslide.

As of today, there are still nearly 2.5 million ballots yet to be counted, with a large chunk coming from Riverside, San Bernardino, Orange and San Diego counties, so that percentage is likely to fall to slightly under 63% when all is said and done. But the turnout is quite spectacular. Including the 2.5 million ballots still to be counted, it will end up just over 59%. For a special election in an off-month, that is stunningly high – nearly as high as the 64% turnout in the November 2018 election, and higher than the last five regularly scheduled Gubernatorial general elections.

So Republicans can't argue that the electorate wasn't paying attention. Nor can they argue that

their leading candidate, Larry Elder, didn't get widespread publicity. In fact, that may have been one their main problems. Governor Newsom was happy to have Elder, who far outpaced any of the other Gubernatorial hopefuls on Part two of the recall ballot, get as much publicity as possible. Elder's unabashed pro-Trump stance and his wild statements overshadowed any other more substantive and serious discussion of Newsom's performance and the state of the state. Newsom could have been vulnerable to some thoughtful criticism of his time in office, but Elder seemed blissfully happy just to throw red meat to his base. Unfortunately for him, that base, at least in California, is pretty small.

The Political Data, Inc., firm was tracking the absentee ballots returned and checking the party affiliation of each voter who returned a ballot. So we know that approximately 52% of all ballots returned came from Democrats (even though Democrats constitute only 46% of the electorate), that 26% came from Republicans, and that the remaining 22% came from voters who were Decline to State or affiliated with minor parties. Even if 95% of the Democrats voted NO on the recall, it's clear that Newsom was able to convince about 2/3 of all independents / Decline to States to get to his 64% NO vote.

The fact that Newsom was holding nearly all the Democrats, and getting well over a majority of independents, is important for what it portends for 2022. First off, Newsom showed the ability to raise a vast amount of campaign funds, and there is no reason to think he won't be able to repeat that performance again next year. Further, Larry Elder seems to have promoted himself to become the new face of the GOP in California, and Democrats couldn't be happier about that. Elder's hard-core Trumpist stances and rhetoric are just leagues out of line with most California voters, whether they have a strong partisan identification or not. It pretty much guarantees that

the GOP will remain an irrelevant thought in California politics, with Democrats likely to continue to hold every single Constitutional office as well as 2/3 majorities in both Houses of the state legislature.

That's great for California, but it has, I would argue, a far more important impact on national politics. Newsom's blow-out certainly is a morale booster for Democrats nationwide, but I think most people assumed he should and would win. The real import is what it portends for Congressional races in California, and the degree to which a strong top-of-the-ticket performance by Newsom, bringing along a slew of independent voters, will have coattails in swing Congressional races around the state.

The preeminent struggle in 2022 will be to maintain control of the House. Right now, most pundits are betting against the Democrats. They point to typical historical mid-term losses for the party controlling the White House, compounded by moving 4 Congressional seats from blue states to red states as a result of the 2020 census figures, and further compounded by likely reapportionment monkey

business by GOP controlled legislatures in states like Florida, Texas and Georgia.

When you roll that all together, it's a hard case against which to argue. In the current Congress, the balance is 222 – 213 (after 3 vacancies in safe districts are filled by special elections). That gives Speaker Pelosi a safety margin of just 4 seats. Even if we defy typical mid-term history (as we did in 2006 and 2018), that just equals the GOP likely gain from reallocating seats among states, and any further losses from creative gerrymandering within Texas or Florida could flip the House.

That's why the 4 California districts which we

won in 2018, but lost back in 2020, are so critical. Of course, we don't yet know the exact details of those districts, since our independent Redistricting Commission is just now beginning to take input and design new districts. Further, California will lose 1 seat, quite possibly from the Los Angeles basin.

The four districts that we won, and then lost back, include the 21<sup>st</sup> (up north, with David Valadao as the new incumbent); the 25<sup>th</sup> (just north of us, with Mike Garcia as the incumbent); the 39<sup>th</sup> (in LA and Orange County, with Young Kim as the incumbent); and the 48<sup>th</sup> (in the Orange County coastal area, with Michelle Steel as the incumbent).

Whatever the newly apportioned districts look like, if we can replace those four incumbents with Democrats, we give Speaker Pelosi an enormous amount of breathing room, and we very well may avoid losing control of the House. Our local United Democratic Headquarters focused on the three of those districts in southern California both in 2018 and in 2020. You can be sure that they will be our primary focus again in 2022.



There are other districts around the country that we had won in 2018 but lost back in 2020 that may, again, flip back to Democratic control. Just as Texas and Florida are gerrymandering to help GOP candidates, New York and Illinois will be gerrymandering to help Democratic candidates.

Further, there are suggestions that voters nationwide are far more in synch with President Biden than with GOP candidates rabidly fighting mask and vaccine mandates. We're beginning to see the electoral repercussions of that in state legislative special elections. Democrats flipped a seat in the New Hampshire State House last month, and they nearly flipped a seat in the Iowa State

House this month. In Iowa, the Democratic candidate had lost by 53% – 47% in the 2020 general election; in the special election, which should favor Republicans, the margin shrank to 51.6% - 48.3%. That reduced margin may seem slight, but Congresswoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks in Iowa's 2<sup>nd</sup> CD beat incumbent Democrat Dave Loebsack by six votes – yes, just six votes – out of 394,000 votes cast, so a change of 1% in Iowa could be monumental for winning back that district.

And it's not just Iowa. In New York's 22<sup>nd</sup> CD, the Democrat lost by 109 votes out of nearly 300,000 ballots cast. Nineteen Republican incumbents won by margins under 5% (but so did 19 Democrats, so it works both ways).

So, pundits notwithstanding, my sense is that the political winds are trending our way. I think the Administration and Democratic Governors are all working in the right direction to contain the COVID-19 resurgence, and I think their efforts will ultimately bear fruit. Yes, the Democrats in Congress seem disorganized and unable to accomplish much despite their supposed control of both chambers. But when the rubber hits the road, I think they will find a way to make some progress and get some legislation out the door. And as long as former President Trump remains vocal and aspires to run again in 2024, he will be a useful reminder to our troops that we must not let our efforts flag.

Whatever happens, 2022 will be a tough and critical election year.

~ Jon Fuhrman



### 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](mailto:hains27@sbcglobal.net) for inclusion in an upcoming issue.



## Book Review

Eleni Kounalakis' **"Madam Ambassador"**

By Robert Frampton

Eleni Kounalakis emerged on the political scene in California to win election as Lieutenant Governor in November, 2018. She had been a protégée of State Treasurer Phil Angelides and Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and a supporter of Hillary Clinton in her 2008 presidential campaign. Eleni was prominent in political circles in Sacramento, where she was raised and where she joined her father's real estate development enterprise. Upon the recommendation of Pelosi, President Obama nominated Ms. Kounalakis to be US Ambassador to Hungary. This book is largely a memoir of Kounalakis' service as Ambassador: her book is subtitled, "Three years of Diplomacy, Dinner Parties, and Democracy in Budapest". This Memoir is quite interesting in that it reveals the process of being selected as a nominee, the arduous Senate confirmation process, and gives a good description of the role of a US Ambassador and details the day-to-day activities in representing the United States diplomatically to another country. Hungary, as it turns out (unexpectedly for Kounalakis as well as for Secretary Clinton), underwent a political transition with the election of Viktor Orbán as Prime Minister, just a couple months after Kounalakis' arrival in Budapest. Through this memoir we share the visceral experience of the diplomatic dealings with Orbán's administration, which was one of the forerunners of the rightward turn of populist and anti-democratic regimes in post-Cold-War Eastern Europe. [For a more detailed coverage of Orbán's emergence, see "Orbán: Hungary's Strongman" by Paul Lendvai.] Shortly after taking office, Orbán's party wrote a new Constitution for Hungary in 2011; and the Parliament rushed through over 700 new laws, affecting the media, the

See **Book Review** continued on page eight

## My Two Cents

By Ron Garber



So, as I begin to compose this column it's 4 p.m. and I have a midnight deadline. I've been walking a lot and listening to music and one of the funniest pieces on my playlist is Barbara Streisand singing the minute waltz. It might be on YouTube and you should access it, if it is. I bring this up because in the next eight hours I have to write the column, edit it, walk another five miles, (I've already walked thirteen + miles while creating much of this column in my head while walking), monitor the Dodger baseball game and Shohei Ohtani's at bats in the Angel game, prepare and eat dinner. It's now 4:15.

The recall election:

My take on what we learned from this inane exercise: First of all, I have to admit that I was wrong on the execution of the campaign as promulgated. I thought it was foolish to not have a prominent Democrat run on the second part of the ballot. As it turned out it was a brilliant idea, because Larry Elder almost immediately became the alternative to the Governor, and no one could have mimicked Trump to a greater degree.

The second thing learned was that we need to reform the recall process. Everyone is pretty much in agreement that the requisite number of signatures, 12% from the previous election for the targeted office is too low, and the fact that it only requires a plurality on the second part of the ballot to carry the day means that the new office holder might be supported by a very small percentage of the voters. I was thinking that a runoff between the two highest vote getters, when a majority hadn't been reached, would be a good replacement for that problem, but recently I read an

even better idea. Why even have a second part to the ballot when there already is a constitutional back up to a vacancy? The Republicans took advantage of the recall process to get rid of a Democratic Governor, but would they have even tried if they knew that the Democratic Lt. Governor would automatically take his place?

What lessons have been learned that could or should be emulated nationally for next year's election? Democrats are: pro science, pro health, pro choice, pro democracy, pro diversity and inclusion, while Republicans are just the opposite. Democrats believe in taking care of the elderly, the poor and those who are different, while Republicans represent those who already are privileged. These should be the issues that make up the spine of a national Democratic campaign and of course we should have Trump represent the face of the Republican Party.

I now have seven hours until deadline.

So, at this point I wrote a segment on my problem with the 10th amendment and how it effects next year's Supreme Court ruling on Roe v. Wade. During the edit process I realized that I may have gotten an important fact wrong and deleted it. Look for a column in a future *Phoenix* on both the 10th amendment and the Electoral College.

Now I'm down to five hours.

I'm going to conclude with a congratulatory shoutout to my good friend Karen Rowinsky and her postcard partner Katie Dempster, who headed up the UDH recall postcard program that was responsible for sending out 48,000 postcards on behalf of Governor Newsom.

Karen wants you to know that they have a growing email list of 591 postcard volunteers heading into next year's election, and while this list is not an exhaustive list, we want to acknowledge the following individuals who always go above and beyond the call of duty. Interesting to note, all are women - with two exceptions:

Susan Bosch, Jane Crane, Fran Blackwell,  
Suzanne Goldberg, Ruth Richardson,  
Karen Suarez, Danah Ezekiel, John Jackson,  
Donna Jaffee, Richard Tom, Martha Bardach,  
Veronica Casarez, Jennifer Berman,

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

With four plus hours left to the deadline it's...

~ Ron out



### **Book Review** *continued from page six*

courts, and institutions of government, that took a distinctive turn to the right. Kounalakis and staff struggled to keep abreast of the rapid re-writing of these new laws being drafted by Orbán's core party members. The Ambassador made what efforts she could to urge transparency and democratic values. Ambassador Kounalakis also details two trips that she made to Afghanistan, including one accompanying Orbán's defense minister, to inspect Hungarian troops supporting the NATO efforts in Afghanistan. These serve to provide a glimpse into conditions in Afghanistan at that time, including from the point of view of Hungary's military staff.

*Thanks to longtime ACT member Robert Framp-ton for the above review. He promises additional reviews of books of current political interest for future **Phoenix** issues. Next up: Senator Jon Tester's book, "Grounded: A Senator's Lessons on Winning Back Rural America."*



### **Best of America**, *continued from page three*

IDA slammed into New Orleans with wind gusts at 130 - NY, NJ next in line – sixty-six lives lost. America's finest again step up to the plate, bring aid to those who are in need. Chef Jose Andres, a great humanitarian who came to the US from Spain as a 21-year-old, \$50 in his pocket, today an award-winning chef owning over 30 restaurants and startup World Central Kitchen, immediately heads to New Orleans to feed his neighbors in need. FEMA responds. No paper towels this time 45!!!

CA Speaker Nancy Pelosi appoints Special Committee. (Nine members - Dem and GOP) began their search to uncover details re the Jan. 6 insurrection, including 45's culpability. CA members are Adam Schiff and Zoe Lofgren. How can we forget Congressman Schiff's outstanding job as lead role-impeachment manager of 45's first trial!! Letters have gone out to federal agencies to preserve specific documents, which are now flowing in and promise to be good reading! Congressman McCarthy - an embarrassment to CA, is fighting to disavow those records. Could it be they will implicate him?? No doubt.

CA Congresswoman Judy Chu steps up to the plate as she has done since 2012, to introduce her codification of Roe v. Wade; 217 members co-signed - will the Senate approve?? TX's "heart-beat bill" had its own fast track to the SC: 5-4 Justices upheld TX abortion law in the dead of night via the shadow docket. Several lawsuits have been filed. CA Xavier Becerra, HHS, asked by Biden to address plan of action. Laurence Tribe, Harvard Law Professor, took a similar case to SC years ago and won. Premise: only the government at any level can enforce these laws, can't transfer that to everyday citizens. Gov. Abbott's intent is to deputize every citizen to be a bounty hunter. Abbott's justification to no exemptions i.e., rape, incest, "we will just eliminate

rape, it will all go away”. OMG - why don't you just decriminalize rape?? DOJ's Merrick Garland has filed a very strong lawsuit against TX calling it “clearly unconstitutional”!!

CA Senator Alex Padilla has taken up a farm laborer's challenge to Senators to work side by side for a day in the fields. He is the son of immigrant parents. CA Barbara Boxer's statement re apparent need for Dianne Feinstein to resign!! Age related issues! CA would again be in position to fill a Senate seat. So proud of our CA representatives.

State of TX has been continuously in the news under Gov Abbott's actions and remarks demonstrating his stupidity. COVID out of control all over the state, no masks. TX has one city that outpaces most cities in the US when it comes to at least one shot in the arm 81.4% - El Paso, resulting cases, deaths are down. Coincidence? Don't think so. Home to Beto O'Rourke, best organizer in US. Founded his PAC Powered by People (PXP) immediately after ending his presidential run. PXP has thousands of volunteers across TX including those Beto enlisted during his 2018 Senate campaign.

PXP called into immediate COVID action: knocking on doors to get people to commit to vaccinations, loading tons of boxes of donated food for the needy after COVID began, when electricity grids collapsed for days during snow storms, and making welfare checks on seniors. Beto went nationwide calling attention to Abbott's inability to act resulting in deaths caused by poor maintenance of power grids. TX goes after voting rights, PXP mobilizes hundreds to speak at legislative hearings, including Beto. Brings national attention to For the People Act, works with Dem. legislators to walk off the floor so there is not a quorum, loads them onto planes immediately for DC, arranges meetings with House, Senate members. Beto (PXP) and Willie Nelson financed \$750,000 to provide TX

legislators with room and board for two weeks to rally for voting rights. PXP helped organize a Selma three-day march to the Capital supporting Voting Rights. Marchers included Rev. Barber, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Lucy B. Johnson and Beto, focusing national attention on For the People Act, the John Lewis Bill (that passed House). Willie Nelson joined the protest in Austin. He has said “any thing he wants to do, I'm with Beto”. State Senate Dems. brought national attention to TX Bill, risking their jobs and income. Beto was often the go-to person interviewed for all these issues. Today, PXP is back registering voters until next crisis.

Beto's future: On nationwide TV, Super Tuesday Election Eve, after Beto's endorsement, Biden responds “You're the one who will be taking care of gun issues for me”. Another bold, strong move by Biden/Beto team. Congress is so incapable. After rally, they stop at Whataburger, Beto's fav campaign stop. Joe and Beto dined on burgers and shakes together, talking with customers, press covered. Next day - Super Tuesday - big decisive wins for Biden propelling him to the presidency.

~ Barbara Paul



**From  
25<sup>th</sup> District  
State Senator  
Anthony  
Portantino**



Dear ACT Friends,

What a great win for California and Governor Newsom! Thank you to all the ACT members who contributed time, resources and effort to defeat the recall!

The legislative session came to an end with historic investments in public education, fire resiliency and resources to combat climate change. I was particularly proud that almost the entire contents of SB 45, my \$5 billion drought, fire resiliency and climate bond, was included in the budget. The final piece of the negotiations included my Senate priority of significant resources for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. I was also able to increase the state's investment in the Armenian Museum in Glendale and to garner state funds for the Bonita High School Wellness Center. Student mental health and wellness is a passion of mine and I am so happy to be in a position to help. Bella volunteered at the Wellness center on her high school campus and I heard firsthand how important it was to have these facilities available for our students.

I was pleased to see Pasadena's efforts to develop the 710 Freeway stub is progressing through negotiations with CalTrans. As ACT members might recall, after personally negotiating the end of the 710 Freeway tunnel with Governor Brown's Administration, I worked collaboratively with Pasadena in crafting Senate Bill 7 to give the City the authorization to finalize the agreement with the state over the stub. This year, my collaboration with the City of South Pasadena, CalTrans and the Administration

for the disposition of South Pasadena's sixty-eight homes in the 710 corridor has proven fruitful and we have a bill on the Governor's desk awaiting his signature. The bill protects existing tenants and historic homes while giving South Pasadena the ability to acquire properties, partner with non-profits and fund affordable housing within the city.

My two mental health bills, SB 14 and SB 224, are both on the Governor's desk. They seek to treat mental health the same as physical health and create a curriculum to teach our students about mental health as part of overall health class. My latest effort to combat gun violence and enact more sensible gun controls is also awaiting the Governor's signature. In addition to dealing with the Poway Synagogue shooting, SB 715, would trigger independent investigations when a police officer is involved in a shooting where the presence of gun is in dispute. It is my attempt to address the tragic circumstance of Anthony McClain's death where the family and law enforcement are arguing whether a gun was present. Under current law independent investigations occur in an unarmed circumstance but not in a disputed situation akin to those that happened in Pasadena.

I was also very pleased to partner with Assembly Member Reggie Jones Sawyer on a bill to require new police officers to be 21 years old and have completed several higher education requirements. It's also an attempt to make police departments reflect the diversity of our communities. The minimum age requirement is important because it aligns with my bill that raised the required firearms purchase age in California to 21.

On the family front, I'm dealing with being an empty nester for the first time. Bella is off to college. I have to admit that she sounds confident and happy at school but it's tough not to have her around the house. Sofia is slated to come home from Berlin shortly. She has spent almost all of Covid working on a film and I have not seen her in a year.

Warmest and Best,

~ Anthony

*Senator Anthony Portantino represents California's 25th State Senate District.*

**From  
41<sup>st</sup> District  
Assemblymember  
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

The recall has failed. We knew the effort was never about the Pandemic or the Governor's policies, but there was a moment where that false storyline was turning it into a close race. Thankfully, the voters made it loud and clear that they didn't want to have someone in office that would not only try to sabotage the progress California has made, but could also put their own health and safety at risk during this ongoing Pandemic. As Governor Newsom said in his acceptance speech, this wasn't just about saying no to a recall, but saying yes to science, yes to vaccines, yes to social and racial justice, and yes to so much more. I believe for many Californians, it was also a yes to common sense!

In the backdrop of the recall, the legislative session came to end with seven of my bills passing including:

**AB 26** that would establish clear guidelines for police responsibility and accountability when witnessing excessive force by another member of law enforcement.

**AB 105** that would promote upward mobility for people of color in California's civil services system, and require diversity on state boards and commissions.

**AB 100** that would ban the manufacture and sale in California of water faucets and fixtures that leach excess lead.

**AB 229** that would require the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services (BSIS) to develop curriculum and training courses on the appropriate use of force for private security service employees.

**AB 948** that would require the Bureau of California Real Estate Appraisals to gather data on demographic information of buyers and sellers of real estate property and compile data of homeowners from protected classes who file complaints based on low appraisals.

I also introduced two resolutions – ACR 104 that would create a sister state relationship between the Pakistani Province of Punjab and California, and ACR 105 that would create a sister state relationship with the Armenian Province of Syunik.

Lastly, in ceremony in Sacramento, I had the pleasure to honor Mijares Mexican Restaurant as "Small Business of the Year" for the 41st Assembly District. R-lene de Lang, Tina Jimenez, and Tom Recendez – co-owners of Mijares, accepted the recognition during the annual Small Business of the Year luncheon organized by the California Small Business Association. Mijares recently celebrated their 100th anniversary and is a Pasadena treasure. Family owned and spanning three generations with immigrant roots, Mijares is the epitome of a small business and the American dream.

Looking forward to keeping you up-dated in the next newsletter.

Sincerely,

~ Chris R. Holden

*Assemblyman Holden represents some 420,000 people in the foothills communities of Altadena, Pasadena, South Pasadena, Monrovia, Sierra Madre, San Dimas, La Verne, Claremont, and Upland. He can be reached via his website at:*

[www.asm.ca.-gov/](http://www.asm.ca.-gov/)

*Holden and fill*

*out the contact form.*



### Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Jeannine Bogaard, Pasadena  
Diana Brooks, Pasadena  
Lena Kennedy, Pasadena  
Julie Martinez, Pasadena

### Special Thanks to Sustaining Members

Jeannine Bogaard  
Norman & Frederika Brooks  
Katharine Kane  
Michael Murphy  
Bonnie Skolnik  
Michael Werner  
Steve Thorsett &  
Rachel Dewey Thorsett

### Special Thanks to Patrons

George & Marilyn Brumder  
Victor & Janice Laruccia

### And Really Special Thanks to Benefactors

Walt & Zan Cochran-Bond

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

Walt & Zan Cochran-Bond  
Norman & Frederika Brooks  
Michael Murphy

### Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Political Account

Walt & Zan Cochran-Bond  
Norman & Frederika Brooks  
Martin & Pamela Miller-Hessel  
Michael Murphy  
Emily Stork  
Leah & John Sullivan

### Thanks for Contributions to the Judy Boggs Intern Fund:

Lucy Allen  
Bill & Claire Bogaard  
Bob & Maureen Carlson  
Arthur Congo

Betina Kyle-Collins  
Larry Eggers  
Kathryn Fogarty  
Glenn & Connie Garrison  
Judy Gripp  
Chuck Hains  
Ralph Hurtado  
Victor & Janice Laruccia  
Bobbie & Henry Moon  
Bobby Nelson & Peggy Renner  
Dianne Philiposian &  
Tom Seifert  
Nancy Pine  
Jeanne Register  
Jack Scott  
Shirley Spencer  
Judy Tejada  
Kip Thorne & Carolee Winstein  
Odessa Walker  
Ed Washatka & Linda Centell  
Tim & Joanne Wendler  
Neal Wrightson &  
Laurie Taylor



### Preceding Donald Trump:

“The party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears. It was their final, most essential command,” ~ George Orwell, “1984”

## Sept Oct Calendar

- Sept 15 - Hispanic Heritage Month.  
Oct 15
- October 2 Caravan for Choice. Show  
Saturday support for reproductive rights.  
10 a.m. See inside for details.
- October 7 ACT and ADC Meeting via  
Thursday Zoom. A Pasadena Affordable  
7 p.m. Housing Coalition program led  
by Ed Washatka. Socializing at 7  
p.m.; meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- October 24 Save The Date! UDH Virtual  
Sunday Oktoberfest! Fundraiser. Details  
2-4 p.m. to come.



**Preceding Donald Trump:** "In politics, absurdity is not a handicap." ~ *Napoleon Bonaparte*



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

## October *Phoenix* Deadline

We expect the deadline for the October *Phoenix* will be Monday evening, October 11. Please send items for publication to Chuck Hains at [hains27@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hains27@sbcglobal.net) and Sally Beer at [sally.beer125@gmail.com](mailto:sally.beer125@gmail.com). (Chuck will continue to contact regular contributors with a deadline reminder.)



## ACT's and ADC's Website

Website manager, Bruce Wright, asks for items for the website calendar and links to important viewpoints and commentary. Bruce and Marcus Green keep the site updated. You can reach Bruce at: [brucewright@sbcglobal.net](mailto:brucewright@sbcglobal.net).



You will always find the current *Phoenix*, plus a newsletter archive on the website at [www.ACTpasadena.org](http://www.ACTpasadena.org).

## 2021 Membership Renewal

A **Red Check** ( ✓ ) on your address label on this *Phoenix* is to remind you that we are still eagerly looking for your 2021 ACT and/or ADC membership dues!

Please renew today! Use the form below, or renew online at [www.actpasadena.org](http://www.actpasadena.org).



If you have any questions about your membership, check with Executive Director Jon Fuhrman at [jon\\_fuhrman@outlook.com](mailto:jon_fuhrman@outlook.com) or 626 864-5255.

### 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**

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 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.