



The Official Publication of ACT

P. O. Box 40074, (626) 795-2798

the phoenix
On-Line

Volume 51
Number 7
August, 2023

Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer



ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
GARDEN PARTY
Saturday, September 23rd

Mark your calendar ...

**for Saturday, September 23rd
to help celebrate ACT's 50 years
of progressive activism
in the greater Pasadena area.**

The 50th Anniversary Garden Party will be held at the historic Blacker House in Pasadena, home of Ellen and Harvey Knell. The party will feature great food and drink, lively music, political memorabilia from 1973, appearances by multiple elected officials, and a surprise guest speaker.

If you would like to be a sponsor for this memorable afternoon, please go to:

www.actpasadena.org/50th.html.

The committee will be in touch in the next few weeks with further event details. Don't miss it!



Volunteers Needed for the 50th Anniversary Event

Can you help out? Needed is someone to oversee the bar as well as bartenders to do one-hour shifts at the bar. Please contact Barbara Paul at seasideatdelmar@gmail.com.

Coming Soon

A big redesign of our webpage is underway. A new platform! A new look! A new just about everything! (Don't worry, we are keeping the good stuff.) We will keep you informed.

Old website: <http://actpasadena.org/>

Virginia Salley

We were saddened to learn of the death of Virginia (McGregor) Salley on June 18 in Woodland, California at age 87. Our records list her husband,



Bob Salley, as a Charter Member of ACT, so we are glad to remember Virginia as a Charter Member as well.

Virginia was born in Niobrara, Nebraska. Her family moved to California during WWII. Virginia spent most of her early life in the Central Valley and attended Merced High School. At Pasadena (Nazarene) College she made lifelong friends and met Bob Salley (who was our candidate for Congress in 1976 and a PUSD teacher.) They married in 1958.

Virginia became a teacher directly from college and spent many years teaching in the PUSD, much of the time at Cleveland Elementary School. The Salleys later moved to Woodland where Virginia taught at Gibson Elementary School until her retirement. She also became a teacher of teachers, passionate about improving math education for children. In retirement she taught a memoir writing class for seniors and left her own memoirs for her family.

In Pasadena, Virginia sang in the choirs of Holiston Methodist and All Saints Episcopal Churches; in Woodland at the United Methodist Church. She gave time to service organizations including the AAUW, CalRTA, and Delta Kappa Gamma teacher's sorority.

She lived a full and busy life and was devoted to her grandchildren, Helen, Harper and Eli. We extend our deepest sympathy to Bob, daughters Susan Veazey (and husband Michael) and Julie Salley, and Virginia's three cherished grandchildren.



Our ACT and ADC Calendar

You probably remember that ACT and ADC meetings are on the first Thursday of the month with the deadline for *Phoenix* copy on the following Monday. Here we add our 50th Anniversary Fundraiser.

**September 7– The ACT/ADC Meeting will be on Thursday, September 7;
Phoenix deadline, Monday, Sept. 11.**

September 23 – ACT's 50th Anniversary Fundraiser will be on Saturday, September 23, 2-5 p.m.



Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Brent Giannotta, New York City
Scott Harden, Pasadena
Kathryn Kroger, Pasadena
Ryan Liu, Temple City

Special Thanks to Sustaining Members

Mary Nafisi
Michael Werner

Special Thanks to Patrons

Walter & Suzanne Cochran-Bond
Martin Hessel & Pamela Miller-Hessel

Really special thanks to Benefactor

Councilmember Steven Madison

And Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Operating Account

Councilmember Steven Madison





Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman

Monday, August 14.

The first shoe dropped back in June, with former President Donald Trump's indictment in Florida. The second shoe – Jack Smith's indictment of former President Donald Trump – dropped last week, with a resounding thud. The third shoe – the indictment by Atlanta District Attorney Fani Willis – dropped literally as I am writing this article.

The federal indictment brought by Special Counsel Jack Smith names only one defendant – Donald J. Trump – leaving others as unindicted co-conspirators. It includes only four counts, omitting some potentially more satisfying charges like seditious conspiracy. But this trimmed down indictment is actually pretty shrewd.

It focuses on charges for which the documentary evidence, including some of Trump's own speeches, e-mails, phone calls and tweets, is overwhelming. It avoids the complications that come with multiple defendants: potential motions to sever one defendant from the others, competing legal strategies from multiple lawyers, extended discovery, conflicting schedules, extended testimony and cross-examination, shifting the focus from the President to the other defendants, offering a jury the opportunity to convict some but acquit others. It's an all or nothing shot, aimed directly at the former President, and above all designed to facilitate a speedy trial.

And speedy means, if not this year, then early

next year – the Judge has already set January 2 as a target start date. Trump's attorneys will undoubtedly protest, citing the 11 million pages of evidence being turned over to them. But Judge Chutkan seems disinclined to cut them much slack. Further, the more Trump protests on social media, the sooner the trial will need to start, to minimize the degree to which Trump's rants might poison the well of prospective jurors and diminish his chance to have a fair trial.

As if that indictment weren't enough, the Atlanta case accuses Trump, and 18 other indicted co-conspirators, of 41 different violations, including a RICO (Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organization) violation. It itemizes 161 separate, individual acts, tying the defendants to an array of illegal conduct and outlining a broad conspiracy taking place in multiple states.

The RICO violation is particularly important. Georgia's RICO statute is even broader, and harsher, than the Federal law, and it mandates minimum 5 year sentences, without the possibility of a gubernatorial pardon. Should Trump be convicted, it seems inevitable he will be facing serious jail time.

Georgia also has an unusually strong speedy trial law, which will make it difficult for Trump to delay. In fact, even though the Georgia DA has said she wants to try all 19 defendants together in a single trial, nonetheless the trial might well start before the end of the year.

Whatever happens in Georgia, my guess is the January 6 trial will start, and finish, before our March primary. And I will be astounded if the former President is acquitted in either venue.

Last month I predicted that, ultimately, Trump would give up on his campaign for President, crushed by the weight of four indictments. Now it seems likely that at least one, if not two, of those will be an outright conviction. Yes, undoubtedly Trump will appeal the conviction, but

I think he will face tough sledding. On the federal side, the DC Circuit Court is likely to expedite the appeal, and uphold the conviction, by early spring. That just strengthens my sense that Trump will not be the GOP candidate in 2024, however much Democrats might wish that were the case.

To make things more complicated for Trump, a fascinating law review article will appear in early 2024, authored by two Federalist Society (readily highly conservative) law professors who adhere to the originalist / textualist school of interpretation (the one favored by Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito). It analyzes the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, and particularly Section 3 of that Amendment, which bars from Federal or State office anyone who takes an oath to uphold the Constitution but then participates in an insurrection or rebellion or gives “aid or comfort” to an insurrection or rebellion.

The bottom line is that these highly conservative law professors argue that Donald Trump did just that – participate in and give aid and comfort to an insurrection – and is therefore disqualified not just from holding any office of the Federal Government, including the Presidency, but even from running for that office. Further, they argue that no judicial or Congressional determination is necessary; individual Secretaries of State, or those responsible for administering elections, can – indeed, are constitutionally required to – disqualify the former President from even appearing on an election ballot.

These law professors concede that the former President could go to court to appeal such disqualification, but they make a pretty strong case, both for the specific evidence that the former President did indeed participate in an insurrec-

tion, and also that the Constitution flatly requires and mandates that he be disqualified from holding, or even seeking, office.

Now, if our own Secretary of State, Shirley Weber, concluded that Trump was disqualified from appearing on the March ballot (and that decision would have to come by about mid-December, when filing closes for the March primary), perhaps that wouldn’t be a big deal. Trump was never going to win California (even if his absence depresses overall GOP turnout and leads to down ballot losses for them). But there are other swing states – like Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin and Arizona – with Democratic Governors and

Democrats in charge of election administration. If he were disqualified from those ballots, that would be enough to force the GOP to look elsewhere for their top of the ticket. What happens then is anyone’s guess.

Aside from the Presidential race, Democrats had some other really good news in the last few weeks. In Ohio, until recently considered a GOP bastion, voters trounced Measure 1 by a 57 – 43% margin.

(The measure, which would have increased the majority required to pass constitutional amendments from 50% to 60%, was in fact aimed at killing a Constitutional Amendment protecting reproductive rights slated for the November state ballot.) This was a special election, in early August, timed specifically to minimize turnout and give the absolutist anti-choice community a maximal advantage. Well, to the amazement of the GOP, over 3 million voters turned out, which compares well to the 4 million in the November, 2022 election. The No forces routinely outperformed the 2022 Democratic vote: they carried 14 counties that went for GOP candidate JD Vance in the 2022 Senate race; in strongly



Democratic areas, they beat Tim Ryan's vote by 5 – 10%; in strongly GOP areas, we lost by a lower margin than in 2022.

It's true that not all the folks who voted against Measure 1 were ardent pro-choice voters. Many "traditional" Republicans, including leaders like former Governors John Boehner and Robert Taft, just felt the measure was wrong and the GOP Legislature improperly muscled the measure onto the ballot. But there is no doubt that Democrats struck a deep chord in the voting public with the push for reproductive rights. More evidence on this will come this November, when a measure that explicitly enshrines reproductive rights will be on the Ohio state ballot.

Meanwhile, Democrats are clearly planning to use reproductive rights as a "wedge issue" to our benefit in 2024. State legislatures in Maryland and New York have already put such measures on the 2024 ballot. Further, plans are afoot to qualify similar amendments for the ballot in Florida, Missouri, Arizona and South Dakota.

It may seem redundant, and unimportant, for states like New York and Maryland to put such amendments on the ballot. They already have strong laws enforcing reproductive rights and are unlikely to change those. But such amendments clearly boost turnout. In 2022, Sen. Charles Schumer won with 3 million votes, but in 2016, he won with 5 million votes. If a reproductive rights amendment can, along with a Presidential campaign, help boost turnout back to the 5 million vote level, 4 or 5 Congressional districts, won by President Biden but now represented by the GOP, could flip, and thereby give Democrats control of the House.

And consider a prototypical swing state like Arizona. Pro-choice groups there, including Planned Parenthood, NARAL, the ACLU, and numerous local Arizona groups, have launched a petition to qualify a reproductive rights Constitutional Amendment for the November 2024 ballot.

The signature gathering is likely to cost \$40 to \$50 million, and they have until July 3, 2024 to collect the 500,000 signatures they are likely to need. But the impact of having such a measure on the ballot, on the Presidential race, on Ruben Gallego's Senate race, and on key Congressional races could be decisive.

Closer to home, we've witnessed a remarkable episode of musical chairs. The campaign finance reports, covering the first half of the year, had to be filed by July 31, so candidates learned how they stacked up against their opponents, and what the field was likely to look like. John Harabedian, who was running for the State Senate, and posted what seemed like quite respectable fundraising totals, suddenly pulled out of the State Senate campaign and decided to run for the State Assembly. (Rumor has it that another State Senate candidate, Yvonne Yiu, asserted she would put \$5 million of her own funds into her State Senate race, which would dwarf the fundraising efforts of the other candidates.) Then, Felicia Williams, whose fundraising lagged behind that of fellow candidates Phlunte Riddle and Jed Leano running for the 41st Assembly District, pulled out of the Assembly race and decided to run for re-election to her seat on the City Council.

Both Harabedian and Williams enter their new races in a relatively advantageous position financially, but both face competitors who have been working the district for that particular race since early this year and who have garnered impressive sets of endorsements. I do need to disclose potential biases – I am Treasurer for Phlunte Riddle, running for the 41st Assembly District, and for Rick Cole, running for Pasadena's District 2 City Council seat. Nonetheless, it seems to me imprudent, unrealistic and, indeed, a bit disingenuous for candidates to jump out of one race and into another, even if filing won't even open for another three months.

In the District 2 race, Cole has already walked to

over 1,200 households in the District. He's reported raising \$17,000 by June 30th, compared to the \$50,000 that Felicia Williams will try to transfer from her Assembly campaign to her new City Council campaign. But that assumes none of the donors to her Assembly campaign will ask for their money back. Candidates don't need donors' permission to move their money to a new committee, and they don't have to give donors' money back even if asked. But it leaves a sour taste and creates bad press. Further, numerous community leaders have endorsed Cole, believing that Williams was not in the race. And some folks may have endorsed Williams not believing she would be running against Cole. All those endorsements for Williams are now up in the air – they don't necessarily transfer from one race to another.

Harabedian faces the same problem. A number of community leaders endorsed both him and Phlunte Riddle, believing they were running for different offices. Now that Harabedian is running against Riddle, he is forcing those endorsers to make a choice, and they can easily feel that they have been misled. While Harabedian has, as of June 30th, about twice the cash on hand that Riddle has, Riddle will likely have more than enough to run a solid campaign. Harabedian must now convince voters of his seriousness as a candidate (might he switch again and go for a different office, or just drop out?) as well as why voters should choose him over Riddle or Leano. Further, a huge percentage of the funds Harabedian raised are from outside the 41st Assembly District, calling into question the degree of support he really has in local communities.

It will take a month or two fully to judge the impact of these switches, but the candidates have set themselves up to be hounded by bait-and-switch accusations. Had they made these choices originally, they would likely have been in a much stronger position. Now, however, I think they are

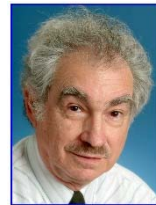
doomed to be playing a perpetual game of catch-up.

~ Jon Fuhrman



Book Review

By Robert V. Frampton



“Rural Rebellion: How Nebraska Became a Republican Stronghold”
by Ross Benes; and **“Harvest the Vote: How Democrats Can Win Again in Rural America”** by Jane Kleeb

Once the land of progressive populism, electing progressive leaders like William Jennings Bryan and Senator George W. Norris, Nebraska has forgotten its liberal past as it became a Republican stronghold.

Other largely rural states, North and South Dakota, Wyoming, Iowa and Idaho, similarly are now very conservative “red” states. But, in the recent past, these states have elected Democratic senators and governor: Bob Kerrey, John James Exon, and Ben Nelson were Democratic senators and governors of Nebraska; George McGovern, Tim Johnson and Tom Daschle were senators from South Dakota; Kent Conrad, Byron Dorgan and Heidi Heitkamp were senators from North Dakota; John Culver and Tom Harkin were senators from Iowa, and Gale McGee was a senator from Wyoming. Republican Nebraska Senator George Norris was allied with Teddy Roosevelt's Bull Moose party and championed the Rural Electrification Act and the Tennessee Valley Authority, and supported FDR's New Deal.

Nebraska Republican senator Chuck Hagel sponsored the Dream Act of 2005 and later became Obama's Secretary of Defense. Further

back, Nebraska was the center of the People's Party and the Agrarian movement, and home of William Jennings Bryan, three-time Democratic presidential nominee. This all began to change nationally in 1980 with the election of Ronald Reagan. Still, in 1989, Nebraska had two Democratic US Senators; and Sen. James Exon served until 1997. But the last competitive contest for Nebraska governor was that of Bill Hoppner, in 1998, and he gained only 46% of the vote. Since then, Democratic candidates for governor have polled in the 30s. The book *Rural Rebellion* by journalist Ross Benes, a native Nebraskan, examines this transition in Nebraska.

One factor in this transition was the development of abortion and immigration as wedge issues. Prior to the 1980s abortion was not a partisan issue; pro-life and pro-choice voters were in both parties. Senator Exon, for example, embraced anti-abortion policies. But in the '90s abortion became a prominent "wedge" issue: Senator Sasse, along with other Republicans, emotionalized the abortion issue. And national Democrats began to use it as a litmus test. Benes relates the 2017 contest for non-partisan Mayor of Omaha, where moderate Democratic state senator Heath Mello, who was focusing on fixing the streets, was attacked by DNC Chair Tom Perez for not being sufficiently pro-choice, and DNC support was discontinued, even though the role of mayor has no influence over abortion legislation. The State Party Chair Jane Kleeb was not consulted in advance of Perez' decision. Benes comments: "The outrage over Mello's legislative voting record is emblematic of how liberal activists want one-size-fits-all candidates", that is, passing a liberal litmus test.

In general, a rural vs. urban divide has developed in the United States, a divide that did not exist during the early 19th Century days of the Agrarian Progressive movement – of figures like George W. Norris, William Jennings Bryan,

Thomas J. Walsh, and Bob LaFollette. This rural-urban divide is somewhat adscititious, yet it has led to a red-blue divide in the past 30 years. This divide has led to many "rural" states such as Nebraska, to be "written off" by the national Democratic party. This is the subject of Jane Kleeb's book. In *Harvest the Vote*, Jane Kleeb, Chair of the Nebraska Democratic Party, makes the case for investment in rural areas and in red states, echoing the 50-state effort (now abandoned) under DNC Chair Howard Dean. The national environmental groups focused their efforts in DC; but it was the local organizing that brought together farmers and ranchers with tribal communities to confront economic and environmental issues that affect both rural and urban voters. Jane Kleeb tells the story of the grass roots opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline, for which she was one of the organizers. The opposition centered on a local coalition of farmers and native American tribes. A main concern to the farmers, ranchers, and tribes was the issue of eminent domain, by which TransCanada, the developer of the pipeline, could go to court to force the sale of farm and ranch land for the route of the pipeline. These local rural communities understood the potential environmental damage that the pipeline could cause, and had the most to lose. These farmers, ranchers and native Americans came together to organize the Cowboy and Indian Alliance (taking the name of a similar past organization that had fought against uranium mining in the Black Hills). One symbolic tool was the introduction of the Ponca Sacred Corn, cultivated by the Ponca Nation of Oklahoma, that had been displaced from Nebraska to Oklahoma 130 year earlier. The Ponca corn was planted in ritual planting ceremonies in the path of the pipeline. Kleeb writes, "We know the corn stands for us when we are not there. We know we must plant seeds of resistance both literally and figuratively if we are going to protect rural communities. The resiliency of farmers and ranchers, their

families, and tribal nations cannot easily be put into words. Perhaps that is why a single seed of corn speaks best for us.” It is the love for the land, shared by farmers, ranchers, and tribe members, that brought together this movement to successfully oppose the construction of the XL Pipeline. Kleeb concludes, “The old Democratic playbook must be thrown out in order to win again in rural communities. We have to believe, because it’s true, that there are brilliant people on the ground who understand their state and communities and who can win elections. Just as with the KXL fight, rural states will need partnerships with national groups. Rural leaders in the Democratic party can explain the policies rural people need trumpeted, issues like market consolidation, the right to repair, and eminent domain abuse. We can show the grassroots approach we take to reach voters where they are, including rodeo, sale barns, and churches.” But the Democratic party needs to invest in, and not ignore, rural America.

~ Robert Frampton

Next month’s Review: “The Teapot Dome Scandal: How Big Oil Bought the Harding White House and Tried to Steal the Country”, by Laton McCartney.

It has been remarked repeatedly in commentaries how the corruption and fraud of the Trump Administration is unprecedented in our nation’s history. This is, sadly, untrue. The precedent is the administration of Warren G. Harding of Ohio. The fraud and corruption of the Harding Administration began even at his nominating convention. This book, *The Teapot Dome Scandal*, tells how Big Oil hand-picked Warren G. Harding, an obscure Ohio senator, to serve as our twenty-third president. Harding and his “oil cabinet” and “Ohio Gang” made it possible for cronies to secure vast fuel reserves that had been set aside for use by the U.S. Navy, in its conversion from coal to diesel powered ships. The Teapot Dome Scandal reveals a shocking, revelatory picture of just how far-reaching the affair was, how high the stakes, and how powerful the conspirators. One of the major players in this corruption was Los Angeles oil baron Edward L. Doheny, subject of the biography, *Dark Side of Fortune: Triumph and Scandal in the Life of Oil Tycoon Edward L. Doheny*, by Margaret Leslie Davis. These two books serve as a prequel to Rachael Maddow’s *Blowout*.

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



Dear ACT Members,

Today, it’s hard not to see picket lines and strikes in and around Los Angeles County. It’s also easy to express support and feel concern for the men and women marching in the sun for respect and just wages. From hotel employees to writers and sanitation workers in hard-working families there is nervousness about paychecks and the future of their children.

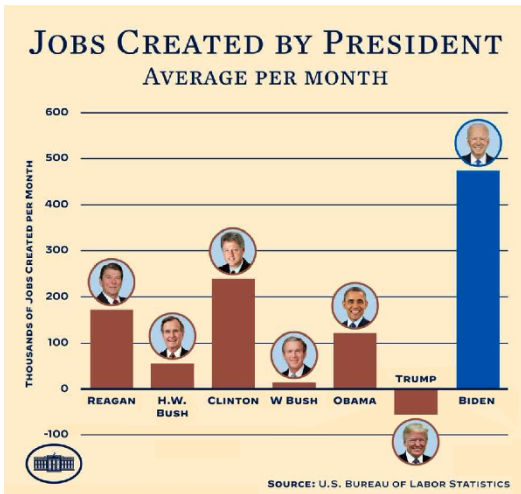
As we come out of the pandemic, unemployment is low and profits are high but it doesn’t mean that the economic outlook is healthy for working Americans. Inflation and housing costs are rising faster than wages.

Historically, economic expansion has benefited the middle class far more significantly than today. From 1945 to 1980, 80% of economic expansion benefited the middle class. Beginning with Ronald Regan until now, that same middle class has only taken home 20% of the benefit. Many industries are on the cusp of new financial models, changing workforce needs, and necessary advanced job skills.

Now is the time to put in place thoughtful labor discussions that change the discourse to accommodate today’s workforce. We also need to give workers more tools to survive and thrive. That’s why I’ve agreed to carry a bill to provide striking workers with unemployment insurance. While the media continues to speculate that some negotiators are waiting to see severe financial hardship shift the spirit of strikers from optimism to survival. Other states have passed similar bills to truly make the bargaining table fair and equitable. I believe that a balance of power in bargain-

ing will bring about better working conditions, pay for workers, stability for the marketplace and consumers who are well positioned to continue to fuel a robust economy.

Respectfully, ~ Anthony
Senator Anthony Portantino represents California's 25th State Senate District, which stretches along the 210 Freeway from Sunland/Tujunga to Upland. He proudly represents the Rose Bowl, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Griffith Park, Warner Brothers, Disney, Caltech and the Claremont Colleges.



**From
 41st District
 Assemblymember
 Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

We have had a productive and eventful month. Just before heading into the July break from Legislative session, several of my bills were approved by Senate Committees and are now ready to move onto the next steps. As mentioned in my last letter, equity is at the heart of every piece of legislation I put forward and I continue to receive support on Assembly Bill 280, which would set regulations on how isolation can be used and establishes a standard for recognizing its misuse in prisons as well as immigration facilities. It's important that we stay vocal on systemic issues that continue to perpetuate inequity and mistreatment against marginalized communities.

As key legislation makes its way to the finish line, my team and I have been working hard and showing up in the district. This month, I hosted my 24th Annual Resource Fair and Block Party in my neighborhood. One of the key highlights of this event is celebrating our young people and the California Legislative Black Caucus scholars with their certificate and acknowledging them in front of all in attendance. This year, we had twelve students receive \$3500 and a laptop to help toward their education as they prepare to begin college. We also featured over sixty resource tables with information on local government, and hosted giveaways such as backpacks courtesy of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., as well as free hot dogs and lemonade from Robin's BBQ.

The diversity of the 41st district is a large part of what makes our community thrive and grow. It is always my goal to make sure that each diverse

group within my district is recognized, celebrated, and acknowledged as a key part of what makes our community whole. I have long stood beside the Armenian community here in the district and abroad and so it was my honor this past month to announce a huge budget victory which will impact two Armenian Youth Federation Camps that have been active in the 41st District since 1977. The \$2 million will allow for the renovation of both Big Pines and Twin Valleys camp sites, creating a safer and more efficient space for the children and volunteers, while repairing residual damage from storms and natural disasters. As I get ready to close out the month, it's time to talk transportation. I am pleased to announce that I will be hosting a hearing on transportation as the Chair of the Select Committee on Regional Transportation Solutions on Friday, August 25th in Lancaster. This informational meeting will be an opportunity to hear from experts in the field to discuss regional transit projects, airport connectivity, and related legislative topics. For more details follow my administration at [@asmchris-holden](#) on Instagram and [@chrisholdennews](#) on Twitter.

I look forward to keeping you up to date 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/

[Holden](#) and fill out the form.



My Two Cents

By Ron Garber



While most of you live in the Pasadena area, which encompasses the 41st Assembly District, and isn't that becoming quite the dramatic 2024 contest; I live in Duarte which puts me in the 48th Assembly District. When people ask me who my State Assemblyperson and Senator are I answer them with a single name, Rubio, which they find perplexing until I explain that my Assemblywoman is Blanco Rubio, and my State Senator is Susan Rubio. They're sisters. They're also both Democrats but to my mind, just barely, as many of their votes favor business interests over serious environmental concerns.

I've had cause to visit the Assemblywoman's office on two lobbying excursions. On the first I met with a staffer regarding a bill to put California on a path to 100% alternative non fossil fuel energy by 2045. She ultimately did NOT support that legislation. The second trip I met with her personally on legislation that would require all new single-family residences to include solar panels with their construction. She very earnestly explained to me that she opposed this bill because it would add \$15,000 to the purchase price which would make it more difficult for the poorer residents, like her father, in her district to purchase a first residence. If I'm not mistaken, that sounds like what the oil industry advises the legislators, that they sponsor, to say when defending their vote on this type of issue.

Last week I received an email from West Covina City Councilman Brian 'Calderon' Tabatabai announcing his candidacy for the 48th Assembly District. I don't even know the names of all the Duarte City Council Representatives (ironically, I do know the names of those representing Pasa-

dena due to my work with ACT/ADC), so I did some research and learned he was a true progressive and a teacher at El Monte High School. A few days later we met over coffee, and I'm convinced that he'd make a good replacement for the district.

As many of you are aware, I belong to a number of progressive organizations in the San Gabriel Valley. One of them is the San Gabriel Valley Progressives out of West Covina which is remarkably similar to ACT. To that end I contacted their leadership to see if I could recruit someone to join me for the coffee meeting. To my surprise the Councilman is a much more active member of SGV Progressives than I and they are backing him, as they share my assessment of the Assemblywoman.

Running against an incumbent with double name recognition and 'currently' a substantial funds-in-the-bank advantage is not an easy task, but this also is not a quixotic quest in that there is time and Councilman Tabatabai has a devoted following to assist him. At this time, I'm not asking you to take any action but wanted to enlighten you on the situation and, if any of you live in the 48th, do yourself a favor and consider supporting him.



The editorial board of the Pasadena Star-News, like that of virtually all conservative papers, rails against the national debt, and this week was no exception. In an editorial they again posited that if this continued it could destroy our economy. But to their credit they put the blame on both parties and even credited Trump with having added 9 trillion of the 30+ trillion-dollar debt in only 4 years. They also acknowledged that there are two ways to balance a budget and reduce existing debt: tax more and spend less. Not unexpectedly, they dismissed extra taxes for the usual bugaboo of hurting the economy and an additional reason of 'if you give the government more money, they'll rapidly find a new way to spend it' rather

than use it for its intended purpose of reducing the debt. While I don't agree with that, at least it's a legitimate argument.

That leaves spending less. The national budget exceeds 6 trillion dollars, but when you eliminate mandatory spending like interest on the debt, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and national defense which (while not mandatory) is probably the only thing the two parties agree on, you're down to only 1 ¾ trillion dollars discretionary spending. The editorial's answer is to spend less, but they never ever explain the specifics of where the cuts are to be made. They're aware that any suggestion is going to rile a worthy constituency.

It's obvious, but clear, that the only way to solve the problem is for the parties to work together and agree to both increase taxes and cut spending at the same time, which reminds me of a meeting of the minds when President Obama and Speaker Boehner came to just such an agreement. I may have written about this in a previous column, but it bears repeating. After working on the project over time they come to an agreement, and the Speaker tells the President that he's ready to take their product to his leadership. He returns the next day and says, 'never mind'.

I guess my only problem with the Star-News Editorial Board is complaining without offering a concrete solution.

~ Ron Garber



Letter to the Editor



CA UC System – Excels in US and Worldwide

Many moons have passed since I addressed those college years; my son went to UCSB. Four years later, my daughter to Cal State LB. My curiosity has been piqued as my granddaughter just graduated from a Tampa area HS.

Our UC System, ranked by US News and World Report's top 10 public universities: Berkeley and

UCLA #1, Michigan and U of Virginia #3, U of FL #5, U N Carolina #6, UCSB #7, UCI #8, UCSD #9, UC Davis #10. Six out of top 10! UC campuses rank in top 4% of universities worldwide. As higher education and academic health colleges, they stand out among the best in the nation and world. In-state tuition is approximately \$14,000 a year. All this available to each and every CA graduate. Every reason to be proud of the founding visionary Board and the support it continuously receives. UC Berkeley, founding campus, established in 1868, led the way to the present 10 campuses.

Let's head to FL, land of DeSantis and his chopping block, this time Education. He pulled 2 AP classes: African American Studies, pilot program, an interdisciplinary course reaching a variety of fields, exploring the vital contributions and experiences of African Americans. That Board has recently bowed to political pressure and removed several topics from the framework - BLM, reparations and queer life. At this point, it has been pulled from being taught in FL high schools.

The AP Psych course has been put through the wringer. DeSantis demands, in accordance with his Parental Rights on Education Act - don't say gay affects (students K-12) all references to sexual orientation and gender identification. All AP Psych students during 22-23 school year risked losing that credit for college. Became a public tug of war between DeSantis, Dept of Ed bans AP Psych, teachers can't teach Psych without these elements. Walked back from complete ban to: can be taught if age appropriate. College Board states if course not taught in entirety, it will violate law, will not be offered 23-24. State says it violates law. Dept of Ed banned it. Current status, FL Ed Commissioner says it will be offered in its entirety. School starting, 9 districts ordered new textbooks. Presidential material ??????

Worst shortage of teachers in FL history. Low

salaries rank them 48th. Post-secondary professors leaving colleges due to political climate. Out-of-state students avoiding FL. Ban on books at 800! CA at zero. FL's New College - liberal arts college for free thinkers, prominent LGBTQ community, has a new mission - private Christian. This atmosphere is due to DeSantis's educational policies - his so-called "War on Woke". Other states are supporting FL residents, Disneyland, conventions and conferences are refusing to hold events there causing financial drain. Major lawsuits ensued. His goal: take down the existing liberal system, converting it to his belief as to what education involves and spreading that system across the country. Reminds me of Pasadena many years ago - fundamental education the School Board wanted to instill and take it nationwide.

I am worried about my granddaughter's future education in FL. As an 8th grader, she had her choice of 2 high schools, one comprised of a medical magnet program and an IB program, plus traditional education. Having never shown any inclination for a career, she was attracted to the medical program. Her teachers supported her, she took a SAT and was accepted to the program, which included honors and AP classes. She graduated in May, Summa Cum Laude, 20th out of 600, 4.5 GPA, all A's-2B's, top Math Award, participates in CrossFit. Was awarded a scholarship to #2 medical program in FL. Given the opportunity to stand in on a surgery with an ortho doc and observe at 16. She took that AP Psych class referenced above, really enjoyed it!!

I need to entice her with our UC system as she will be graduating in 3 years! Time for her to return to her birth state!!

~ Barbara Paul





Calendar

- September 7 ACT and ADC Steering Meeting
Thursday 7 p.m. at George & Marilyn Brumder, 399 California, Terrace, Pasadena. Lots of easy parking on California Terrace. Socializing 7 p.m.; meeting 7:30 p.m.
- Sept 11 September Phoenix copy deadline.
- Sept 18 UDH Steering Meeting via
Monday via Zoom
5:30 p.m.
- Sept 23 ACT's 50th Anniversary Cele-
Saturday bration and Fundraiser at the
2-5 p.m. Blacker House in Pasadena.
Be a sponsor!



September Phoenix Deadline

The deadline for copy for the September *Phoenix* will be Monday, September 11. Send items for publication to Chuck at hains27@sbcglobal.net and Sally Beer at sally_beer125@gmail.com. (Chuck will continue to contact regular contributors with a deadline reminder.)



Your Photo in The Phoenix

Please share a photo (of you) at an interesting place – either near or far - with *Phoenix* readers. Send it to Chuck at hains27@sbcglobal.net.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ACT and ADC Membership Dues for 2023

Have you renewed your membership for 2023?? Dues categories are listed below. Please note that you can join both ACT and ADC for bargain rates. If you have yet to renew, please send your check with the form below or renew online at our website. (And many thanks to those generous members who have paid up. We love you!).

Please contact Executive Director Jon Fuhrman if you have any questions about your membership at 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**

 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.