

## Minutes

### ACT and Pasadena Arroyo Democratic Club (PADC) Steering Committee and Summer Potluck Meeting Thursday, July 10, 2025

<https://www.actpasadena.org>

Presiding Co-Chair: Greg Harrison called the ACT meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

State Senator Sasha Perez (District 25) gave welcoming remarks. She described the legal challenge to the mass ICE raids heard in federal court on July 10th. Public Counsel and the ACLU, supported by the City of Pasadena and other neighboring cities, are seeking temporary restraining orders, voicing concerns about masking of the agents, the lack of legal representation, and the roaming nature of the raids. ICE testified before U.S. District Judge Maame Ewusi-Mensah Frimpong that they are using “appearance” as one criterion for selecting detainees. Senator Perez expressed confidence that the judge would grant the restraining orders. (Note: Judge Frimpong issued two restraining orders addressing these concerns on July 11). Senator Perez urged ACT members to attend immigration hearings to show community support for the detainees. Her office is organizing a workshop on one’s rights both as a detainee and a bystander. It will be presented via Zoom and will be available on YouTube.

Greg thanked Tim and Joanne Wendler for hosting the potluck dinner. The attendees then introduced themselves. He reminded those present that all ACT members can vote on issues.

Attendees: Carlos Arce, Arden Beer, Sally Beer, Cary Belling, Maria Raquel Bozzi, Cheryl Brickey, Karen Breau, George Brumder, David Delgado, Julianna Delgado, Terry Tornek, Darla Dyson, Beth Elder, George Elder, Mona Field, Don Fischer, Declan Floyd, Jon Fuhrman, Ron Garber, Beth Gertmenian, Avram Gold, Patrick Gonzales, Yvonne Gonzales, Greg Harrison, Kazuo Harrison, Mareya Hepner, Ann Marie Hickambottom, Susan Kane, , Jason Lyon, Marilee Marshall, Nicole Mihara, Bobbie Moon, Henry Moon, Terry Nafisi, Barbara Paul, Veronica Raymond, Fred Register, Denise Robb, Felicia Rusnak, Valerie Sandoval, Tammy Silver, Teresa Lamb Simpson, Barry Taft, Joanne Wendler, Tim Wendler, Karen Wingard, Bruce Wright, and Neal Wrightson.

**1. Presentation.** The entirety of the meeting consisted of a panel presentation and a lively audience discussion on how to express political resistance and the need to formulate goals and strategies to thwart the President’s policies. The panel consisted of City Councilman (District 7) Jason Lyon who moderated, Patrick and Maddie Briggs of Indivisible.org, and Tammy Silver, a member of the Pasadena City College Board of Trustees, representing Area 4.

Tammy described the Raise Your Voice Pasadena demonstrations that have taken place at the Tesla dealerships. The initial goals were to reduce Tesla stock price and deflate Elon Musk’s image as a wunderkind. There was a slight reduction in Tesla sales. With Musk’s departure from the President’s team and with the instigation of ICE’s detention efforts, the focus of the demonstrations broadened. While the panelists said there are many ways to be active: attending council meetings, rallies, writing postcards, writing letters, supporting local candidates, Jason Lyon said we need to be more than against the Republicans. We need specific goals. A younger attendee said that Democrats need to address the Palestine issue, noting that college students have lost scholarships and other benefits for voicing their opposition to the destruction of Gaza.

One of the community leaders supporting Spanish-speaking parents in hiding said they need groceries for 80 families per week, with the list growing every week. She said there is a risk in helping these people. They have been hiding for weeks in very small homes along with their children.

A political scientist in the audience said studies show that 5% of the population can stop an autocrat through peaceful political action. It was suggested that these monthly rallies should be considered practice activities for a future nationwide shutdown. A member of the audience said that while we are all horrified by the national policies, we need to support vulnerable local progressive candidates whom the Republicans have targeted. It was also suggested that a more vigorous social media effort be launched. There is a group of women known as the “couch collective” who track certain Republicans and flood their social media sites with comments. The websites DemocracyDocket.com and Indivisible.org were recommended as was a site for former MAGA members known as Leaving MAGA.org.

The panel members said progressives have to stop fighting each other. We need to get comfortable with imperfect partners with whom we may not agree on everything. Also the tone of our efforts is important; we can’t always be negative. Perhaps using humor is more effective.

Audience members expressed outrage over efforts to hijack the upcoming 250 year anniversary of our country. We need to reclaim the American flag, and fly state and local flags.

**2. Minutes.** The June minutes will be reviewed at the September meeting.

**3. Next Meeting:** September 4 at a location to be decided. Karen Breau will preside. There will not be an ACT meeting in August.

**4. Adjournment:** The ACT Committee adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

The Pasadena Arroyo Democratic Club meeting was called to order by Tim Wendler. There being no business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Terry Nafisi  
July 2025