



OCTOBER 16, 2017

Message from the President

CTA President Eric Heins



CTA Chapter Presidents:

As you may be aware late last week we sent an email to all CTA State Council of Education members regarding the CTA interview process for 2018 California Constitutional offices and the CTA Board recommendations that will be considered and voted on during State Council October 20-22, 2017. That email is included below for your information and consideration.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Eric Heins

TO: State Council Delegates

SUBJECT: CTA Constitutional Office Candidate Recommendations

The 2018 Election will be crucial for our organization as all statewide offices are up for election, including the Superintendent of Public Instruction and Governor, as well as state Senate, Assembly and local school board seats. Who wins these races and their views on public education will have a direct impact on students and educators. To fight the attacks on public education that are coming from multiple fronts, we need leaders, we need champions and we need allies.

If CTA is to be successful in Campaign 2018, we need to engage early so that voters across the state hear the collective voices of the 325,000 educators of CTA. Additionally, as the top-two primary system takes center stage in 2018, there are a number of races that are likely to be decided in June, including the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and to a large degree, the Governor's race. To that end, CTA started our interview and recommendation process early.

In early summer of 2017, CTA's Political Action Department began the process of scheduling interviews with all constitutional candidates, regardless of party affiliation, who met the criteria for viability as set forth in CTA policy, established by the Political Involvement Committee. In all, more than 70 percent of all declared constitutional candidates opted to participate in CTA's interview process. CTA's interview process starts with teams of diverse, local educators from across the state who are appointed to interview each candidate.

These candidates were interviewed and evaluated in a democratic and member-driven process for each office. The decision-making and deliberations were arduous. In considering recommendations of

candidates for each office, the CTA interview teams, which were comprised of 30 CTA leaders and members from throughout the state, sought to evaluate the candidates on a variety of criteria:

1. Their position on and vision for K-12, community college and higher education issues;
2. Their historic support for public education, as well as students and educators, including but not limited to education funding, budget stability, safe schools and campuses for all students, collective bargaining, educator professional rights, charter school accountability and equal access to higher education;
3. Their viability for success in the office that they are seeking.

The interview teams discussed all issues and made recommendations to the CTA Board of Directors. The Board of Directors makes the following recommendations for your consideration at State Council.

CTA CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICE CANDIDATE RECOMMENDATIONS 2018 JUNE PRIMARY ELECTION October 10-11, 2017 - CTA BOARD MEETING FINAL			
Office	Candidate	Interview Team Recommendation	CTA Board Recommendation
Governor	Gavin Newsom (D)	Recommend	Recommend
State Superintendent of Public Instruction	Tony Thurmond (D)	Recommend	Recommend
Lt. Governor	Ed Hernandez (D)	Recommend	Recommend
Attorney General	Xavier Becerra (D) Dave Jones (D)	Recommend Dave Jones (D)	Substitute Recommendation Xavier Becerra (D)
Insurance Commissioner	Ricardo Lara (D)	Recommend	Recommend
State Treasurer	Fiona Ma (D)	Recommend	Recommend
Board of Equalization District 1	Connie Conway (R)	Recommend	Recommend
Board of Equalization District 2	Malia Cohen (D) Cathleen Galgiani (D)	Neutral	Neutral
Board of Equalization District 3	Scott Svonkin (D)	Recommend	Recommend

Gavin Newsom: Governor

As his long innovative record of public service shows, Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom is a strong supporter of public schools, colleges, students and educators. He shares the core values of CTA members and

educators across the Golden State who believe in the mission of providing a quality, well-rounded education to all students where every student deserves the same opportunity to achieve success and the same access to higher education and career training. In Sacramento and as mayor of San Francisco, he has always been there for students and educators. As California continues to rank near the bottom nationally in per-pupil spending and educators still spend thousands for classroom supplies, he supported CTA-backed Propositions 30 and 55 to increase state income taxes on the wealthy – generating billions for public education. Newsom’s top priorities are education (increasing affordable access to quality schools from early childhood to K-12 to higher ed), economic development (creating jobs and reducing poverty), protecting the environment, and social justice – ensuring California continues to lead by example while actively resisting any attempt by the Trump administration to take us backwards. He understands that educational excellence isn’t conceived in Sacramento – it comes from the daily work of hundreds of thousands of educators and parents. He’s tired of the argument that to save public education we must first dismantle it. And he’s tired of the demagogues demonizing educators, when they are really the everyday heroes who have devoted their dreams to helping kids achieve theirs. The true objective of public education isn’t about picking winners and losers. It’s about equity. Getting serious about closing the income gap means getting serious about closing the opportunity gap with well-funded, quality public education. He supports creating more full-service community public schools – with wellness centers, after-school programs and community programs. He supports accountability and transparency for all schools, including charter schools. He rightfully supports universal preschool, more prenatal care and the promise of more robust early childhood education, along with high-quality childcare, that pays real dividends for a child’s future growth. His passion for higher education runs deep. He opposed student tuition hikes and supports two years of free community college tuition to help drive our economy, reducing student debt, and creating better pathways to quality jobs. Gavin Newsom has shown this as mayor and lieutenant governor, and will continue to stand with our students, CTA and all educators.

Tony Thurmond: Superintendent of Public Instruction

Tony Thurmond is a state Assembly member and has served the people of California for ten years in elected office. As an experienced social worker, Thurmond is a respected leader, who has run a number of community and non-profit programs for youth. At every step, Thurmond has kept California's kids as his top priority, and it's why he has made supporting and improving public education his top priority in the state Assembly. He passed legislation to provide millions of dollars to school districts to keep kids in school and out of the criminal justice system, and he fought to ensure that all California youth in foster care can go to college. This year, Thurmond is reducing our statewide teacher shortage by advocating for affordable housing for teachers and other incentives to attract and retain quality educators. His work has also included increasing funding for early education programs. Just this year, Thurmond fought to provide more money for preschool and after school programs by shifting \$450 million from our criminal justice system into those programs. He is working to expand school-based health, mental health, and social service programs to remove the barriers that impede the ability of many of our students to learn. This legislation will support students who are homeless or hungry or have experienced trauma. Having served on the West Contra County School Board, he oversaw truancy prevention programs, supported school based mental health programs, and launched a program called CEO Youth to teach entrepreneurship and life skills to disadvantaged students. Thurmond has actively supported efforts to increase transparency and accountability for charter schools. Tony Thurmond is the most qualified candidate to serve as the head of California’s public schools.

Ed Hernandez: Lieutenant Governor

Current state Senator Ed Hernandez has a proven and demonstrated track record of supporting students, educators and public education. The first in his family to graduate from college, he believes an education is the greatest equalizer in our society. That's why he is an advocate for re-investing in our PreK-12 public schools, community colleges, and public universities. He has a master plan for higher education, in which the Lt. Governor plays a vital role, and he unequivocally supports increased accountability and transparency in California's charter schools. His voting record in both the California Assembly and Senate reflects his commitment to all students.

Xavier Becerra: Attorney General

Attorney General Xavier Becerra has a long-standing commitment to and passion for students, educators and families from across California. A staunch advocate for working families with decades of experiences representing Californians, Xavier Becerra became California Attorney General in January 2017 to defend the rights of the nearly 40 million people statewide. Becerra's work as chief law enforcement officer follows more than two decades of service to the people of Los Angeles in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he was also elected to serve in leadership — chairing the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Becerra was the first Latino to serve on the powerful Ways and Means Committee, fighting for a fairer tax code and for fairer trade laws and working to protect Social Security and Medicare. Becerra believes in protecting the rights of educators and all workers to come together to negotiate proper learning and working conditions. He also believes California's charter schools must be held to the same accountability and transparency standards as traditional public schools.

Ricardo Lara: Insurance Commissioner

Senator Ricardo Lara has been a consistent and steadfast partner with and advocate for students and educators. As recently as 2016, CTA worked in partnership with Lara to pass Proposition 58 to repeal bilingual education restrictions in California public schools. Lara is the only declared and viable candidate for Insurance Commissioner. He is a thoughtful, passionate proponent for public schools with a strong record of working collaboratively on behalf of California's students and educators. He is driven by a vision for the future that includes an often-overlooked area of education—ensuring the health of the students who attend. As a candidate for the office that would work most closely on regulating insurance companies and health plans, he is dedicated to a thoughtful, inclusive conversation for how to achieve universal healthcare.

Fiona Ma: State Treasurer

Current Board of Equalization member Fiona Ma is the only declared and viable candidate for the office of State Treasurer. Ma is a lifelong champion for public education and believes that public schools are the greatest way to achieve success and equity in our society. Ma has a wide-range of experience on financial, budget and investment issues that make her highly qualified for this position. She supports a defined-benefit retirement system for all educators and as Treasurer will sit on both the CalSTRS and

CalPERS boards. Ma believes in local stakeholder involvement for the important decisions facing public education and she supports amending Proposition 13 to ensure big corporations pay their fair share.

Connie Conway: Board of Equalization District 1

Former Assembly Member and Republican Minority Leader Connie Conway believes in working closely with all community stakeholders and during the interview committed to talking through education issues before making any recommendations or decisions on the Board of Equalization.

Neutral: Board of Equalization District 2

The interview team met with two highly qualified candidates, Senator Cathleen Galgiani and San Francisco Supervisor Malia Cohen. Both demonstrated a core understanding of education issues as well as tax issues, and both have worked with CTA and our local chapters for a number of years. The member-driven process led to a neutral recommendation in the primary race.

Scott Svonkin: Board of Equalization District 3

Los Angeles Community College (LACC) Trustee Scott Svonkin is well known in Los Angeles as an advocate for students, educators and working families. He is very familiar with both K-12 and higher education issues and supports fairness and equity in state tax structures.



California Teachers Association

The preeminent voice for educators and students in California's public schools and colleges.

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