



**The Official Publication of ACT**

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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

## **ACT/PADC Endorsement Ballot Coming Soon to Your E-mail**

You will soon receive an electronic endorsement ballot in your e-mail from ACT and the Pasadena Arroyo Democratic Club (or you might have gotten it already). We are asking you to vote on endorsements for Pasadena School Board candidates, for candidates in a Congressional and a State Assembly race (because we didn't endorse anyone in those races in the March primary), and on the PUSD Bond and Parcel Tax ballot measures.

We are using an online election system to tabulate our votes. The e-mail you receive will have a unique access key to take you to your personal ballot. This system ensures your votes will remain anonymous.

Each household member gets their own ballot mailed to their own e-mail address. If we have only one e-mail for more than one ACT members in your household, you will get two (or more) e-mails, each addressed to one particular member, so that person can cast their own ballot.

For ACT members who are also members of the Pasadena Arroyo Democratic Club, your ballots will have two listings for each race, one for the ACT endorsement and one for the Arroyo Democratic Club endorsement.

The voting deadline is **October 1, 2024** at 11:45pm Pacific Time.

If you have questions, feedback or want to be removed from future ballot lists, please email Jon Fuhrman at [jon\\_fuhrman@outlook.com](mailto:jon_fuhrman@outlook.com).



## Yes, We Kam! What's Happening at Our UDH?

Our rally in the early morning of August 31 drew over 300 wonderful, enthusiastic folks. Everyone was delighted to see our HQ. Congresswoman Judy Chu's words garnered many cheers. And these 300 folks are ready and willing to get the job done!

Our website has been redone and the views are soaring. Be sure to check it out at [pasadenademocrats.com](http://pasadenademocrats.com). Our changing hours are always updated on the site. Also keep checking for new events and activities.

We have yard signs and lots of cool merchandise. We are postcarding, texting, calling, and walking. We can use your help in any of these activities and in our HQ.

Our three Judy Boggs interns and the other interns are doing great work. Come in and meet them and meet our staff members, too: Nikki Palmer Morgan, Volunteer/Field Coordinator and Avery Cross, who runs merchandise sales. And of course, our super postcarding duo, Karen Rowinsky and Katie Dempster. And say "Hi," to me (Bill) too!

We are going to Las Vegas and Mesquite, Nevada in the last week of September and weekends in October. And we're doing virtual calls to Nevada that are critical to winning there. We are also offering swing state phoning and texting in partnership with Field Team 6.

Remember, we are at 400 S. Lake Avenue, Pasadena, with 90-minute free parking behind the building. We are next to Men's Warehouse and Coldwell Banker and across from Macy's.

We are doing great. Our calendar is full, and we will keep sharing events and news on our website. Keep checking it out. See you soon.

Bill Hacket, Campaign Manager



## For postcarding information please call or email the following:

Karen Rowinsky  
[karen@karenrowinsky.com](mailto:karen@karenrowinsky.com)  
626-483-1135

Katie Dempster  
[kdcjic@earthlink.net](mailto:kdcjic@earthlink.net)  
323-363-2602



## Local Democratic Fall Internships Are Still Available

The Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters (UDH) is seeking high school and college interns. It's a chance to learn about how campaigns are run while getting valuable hands-on experience. We opened our headquarters in July and we will continue through the November election.

Gain skills and experience! Flexible hours! We provide references!

Contact Bill Hacket at 626-705-2180 or [billhacket2002@yahoo.com](mailto:billhacket2002@yahoo.com).



## ACT and PADC October Meeting Thursday, October 3, 7 p.m. Via ZOOM

Join our ACT Steering/Pasadena Arroyo Democratic Club meeting via Zoom to learn about the state initiatives. The Steering Committee will also make decisions about contributions to the campaigns of endorsed candidates.

Join at 7 p.m. for socializing and 7:30 p.m. for the meeting. Everyone is welcome. Mona Field will preside for ACT; Tim Wendler for PADC.



Sunday, October 20, 2-4 p.m. is UDH's big Oktoberfest! Fundraiser at the Pasadena Armenian Center, 740 E. Washington Blvd., Pasadena. Many candidates will be in attendance at this fun event. Don't miss it!



## 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 [sally.beer125@gmail.com](mailto:sally.beer125@gmail.com) for inclusion in an upcoming issue.



## At Last – Our Redesigned Website

It is available now. Be sure to check it out at <https://www.actpasadena.org/>. We are proud of it and think you will be pleased.

Please take a look at the current issue of the on-line *Phoenix* (August) when you are investigating our new website. Marcielle Brandler's article, "Long Pain Leads to a Burst of Joy" (that was not in the mailed August *Phoenix*) is there on page 12 as well.

If you are unable easily access the website with your computer set-up, Fred Register wants to know. Contact him at [fred.register@charter.net](mailto:fred.register@charter.net).



## NOTE

Our esteemed *Phoenix* publisher, Chuck Hains, has some surgery scheduled and did not put this September *Phoenix* together. That is why this newsletter looks a bit different and perhaps less polished than it normally does. All our good wishes go to Chuck.



## *Political Notes*

by Jon Fuhrman

Tuesday, September 10. Since President Biden withdrew from the race and endorsed the Vice-President, pundits and worriers have constantly pointed to “critical” make-or-break moments for the VP. Would the pro-Palestinian demonstrators turn the convention into a version of 1968? Would her first major press interview show she’s not ready for prime time? Would her post-convention bounce get washed down the drain? And most importantly, would former President Trump run roughshod over her in the debate?

Well, in short, no, no, no and no! We’ve already talked about the convention (could one possibly imagine a better week for Democrats?), and in her interview with Dana Bash she looked composed, at ease, entirely Presidential. But before we talk about the debate this evening, I want to talk a bit about the polls.

The New York Times/Siena from Saturday showed Harris trailing Trump by a point or two nationally. The Pew poll on Sunday showed them tied nationally (both down from the Emerson and Morning Consult polls earlier last week showing Harris ahead nationally by 2 – 4 points). Morning Consult shows Harris leading by 3 points in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, tied in North Carolina, Georgia and Nevada. Yet Quinnipiac shows Harris leading in North Carolina but trailing in Georgia.

So what’s going on? Can’t we get a clear answer?



Well, the truth is, probably not. All these polls could be “correct” – that is, this particular set of respondents falls within the 3 – 4% margin of error, within which you expect to see about 2/3 of the poll results randomly scattered. And, statistically, you would also expect to see a number of poll results outside that margin of error.

So how do you make sense of all this flood of data, which will only get more intense as the election approaches.

First off, I would argue that public opinion typically moves slowly. You would not expect to see a 5% change in the margins in two or three days, absent some relatively remarkable event (like President Biden’s meltdown in his debate). Second, I would look less at individual polls and more at the trends from that individual pollster. The tricky thing about polling is that each pollster “adjusts” or “weights” their results to mirror the turnout they expect (which is really just a guess – maybe an informed one, but just a guess). Each pollster has their own opinion about how many “hidden” Trump voters there are, how many “low propensity” Democrats might turn out, how many newly registered young women might vote for the first time.

All those guesses go into their model of the 2024 electorate, which then leads them to assign different weights to each class of voters they randomly reach. Lastly, some polls show results from all registered voters, but most show results just from “Likely Voters.” Well, who exactly are Likely Voters? How do you make that determination? Each pollster has their own set of criteria: did they vote in 2020, or 2022; does the did they vote in 2020, or 2022; does the voter

“self-assess” themselves as a Likely Voter; are there other voters in the household; have they ever made a political donation, or gone to a rally, or even a Rotary Club or PTA meeting?

Pollsters still feel stung from underestimating the number of Trump voters in 2016, and few expected the surge of voters, on both sides, in 2020. All are trying not to make those same mistakes again, but undoubtedly finding new ways to make mistakes.

To my mind, I think the reproductive rights issues, and particularly the ballot measures in key states like Arizona, Nevada and Florida, make this “Likely Voter” screen particularly difficult, and one that will tilt in our favor this time. The Harris campaign has just released three different ads on reproductive rights (in the battleground states, so you probably won’t see any of them); you can expect that will be a key focus of the campaign going forward. There have been multiple reports already of surges in voter registration, especially among younger women. These people, who are just now showing up on the voter rolls, are probably not in the universe that pollsters using (because their data is so new that many are not on the lists the pollsters have). My sense is that anyone, especially any young woman, who has registered to vote in the last few months, is a rock-solid Likely Voter. So I think there will be systemic undercounting of Likely Voters on our side. That, alongside a nationwide shift among suburban Republican women, will power a sweeping Harris-Walz victory.

Interestingly, all these same pollsters who are showing a razor-tight Presidential race are nearly unanimous that Democratic Senate candidates in these various states are running well ahead of their opponents, with margins significantly outside the polls’ margins of error. Even in the “Blue Wall” states, the Democratic Senate candidates are consistently 6 – 8% points ahead.

One other point of interest, before we get to the debate, is that GOP officials are leaking to the press their worries about former President Trump’s ground game. Or, more precisely, the lack of a Presidential ground game. Apparently, Trump’s strategy is to leave the traditional GOTV operations to the various PACs and 501(c)(4) entities in the GOP world. The only problem is that those entities are not really equipped, and apparently are not stepping up, to run the ground game one would expect for a Presidential campaign. One could speculate why that is. My guess is that it is a typical Trump grift – get others to pay for things so he can save his campaign money for legal fees. In contrast, the Biden campaign had set up over 100 offices around the country, heavily concentrated in battleground states, and Harris is expanding those efforts (and has beaucoup bucks to finance them). If one wants to be sure that the “occasional” or “hidden” Trump voters actually get out to vote, this doesn’t seem a very good strategy to do so.

I’m writing this piece just as the debate has finished, so I don’t have access to any of the post-debate analysis or reactions. My favorite line: “Donald Trump was fired by 81 million people...and having a very difficult time processing that.” That seemed true all night. VP Harris looked confident, in-charge, tough but not bullying. MSNBC commentators thought it was the best performance they had ever seen, but there’s a little bias there. Fair to say, though, it was a kick-ass performance. Look for a flood of donations, perhaps larger than the day Biden withdrew and endorsed her. She validated her candidacy, stature, her credibility to be a leader of the free world. Not bad for an evening’s work.

## Research Committee Report

The Research Committee met via zoom on August 24 with Cheryl Brickey, George Brumder, Beth Gertmenian, Jeannette Mann, Marilee Marshall, Denise Robb, Ed Washatka, Tim Wendler and Bruce Wright.

We interviewed all the school board candidates, asking about their qualifications, whether their children attended public school, the concerns of people in the district, whether they supported the PUSD bond and parcel tax measures and whether they thought charter schools should receive some of the parcel tax revenue. They all support the bond and parcel tax measures and one candidate voted to share parcel tax revenue with charter schools. [see below]

### DISTRICT TWO

#### Juan Carlos Perez

Juan Carlos was born in Chachapoyas, Peru and raised in Ohio. He is the marketing director for Art+Logic, a software development company based in Pasadena. He lives in Altadena with his wife, Beth, and three children. Juan Carlos received a B.A. with High Honors from Wesleyan University, where he majored in the College of Letters, and then attended UC Berkeley for graduate studies in Comparative Literature. He is a long-time resident of Pasadena and Altadena, a public school parent, and an advocate for educational equity. His mission is to ensure every child has access to the best possible education, regardless of their background or circumstances.

#### Jennifer Hall Lee (incumbent)

Jennifer was elected to the PUSD Board in 2020 during the height of the pandemic. Before that she served for three terms on the Altadena Town Council from 2014-2020, including serving as treasurer on the Executive Committee. Jennifer is a writer whose work has appeared in local

newspapers. She has worked as a visual effects editor on feature films and produced her own independent documentary films. For example, in 2013 she traveled to Islamabad to screen “Feminist Stories from Women’s Liberation.”

In 2018 she received a Fulbright award to teach women’s liberation movement history in Pakistan. Her photography aims to identify the differences and, more importantly, the commonalities between the status of women in Pakistan and the United States.

Jennifer and her husband have lived in Altadena since 2005, and their daughter attends Blair High School. Jennifer is a Girl Scout co-leader and a member of the National Women’s Political Caucus of Greater Pasadena and the League of Women Voters - Pasadena Area. She was educated in Atlanta, Georgia public schools and has a BA from Hampshire College in Massachusetts.

*Jennifer’s endorsements include Anthony Portantino, Sasha Renee Perez, Terry Tornek, Tammy Silver, and Teamsters Local 911.*

**The research committee voted 9-0-0 to recommend endorsement of Jennifer Hall Lee. The steering committee voted 15-0-0 to recommend endorsement of Jennifer Hall Lee.**

### DISTRICT FOUR

#### Scott Hardin

Scott is running unopposed but still wants our endorsement. He and his wife have two daughters who attend public schools in the *(Research Committee)*

District, Scott has been a committed, involved PUSD parent since 2012. He holds a BA from UCLA.

As a dedicated advocate for education and family engagement, Scott has extensive experience in education non-profit management, having served

*(Research Committee)*

as Executive Board President, Treasurer, Secretary, Leadership VP and Communications Director of PTAs across the District, including the PTA Council of PUSD which is responsible for oversight of all 21 PTAs in PUSD. Scott is currently serving as Vice President of Leadership and Family Engagement of First District PTA, overseeing programs and policies for over 250 PTAs from Burbank to Pomona.

Scott has also volunteered to hold PUSD accountable to the programmatic promises it makes. He's been a member of the Don Benito School Site Council, a group responsible for developing the School's Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA). He's also the current Chair of the District's Local Control and Accountability Plan Parent Advisory Council (LCAP PAC), overseeing implementation of actions that benefit marginalized students attending PUSD. He also currently serves as part of the PUSD Black Student and Family Taskforce, dedicated to targeting specific areas to close opportunity gaps.

Most recently, Scott has had the distinct honor to serve as the project manager in developing PUSD's Imagine 2028 Strategic Plan, which spanned one full year and involved thousands of hours of ethnographic research, team coordination and facilitation of community-wide input from students, teachers, labor partners, staff, administrators, community partners as well as all seven current members of the PUSD Board of Education. Scott also serves on the Strategic Plan Roadmap Advisory Committee, helping ensure that the public has awareness of the implementation facets of the plan.

Professionally, Scott is a change management and innovation strategist, serving Fortune 500 clients nationwide and around the world.

*His endorsements include Rick Cole, Sasha Renee Perez, Jess Rivas, Tyrone Hampton, Brandon Lamar and Patrick Cahalan, whom he would be replacing*

**The research committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend endorsement of Scott Hardin. The steering committee voted 15-0-0 to recommend endorsement of Scott Hardin.**

## **DISTRICT SIX**

### **Lisa Kroese**

Before relocating to California, Lisa was an independent personal property and fine art appraiser. She was a volunteer for US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand on her first congressional campaign, after which she became District Director in New York's 20th congressional district. Later, as Director of Operations for the Senate of Pennsylvania, she covered legislative educational policy and constituent service for a state senator on the Education Committee.

In 2018, Lisa relocated to Pasadena when her husband, Steve, joined JPL's Mars Rover team. Lisa is currently a Realtor and Project Manager at John Mark Real Estate. During time off, she volunteers and serves on the executive committees for both the PUSD PTA Council and for Don Benito's PTA. She is an active Girl Scout volunteer and Chair of the Board for the National Estate Sales Association. Professional memberships include: Pasadena Foothills Association of Realtors, Tournament of Roses, Pasadena Rotary, the San Gabriel Valley Fiduciary Round Table, and the San Gabriel Valley Chamber of Commerce. Lisa attended public schools and her three children attend PUSD schools.

*Lisa's endorsements include retired PUSD superintendent Brian McDonald, Gene Masuda, Tammy Silver, James Osterling, and Scott Phelps.*

*(Research Committee)*

### **Tina Fredericks**

Tina holds a Bachelor's degree in Applied Mathematics from UCSD. She has lived with her husband and two daughters in Pasadena since 2010. Tina works as a computer engineer at Green Dot Corporation. One of her daughters attended PUSD Octavia E. Butler Magnet, and another enrolled at California State Los Angeles Early Entrance Program at age 13 after attending Willard International Baccalaureate (IB) Elementary School, Blair IB Middle School, and McKinley Middle School and Math Academy in the PUSD District..

Tina is a California credentialed K-12 teacher. She taught math at middle and high school in Burbank Unified School District, Fremont Union High School District, and Saratoga Union School District. She also worked at PUSD as a 3rd grade teaching assistant and summer LEARNs teacher. Last year she tutored first graders at McKinley Elementary School through the African American Parent Council Math Power Hour in order to increase achievement and confidence in math. She also volunteers in greening projects for Amigos De Los Rios at schools in the district.

Tina was first elected to the Board in November 2020 during the height of the pandemic. She is currently PUSD Board Clerk, PUSD Chair of the Facilities and Capital Projects Committee, and member of the 5-Star Education Coalition, composed of board members and superintendents from the Burbank, Glendale, La Cañada Flintridge, Pasadena and South Pasadena. She has served as Chair of PUSD's Legislative Advocacy Committee and as a member of the Finance Task Force and Student Safety & School Climate Committee.

During her term on the board she was the principal author or co-sponsor of numerous Board resolutions, including Expansion of

Immersive Outdoor Learning Opportunities, Safe Storage of Firearms for the Prevention of Gun Violence, and Expanding Access to School Board Public Meetings By Providing In-person and Remote Participation. She is the first PUSD Trustee to be elected President of Los Angeles County School Trustees Association, a coalition of trustees from nearly one hundred K-12 and community college districts across the county. As Chair of PUSD's Legislative Advocacy Committee, she led the effort polling voters on a potential parcel tax that could finally make our salaries competitive in order to retain and attract the most qualified teachers and staff.

Tina supported including charter schools in the parcel tax language because the data shows it needs every vote to pass, especially because of high threshold of 67% that is required. She does not believe we have the luxury to use this vote to make a statement of principle. At the end of the day students need classroom teachers, music teachers, community assistants, counselors, and librarians. By making a small concession to neighborhood charter schools, we would help to ensure that our own PUSD teachers benefit through retention and higher salaries.

*Tina's endorsements include United Teachers of Pasadena, Judy Chu, Anthony Portantino, Chris Holden, Tony Thurmond, Jess Rivas, Steve Gibson, Alton Wang, Sandra Chen Lau.*

The endorsement recommendation was not unanimous because some thought Tina had been too contentious on the board; the same was true at the steering committee. Others disagreed. Her endorsements speak more loudly in her favor than anything that could be written here.

**The research committee voted 5-3-0 to recommend endorsement of Tina Fredericks  
The steering committee voted 7-5-2 to recommend endorsement of Tina Fredericks.**



*(Research Committee)*

## **OTHER RESEARCH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PUSD bond & parcel tax measures:** The research and steering committees unanimously agreed to recommend endorsement of the bond and parcel tax measures.

**Congressional District 30:** The research and steering committees unanimously agreed to recommend endorsement of Laura Friedman.

**Assembly District 41:** The research and steering committees unanimously agreed to recommend endorsement of John Harabedian.



### **Welcome to new ACT member**

Linn Wyatt, Altadena

### **Special thanks to Sustaining members**

Ann Marie Hickambottom  
Patrice Marshall McKenzie and Randy  
McKenzie

### **Very special thanks to Patrons**

Armando Gonzalez and Brenda Berg  
Joyce Streator

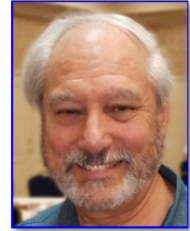
### **Really special thanks to Benefactors**

Kip Thorne and Carolee Winstein



## **My Two Cents**

by Ron Garber



Just prior to penning this column I completed a postcard packet. I started with 1000 stamps, and I have 277 left. I've written cards to have voters register in districts we want to flip. Rudy Salas (Bakersfield), George Whitesides (Santa Clarita), and Will Rollins (Palm Springs). GOTV postcards for Nevada and Arizona, both swing states that Harris/Walz will need, and Senate seats we have to hold. And now I'm writing postcards to Florida to have voters register. There is an initiative to change their Constitution to restore women's reproductive rights, which will require a 60% super-majority and possibly pick up a Senate seat since our candidate is a female Congressional Representative, and might even move the state from red to purple and maybe even blue.

I feel the need to apologize to any of you who might have looked for me at UDH as I promised to be there all day every day. I tried it for three days and soon understood why I retired from my career almost 20 years ago. I will be 75 in less than three months and feel every bit of it. I'm still walking 100 miles a week, 30,000 steps a day. While listening to music on five channels on Spectrum cable, I walk 1000 steps write a postcard and repeat, or while watching baseball games or football games, I write a few words between pitches or plays and walk during commercials.

Any of you who are writing postcards, please share your experiences with me at [ronagarber@yahoo.com](mailto:ronagarber@yahoo.com).

Ron out

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



Dear ACT Friends,

Session is over and I am delighted to be back in the 41<sup>st</sup> District! My team and I were able to send five landmark pieces of legislation off to the Governor's desk for signing. I am proud to have effective bills that tackle issues in education, environmental preservation, health, digital broadband equity, and children's safety pass both houses of the Legislature. Thank you to my constituents for being vocal and making your needs and concerns known to my office and thank you to my colleagues for seeing the necessity in my legislation and fighting to get them through to this phase of the process.

Assembly Bill 262 is on its way with the aim of keeping our children safer in camps. When parents take their children to day camps throughout the year, it is under the assumption that they will be protected, make friends, and return home safely afterwards. AB 262 would help with guidance on establishing an appropriate licensing program for camps, ensuring camp counselors and staff are appropriately qualified, and providing parents and caregivers with accessible and transparent information on camp safety. We want to give parents and guardians a peace of mind to ensure they know their child is cared for.

Assembly Bill 2330 also heads to the Governor's desk with the goal of expanding wildlife safety efforts. Local agencies often take it upon themselves to volunteer with wildfire aftermath

and clean-up. Why not give them the opportunity to get involved in the prevention and have a hand in their own security and the safety of their community? This bill allows the people who know and understand their community to have a hand in protecting it and gives us a greater advantage in tackling our wildfire disasters.

Assembly Bill 1826 would ensure that there is a public process for state video franchises to ensure the public is involved in decision making as it relates to digital broadband and video services. The world is going to keep becoming more and more technologically advanced, so it is in our best interest to make sure that no one is left behind as we evolve. The changes imposed by this bill would include revising the renewal process for a state-issued video franchise and increases the limit on penalties.

Assembly Bill 2193 would establish hazing liability in California's higher learning institutions. No part of participating in the college experience should be deadly and I am glad that we as a state are on the verge of establishing some protections for these students. Hazing is a clearly detrimental practice that California has characteristically taken seriously through legislation. Assembly Bill 2193 keeps us on that path by holding the educational institutions who promote participation in and benefit from these organizations responsible for the consequences that they may bring to students. This responsibility will hopefully incentivize institutions to bolster their oversight and preventative measures as they pertain to hazing in an effort to save students' lives.

Lastly, Assembly Bill 359 continues on a legacy of work that I have dedicated to strengthening dual enrollment in our state. This bill would remove existing barriers for Local Education Agencies and Community Colleges to make

*(continued on p.14)*

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



Dear ACT friends,

Your 25th District Senate staff and I finished our final legislative session in Sacramento on August 31st. I'm proud of the dedication, service, work ethic, and results our committed district and capital team achieved this year and throughout my term in the Senate. Currently, we have 12 bills sitting on the Governor's desk awaiting signature.

SB 53 is our bill to expand safe gun storage requirements and extend liability responsibility for gun owners. Another recent horrific high school shooting tragedy underscores the importance of safe gun storage and the need for parental responsibility. If you recall, I authored California's first gun-safe storage law, which affects households with minors. SB 53 extends the law to all homes where a gun is present. There is overwhelming data supporting this type of sensible gun law, which is proven to cut down on gun violence.

SB98 is a continuing effort to get California to fund education based on enrollment and not attendance. This funding strategy is used in almost all states and is far fairer and more practical than our current attendance-based funding model. Although I had to amend the bill short of implementation, the cause will advance.

SB 357 modernizes the doctor patient relationship and responsibilities regarding epilepsy. Unfortunately, it continues to face opposition, and my fingers are crossed, though I am not confident it will get signed.

I was eager to help rank-and-file entertainment industry workers clarify the use of loan-out corporations through SB 422. Loan outs have been a worker-friendly business staple in the industry for decades but recently became threatened. Given the impact of COVID and the hot labor summer on filming in California, workers needed stability in how they conduct their business activity, and I was eager to help them get it.

After several vetoes, I am optimistic that my IEP translation bill, SB 445, will get signed this year. We focused on getting the Dept of Education Template translated into eight languages as a first step toward complete translation.

SB 1100 is a small bill with significant implications. As our economy and personal trends have changed over time, so should our hiring practices. Many young people and older workers don't drive or have driver's licenses. Unless a job requires you to drive to execute your work, you should not be required to have a driver's license as a condition of employment.

SB971 was inspired by students at Glendale College who were raising money to help refugee students from Artsakh attend college. I was inspired by them and approached by GCC leadership to change state law to allow refugees to attend community college as California residents. SB971 is a two-district pilot program to do just that.

SB 607 and SB 997 deal with efforts to help with our opioid epidemic crisis. One requires doctors to discuss alternative pain medications with patients prior to prescribing an opioid, and the other allows students to carry Narcan and fentanyl testing strips on campus. Too many overdoses are accidental and can be avoided.

*(continued on p.14)*

## Vote YES on Measure PL

I am a longtime advocate for Pasadena's libraries. I support Measure PL For two reasons: It is essential to restore service at our Central Library. And I don't want a community treasure to sit empty and decaying for decades (like a much larger YWCA) – or even be demolished.

We're at a decision point because the library could collapse in an earthquake with great damage and loss of life. It cannot be used for any purpose until it is made safe. That will be expensive, as was retrofitting the Rose Bowl and the rest of Pasadena's historic core – City Hall and the Civic Auditorium/Convention Center. The library is the last and, incidentally, protecting it will cost less in constant dollars than the others.

Opponents argue the planning process was flawed; less costly alternatives weren't considered; and the library is not the highest priority for funding. I disagree on all counts.

No process is ever perfect, but over 50 public meetings were held on this issue. The key decision, on the method of retrofitting, was made early because all else depended on it. Three methods were considered. On the advice of engineering consultants, balancing cost and safety, the most expensive method (base isolation, as used for City Hall) was rejected. Instead, the "middle" option (concrete shear wall) was chosen. Some disagreed, but it was a considered choice – and approved unanimously by the City Council.

There are excellent financial reasons for supporting Measure PL. Earthquake is not the only safety issue in this hundred-year-old building. The roof leaks. It has asbestos, lead paint and mold. It was not designed to meet modern fire and electric codes, and it is ill-equipped to handle the rapidly growing

technology needs of modern libraries. It will be MUCH cheaper and faster to fix these issues while the building is undergoing earthquake retrofit. This adds to the cost but yields major savings. That is what Measure PL proposes.

These repairs will also significantly reduce the cost of ongoing maintenance. And, finally, delaying the work will make it more costly, not less. The cost of repairs increases every year the building sits empty – and so does the risk that it will have to be demolished.

Opinions may differ on priorities. But 95% of Pasadena residents consider Central Library an important community asset, and they vote with their feet: Over 800,000 visits a year! The most vulnerable members of our community are very heavy users: seniors, students, small businesses, the homeless, schools, low-income families.

Most of those visits are to Central Library, the irreplaceable hub of the entire system. Central is larger than all the branches combined. It is staffed and equipped for services they simply cannot provide. Closing Central has been disastrous: visits and checkouts are down by half. Computer usage, one of the most in-demand services, has plunged by 87%!

PL is a once-in-a-century investment to save our beloved library system. Please vote YES.

Fred Register



## Vote NO on Measure PL

Pasadena City Council is submitting Measure PL to Pasadena voters asking them to approve a bond for the Pasadena Central Library retrofit, repair, and upgrade. The cost is \$195 million or up to \$360 million in principal and interest over 30 years. Full costs are unknown because final plans and cost estimates are not due until spring.

Homeowners can expect to pay up to \$28.90 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation. Some renters not covered by rent control can expect their landlords to raise rents to cover increased property taxes; landlords subject to Pasadena rent control may petition the Pasadena Rental Housing Board to raise rents to cover the increase.

### Rebuttal to the Vote Yes argument:

Pasadenans have always provided support for our City's library system by raising taxes. We just passed Measure L for the Library in 2022. But this time, it's different.

We are not advocating "to do nothing and simply wait for the historic structure to collapse." If the Measure PL passes, we will be paying for two bonds and more indebtedness for a longer period.

Pasadenans may want to preserve the historical and architectural significance of the Central Library and make it earthquake safe while enhancing may library services. But, is this bond measure the best funding source?

Besides, even before COVID and the Central Library closure, there's been a decline in physical library visits over the past 10 years. Where library usage is increasing is in the digital realm. Our grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who embrace the digital age require investments be made to on-line services throughout the library system including branch libraries.

### Reasons to Vote NO on Measure PL:

The costs are excessive. Less costly alternatives and priorities have not been fully explored.

With the Central Library's closure, we face two questions. First, how do we restore services and what should those services be in the future as the internet revolution intensifies? Second, what should we do with the building itself?

To restore or expand services, do we really need the Central Library? It's been closed three years and will remain closed another three or four years. With our eight branch libraries, it seems we're managing fine without the Central Library.

More critically, and not yet discussed, Pasadena faces over \$2 billion in unfunded capital costs taxpayers will have to pay for. These costs include hundreds of millions each for items like Rose Bowl repairs, the 710 stub project, water and sewer-main replacements, electrical grid upgrades, clean energy projects and street repairs. Add to that affordable housing challenges.

Property owners and residents deserve the opportunity to have a **well-publicized, community-wide discussion** of City priorities **with all of the facts and alternatives** so we can make a fully informed decision on whether the library bond is at the top of the list. That's why, in part, two City Councilmembers voted NO on the library bond proposal.

### Join in voting NO on Measure PL

Ed Washatka



## National Women's Political Caucus Greater Pasadena Area Celebrates Honorees on September 6

With more than 100 people in attendance on a hot September evening, the local chapter of the National Women's Political Caucus celebrated the following honorees:

**Dorothy Thorman** posthumously received the Dolores Hickambottom Public Service Award. Dorothy was a life long human rights advocate in the greater Pasadena area. She and her late husband, Dr. Carl Thorman, were foundational to the local chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

**Marguerite Cooper** received the Lifetime Service Award. As a former diplomat, Marguerite worked to enlarge the role and status of women diplomats fifty some years ago. She has been active in NWPC at the national, state and local level and continues to advocate for women to serve in office and on commissions.

The caucus also recognized Assemblymember **Chris Holden** and **Jon Fuhrman** as Champions of Equity, for their decades-long commitment to supporting NWPC and women in politics.



### Review of Raskin's *Unthinkable*

You can read Marcielle Brandler's article, 'Breathe in as Pain. Breathe out as Love: A review of *Unthinkable* by Jamie Raskin' at <https://www.dailykos.com/story/2024/8/6/2261210-Breathe-in-as-Pain-Breathe-out-as-Love-Review-of-Unthinkable-by-Jamie-Raskin>.

*(Portantino)*

SB 997 was initiated by a summer intern in my office, and I hope it garners a signature.

We also have bills on truancy, recycling, and microplastics that should all become law. All told, it was a good legislative year.

It's been an honor to serve this amazing district and to have been an ACT member since I first entered the political arena. In fact, ACT/ADC were the very first political organization I joined when I entered public service 26 years ago.

Thank you to all the ACT members who have pushed for progress and democratic values from its inception.

Warmest and Best,  
Anthony



*(Holden)*

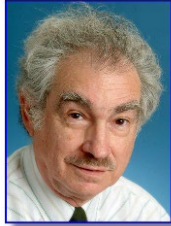
College Career Access Pathways Program (CCAP) available to every student while prioritizing outreach to pupils who are underrepresented and not college bound. Access to education and encouragement to follow through with education is key to securing the future of our young people. I am proud to support them through legislation and glad my colleagues continuously agree.

As I get settled back into the district, I look forward to visiting each local city and giving my State of the District to several of our local city councils. I encourage everyone to continue advocating for the change they want to see in their community and communicate with my colleagues about the issues they face. It is an incredible honor to serve the 41<sup>st</sup> District.

Sincerely,  
Chris R. Holden

## Book Review

by Robert V. Frampton



### “Café Europa Revisited: How to Survive Post-Communism”

by Slavenka Drakulić

Slavenka Drakulić was born in Rijeka, Croatia, in 1949. She graduated in comparative literature and sociology from the University in Zagreb (one of the oldest universities in Europe, founded in 1669) in 1976. Since 1992, she has worked as a freelance writer and journalist for major international newspapers. After her criticism of nationalist government in her home country led to hostilities, she moved her base to Stockholm. Today, she lives in Sweden and Croatia. She is the author of *Café Europa: Life after Communism*, which I read several years ago.

Drakulić has published a sequel, *Café Europa Revisited*, to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the collapse of communism. She writes: “I wrote my book *Café Europa* in 1996. Back then, I tried to illustrate the new Europe emerging after the entire communist bloc collapsed – suddenly and completely in 1989, a historical earthquake that left us Eastern Europeans in shock, followed by euphoria and childish expectations. Not a patient people, we expected too much too soon.

“On the thirtieth anniversary of the collapse, I revisit *Café Europa* to glance inside to see how the former communist world looks now. What are the important marks of the time and could we have anticipated them? ... And finally, is thirty years a long or a short time when it comes to profound changes in a society?”

She speaks of the discrepancy between history and fantasy, and about naïve expectations: “There was a certain innocent naïveté sweeping over Eastern Europe, the hope that the fall of Communism would be, in some way, a guarantee that we would live happily ever-after. The reason I call it ‘innocent’ is that we really didn’t know what to expect; but we knew what we wanted: glitter and glamor, like on the other side, in the West.” And ‘naïve’: “the belief that such a dramatic change, the collapse of an entire political system, would go smoothly and gently, with few victims and limited conflict. We did not foresee the profound changes that were in the making, including the fact that they were of two kinds: progressive, moderate, liberal, tolerant – as well as the opposite.”

Much of her book examines both of these possibilities that unfolded. The most dramatic, of course, was the breakup of the author’s Yugoslavia and resulting war and genocide. She devoted her book *They Would Never Hurt A Flea* (reviewed in July) to this conflagration that enveloped Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia. As Drakulić points out: “Religion was not eradicated by Communist propaganda; it went underground. And then it reappeared, rehabilitated, just before and during the wars. Suddenly culture and national belonging were connected to religion, and vice versa. To be a Croat meant to be a Catholic; to be a Serb meant to be Orthodox.” [And Bosnia is equally divided between Christians and Muslims.] The rise of religious nationalism also notably affected Hungary under Viktor *Orbán* and Russia under Vladimir Putin, and to a lesser extent Slovakia and Poland.

Other dominant themes dealt with in this book are emigration and immigration. One consequence of the collapse of the Communist system was that jobs became insecure in Eastern

Europe, and this particularly affected young people. Drakulić notes that “in Romania and Bulgaria educated young professionals started to emigrate as soon as these countries became EU members in 2007. Doctoral students left first on foreign grants, followed by specialists of all kinds, beginning with medical doctors.” Likewise, by 2019 over half a million Bulgarians lived and worked outside their homeland, and a third of these were university graduates. This emigration also affected Latvia and other Eastern European countries, as young professionals left for Germany, Scandinavia, the UK and elsewhere in Western Europe, causing a noticeable brain drain in the former Soviet Bloc countries, thus severely limiting economic growth there. Though emigration from new EU countries was substantial, it was still largely migration within the EU.

In contrast, by 2015 substantial waves of immigrants were arriving to the EU from outside the EU, including from Libya, Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia and Pakistan. Many crossed the Mediterranean Sea by boat (some of which capsized en-route); but many others came through Turkey to Greece to North Macedonia and Serbia (the Balkan Route). At first, the EU and particularly Germany accommodated these refugees. However, the wave of immigrants started arriving faster than could be accommodated. Hungary, under Viktor *Orbán*, *steadfastly opposed this accommodation of non-EU immigrants*. Drakulić writes, “To stop the refugees [along the Balkan route], he erected razor-wire fence at the border of Serbia and Croatia. *Orbán* presented this [to Brussels] as nothing less than protecting his country’s Christian civilization and culture against ‘Muslem invaders’; it was protection against ‘the enemy’. Soon Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic had joined him.” This fed on a rise in nationalism in the post-Communist republics,

including “a desire to have an independent nation-state and a population that is as ethnically homogeneous as possible. A series of rapes in Cologne committed by immigrants on New Years’ Eve, 2015, raised great media attention. Drakulić concludes, “the most important effect of this so-called refugee crisis was the spread of fear, which, in turn, serves as a platform for the rise of nationalism and spurs on populist leaders. ... As It happens, the wave of refugees not only washed up desperate people on the shore, but a new political superstar [*Orbán*] as well.”

This mix of nationalism and xenophobia (and islamophobia) has become a powerful catalyst for the emergence of strongman leaders as Victor *Orbán* and Donald Trump. Indeed, Trump has seized on *Orbán*’s razor-wire fence for his proposed wall at the southern border with Mexico. The emotions behind this rise in nationalism in the US may serve as a cautionary balance to the “rational exuberance” presently felt in the Harris-Walz campaign.

### **Next Month:**

#### ***Orbán: Hungary’s Strongman***

by Paul Lendvai.

Paul Lendvai is a Hungarian-born Austrian journalist who has followed events in Hungary extensively and has interviewed Viktor *Orbán* and other members of the ruling Fidesz Party repeatedly. He was the Vienna correspondent for the *Financial Times* for over twenty years. “The value of Lendvai’s book lies in his penetrating explanation of why Hungary’s post-1989 institutions have proved so vulnerable to Mr. *Orbán*’s assault.” — *The Financial Times*. Paul Lendvai is also author of *The Hungarians: A Thousand Years of Victory in Defeat*.

Interview with Paul Lendvai:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNuZALfZIDU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNuZALfZIDU)



The graphic features the words "Sept" in green and "Oct" in orange, with a football and a leaf integrated into the design. Below the graphic is the word "Calendar" in blue.

**Calendar**

- Sept 10 Debate Watch Party  
Tuesday UDH, 400 S. Lake Ave.,  
6 p.m. Pasadena. Check the website to  
RSVP.
- Oct. 3 ACT/PADC Steering Committee  
Thursday Meeting via ZOOM. State  
7 p.m. Initiatives. 7 p.m. for socializing;  
meeting 7:30 p.m.
- Oct 20 Oktoberfest 2024! UDH's big  
Sunday fundraiser at the Pasadena  
2-4 p.m. Armenian Center at 740 E.  
Washington Blvd., Pasadena
- Nov 5 Election Day  
Tuesday

### **October *Phoenix* Deadline**

The deadline for copy for the October *Phoenix* will most likely be Monday, October 7. Send your items for publication to Jon Fuhrman at [jon\\_fuhrman@outlook.com](mailto:jon_fuhrman@outlook.com) and Sally Beer [sally.beer125@gmail.com](mailto:sally.beer125@gmail.com). (We will send a deadline reminder to regular contributors.)

### ACT and PADC Membership Dues for 2024

A red check on your address label tells you we are still looking for your dues payment! Dues categories are listed below. Note that you can join both ACT and the Pasadena Arroyo Democratic Club at bargain rates. Please send your check with the form below, or renew online at our website. Our thanks to the generous folks who have already joined and renewed.



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

- \$40 Single
- \$25 Each additional member per household
- \$15 Student or limited income
- \$70 Single Sustaining
- \$90 Double Sustaining
- \$150 Patron
- \$275 Benefactor

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

- \$35 Single
- \$20 Each additional member per household
- \$15 Student or limited income
- \$20 Gift Membership (NEW!)
- \$60 Single Sustaining
- \$85 Double Sustaining
- \$125 Patron
- \$275 Benefactor

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

- \$35 Single
- \$20 Each additional member per household
- \$15 Student or limited income
- \$60 Single Sustaining
- \$85 Double Sustaining
- \$125 Patron
- \$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

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Address Office Phone

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City ZIP

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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