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Achieving Change Together

## Issue 2: December 2020 Newsletter

**As Covid-19 again flares up, we hope that you, your family, and your friends are safe and healthy and are taking necessary measures to stay that way.**

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**ClassACT HR79 (CA79) was created to bring together HR79 classmates and to create and support positive change; to address local, national, and international problems; and to nourish relationships among classmates. We began to organize ourselves at our 40th Reunion, inspired by ClassACT HR73 and HR79's Initiative for Investigative Journalism.**

Over 130 of you have already signed up on our website and received the first newsletter, [which you can find here](#). We're now expanding our outreach so our entire class can receive this newsletter and learn about CA79. If you're receiving the newsletter for the first time, we invite you to become a member of CA79 by [signing up on our website](#) today. When you join our classmates, you'll be able to check out our initial efforts and see who else has signed up for CA79. For more about CA79, [check out our FAQ page](#).

### **In This Newsletter**

**This time around, it's all about HR79ers.** We're focusing on updates about classmates working to engage voters in different ways: a website that seeks to

bring clarity to election issues, and a run for high-profile public office. We're also bringing you up to date on an exciting CA79 initial project and inviting you to become more involved in CA79.

- Andy Calkins and [HowShouldIVote2020.org](https://www.howshouldivote2020.org)
- Conversations Across Divides
- Ray McGuire and "the Second Toughest Job in America"
- Exercise Your Voice and Get Involved

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### **Disclaimers**

**CA79 does not endorse political candidates or movements**, but we do consider it a matter of public interest to hear from and feature classmates running for or holding public office or otherwise working in voter engagement.

CA79 was not involved in setting up the website in the next story; however, it illustrates the type of activity we seek to foster and promote.

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**HOW SHOULD I  
VOTE 2020**

### **Putting ClassACT Values Into Action**

#### **HowShouldIVote2020.org Served Undecided Voters With Facts — and Got Results**

**This election season, CA79 member Andy Calkins led an effort to serve undecided voters** with what Andy calls "reality-based, fact-driven guidance" about presidential candidates' positions on voters' priority issues.

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[HowShouldIVote2020.org](http://HowShouldIVote2020.org) arose when Andy and his team recognized that last-minute swing voters, operating on last-minute information (or disinformation), swung MI, WI, and PA—and the 2016 presidential election.

What if there were a website, Andy and his group asked, that provided **a calm, no-exaggeration place to explore the issues** for voters who weren't in the habit of paying close attention and who looked to the web for information?

**With the help of HR classmates and others, the website launched in early October** and ended up prompting nearly 70,000 last-minute deciders in ten swing states to click on the site.

**To learn more about the HowShouldIVote2020 and find out about Andy's next steps, [check out the the story on our website.](#)**

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## **Conversations Across Divides**

We envision this to be an ongoing CA79 project, comprising a series of online forums and conversations—and eventually local activities for you to join in. **The focus will be on establishing social trust across and among disparate groups**, facilitating greater understanding of each other, and hearing about successful examples of people who have already done this.

We had originally planned to bring you the first Zoom conversation in October, but as Robbie Burns said, the best laid plans oft go awry. And 2020 plans have gone even more awry than those in other years. We believe, however, given the lead-up to and aftermath of our last election, this kind of conversation is more relevant than ever.

We're still working on putting these conversations together, and we'll bring you updates as we have them. **If you are working to bridge divides or know of a classmate doing similar work, please contact Peter Kelley** via our email, [ClassACTHR79@gmail.com](mailto:ClassACTHR79@gmail.com).

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## **A Conversation With Ray McGuire, Candidate for NYC Mayor**

**Ray McGuire, HR79** (and HLS/HBS class of 84, if you're keeping score) **recently entered the growing field to become the next mayor of The City of New York**, and we want to give you a chance to hear about it directly from him.

For that reason, we're proud to host a virtual event in early 2021 where Ray will speak about why he's running, how he came to his decision to run, and how he plans to cope with New York's greatest economic challenge since the '70s, the lasting results of a pandemic, investing in the next generation, and New York's other ongoing issues. More information on this fascinating chance to hear from Ray coming soon.

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**CA79—In Transition & Seeking Your Input**

**We're ready: after more than a year of hatching and growing feathers, CA79 is about to take flight—and we want to provide a microphone for classmates doing great work.**

- Are you a founder, board member, or staffer of an organization solving problems? Which problems are you addressing?
- Are you working on the transition team for a new administration (federal, state, or local)? Have you worked in previous administrations? Do you know someone from our class who is?
- Are you running for or do you hold elected office? Do you know classmates who are?

**If so, we'd like to be able to share what you're doing in our newsletter and on our website.** We invite you to [reach out to us](#) so we can engage and inspire our classmates.

As we continue our work on setting up the structure of CA79, beefing up our technical capabilities, and planning other online conversation for the coming year—**[we'd like to hear your ideas.](#)**

- Do you have an idea for a compelling online conversation or webinar?
- Would you like to help CA79 with the technical support for our webinars?
- Do you have a great problem-solving project in mind that can involve CA79 members?
- Would you like to participate in personal outreach to classmates? We're working on plans to contact them one-on-one and could use your help.

If you're interested in working with us on any of the above, you can email us at [ClassACTHR79@gmail.com](mailto:ClassACTHR79@gmail.com) or contact us at the phone number at the bottom of this newsletter.

Feel free to **share this newsletter with classmates, and then, if you haven't already, [log on today](#) and invite others to join CA79.**

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**CA79 Initial Leadership**

Jules Chatelain, Elena (Nini) N. Cohen, David Frutkoff, Rachel Kemp, Peter Kelley, Dorien Nuñez, Gwill York

**The work CA79 engages in will be a process that evolves and is determined based on how you, the members, want us to move forward together.**

**Contact Us**

If you prefer, leave us a message at (617) 299-6411.

We look forward to working with you.



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