

THE ADVOCATE

SAN DIEGO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



SABRINA BAZZO



DR. SHARON WHITEHURST-PAYNE



RICHARD BARRERA

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

In October, all registered voters in California will be receiving their ballots by mail for the first time in the history of our state. A lot is at stake in November's election, on a local and national level, not least of which is control of the San Diego Unified school board, with three out of the five seats being contested.

The school board determines the priorities of the District and directs their bargaining team. A pro-public education and pro-educator school board makes it easier to bargain improvements to our contract that benefit both students and educators. Important decisions about our school, like when to return to in person learning, are made by the school board. We must work to elect school board trustees that share our values and priorities.

In the March primary, SDEA-endorsed school board candidates Sabrina Bazzo, Dr. Sharon Whitehurst-Payne, and Richard

Barrera finished first in their respective school board elections. Each will move on to the November ballot's districtwide election to serve on our school board.

Sabrina Bazzo, running to replace the retiring John Lee Evans in subdistrict A, is a parent leader from the Mira Mesa cluster and has supported educators and students by serving in various capacities from her kids' elementary school all the way to high school. This includes leading her school's PTA, SSC and SGT. She is running against Crystal Trull, an opponent of Proposition 15, a measure that would provide a \$70 million a year boost to our District's budget that is desperately needed after the blows to the District's bottom-line struck by the pandemic.

SDUSD Board Member Dr. Sharon Whitehurst-Payne, an experienced educator with decades working with schools and

teaching educators in credential programs, is up for re-election in subdistrict E.

SDUSD Board Member Richard Barrera, longtime labor leader and operations manager of the Cesar Chavez Service Clubs, is running for re-election in subdistrict D. His opponent is Camille Harris, an advocate for educator merit pay that would be determined by principals.

During this crisis, as we continue working for an education our students deserve, we must also continue advocating for a school board that will defend public education and continue ensuring our union has the resources to campaign for endorsed candidates. If you are not already a monthly contributor to the SDEA Political Action Committee and would like to support our endorsed school board candidates, speak with your site Association Representative.

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San Diego Education Association
10393 SAN DIEGO MISSION ROAD
STE. 100, SAN DIEGO, 92108
PHONE (619) 283-4411 FAX (619) 282-7659
WEB WWW.SDEA.NET



@SANDIEGOEDUCATIONASSOCIATION



@SDEDUCATORS

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LETTERS IN SOLIDARITY

KISHA BORDEN
SDEA PRESIDENT



KYLE WEINBERG
SDEA VICE PRESIDENT

NEW SCHOOL YEAR BRINGS CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITY

On March 13, thousands of educators walked out of our classrooms thinking we would be back in a few weeks. Little did we know that the next five months would be an emotional journey filled with unimaginable highs and lows and a complete reimagining of our profession.

After a summer like no other that we have experienced, school has resumed in a way that is at once familiar and wildly unique. SDEA members are greeting their new students in new and innovative ways. Instead of creating colorful and inviting physical classrooms, educators have created online environments to engage and welcome their students to a new school year.

This is all compounded by the uncertainty of what the upcoming weeks and months will bring. No one knows how long we will be engaged in online teaching. There are scores of unanswered questions around expectations of educators and our students. While the spread of COVID seems to be slowing in some communities, it continues to increase in many of our communities that have been most severely impacted by this pandemic.

While there are many questions swirling around reopening of school sites, we want members to know that your SDEA bargaining team and SDEA leadership continues to be guided by science.

We know educators want to get back into schools with their students, but the underlying question at every step must be: Given broader societal conditions, how do we open physical schools in a way that ensures that the benefits outweigh the risks, especially for our most vulnerable students, staff and school communities?

While we work to ensure the safety of SDEA members, we must also stand in solidarity with other educators in California and across the country who are being forced into unsafe working conditions. Their fight is our fight because, as educators, we are all in this together.

In addition to our fight for safe schools, we will also have to focus on the work to elect school board candidates who will work to preserve public education. Three of San Diego Unified's five school board seats are up for election this fall. A shift in the philosophy of the board could have lasting impacts on public education in San Diego.

We must also work to pass important state initiatives like Schools and Communities First, now known as Prop 15. While we do not have the billions that our opponents have to sway the vote, our power lies in our numbers. We must reach out to every colleague and every friend and family member to encourage them to support our schools and communities this fall. We must also encourage those same friends and family members to exercise their right to vote. In order to ensure these victories, every one of us must do our part.

We are looking forward to a rewarding 2020-21 school year and are excited to be leading SDEA through this transformative time! This school year will be like nothing we have ever experienced, but let's continue to give ourselves and our colleagues the grace and compassion we all need and deserve.

**Whatever challenges we face,
Together we are stronger!**

KISHA BORDEN
SDEA PRESIDENT

KYLE WEINBERG
SDEA VICE PRESIDENT

**YES ON PROP. 15:****Schools & Communities First**

FOR MORE THAN four decades, big corporations have not been paying their fair share in taxes, and funding for California's schools has fallen shamefully behind. California now has the most overcrowded classrooms in the U.S. and some of the worst ratios of students to counselors, librarians and nurses.

Homeowners, in fact, have borne the brunt of this unfair taxation.

Why did this happen? When Prop. 13 passed in 1978 to protect homeowners from erratic increases in their property tax bills, owners of commercial and industrial properties were able to take advantage of the same protections, and avoided paying their fair share for the public schools and local services that benefit all Californians. The result has been chronic disinvestment and underfunding, while corporations and wealthy investors benefit.

"This inequity as a result of corporate greed has had a catastrophic impact on our schools and communities, felt disproportionately in communities of color," says CTA President E. Toby Boyd.

Proposition 15 on the November

ballot would revoke Prop. 13's protection of business properties. Small business properties would be exempted, along with multiunit housing properties and agricultural land. All other business properties would be reassessed to current market value at least every three years.

Voting Yes on Prop. 15 will:

- **Reclaim** \$12 billion per year to fund world-class K-12 schools, community colleges and local communities.
- **Close** commercial property tax loopholes that corporations and wealthy investors use to avoid paying their fair share of property taxes.
- **Protect** all homeowners and renters by maintaining tax protections for *all* residential property.
- **Level** the playing field for all the businesses that already pay their fair share.
- **Ensure** strict accountability so that money goes directly to our schools and communities.

Yes on 15
SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES FIRST

Only **10%** of the biggest, wealthiest commercial properties will generate **92%** of the revenue

DID YOU KNOW?



Prop. 15 will close corporate property tax loopholes to reclaim billions every year for California's K-12 schools, community colleges and local communities — all while exempting homeowners and renters, small businesses, and agricultural land.

- **Provide** one of the largest tax incentives in a generation to spur new investment in small businesses.

Prop. 15 ensures that our schools and communities come first — with the resources to educate all students and fund essential public services to support our families. Find out more and get involved at yes15.org.

NEW THIS YEAR: Vote by Mail

DUE TO THE pandemic, Gov. Gavin Newsom in May issued an executive order to mail a vote-by-mail (VBM) ballot to each voter prior to the Nov. 3 general election. (In-person voting locations will still be available.) There is no need to apply for a vote-by-mail ballot; any registered voter can vote by mail.

Ballots can be mailed in or dropped off in a number of ways. For details, go to sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-info.

Important deadlines:

- Register to vote by Oct. 19; go to sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration.

- If you failed to receive or lost your vote-by-mail ballot, contact your county elections official by Oct. 27 to be sent another VBM ballot. After Oct. 27 you may present a written application in person to a county elections official.
- The VBM ballot must be postmarked on or before Nov. 3 and received by your county elections office no later than Nov. 6. You can also drop it off at your local polling place on Nov. 3 before polls close (poll hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.).



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shines through.

So do these new
CTA benefits.



In these uncertain times, CTA membership makes more sense than ever. CTA provides new educators with **9 months of CTA Introductory Disability insurance** at no cost to you when you join CTA for the first time within 90 days of your first day of work.

Learn more at
CTAMemberBenefits.org/Disability

CTA Introductory Disability insurance available to eligible new educators starting work on or after 7/1/2020 who become CTA members for the first time within 90 days of their first day of work. Disability insurance eligibility requirements apply.

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