

OUR ENDORSEMENTS FOR LOCAL RACES

The Fresno County Democratic Party is announcing its endorsements for local races for the fall election. Ruben Zarate, chair of the Fresno County Democratic Party, states: "Following our Endorsement Caucus, we are pleased to announce a list of outstanding Democrats who we are proud to endorse for the November election. I have every confidence, when elected, our slate will focus immediate attention on fixing issues in our community."

Fresno County Board of Education Trustee Area 3: Dr. Daren Miller

Dr. Miller was appointed to the Board of Education in 2018 to fill the vacancy created when Nelson Esparza was elected to the Fresno City Council. Dr. Miller has long been active in the Fresno County Democratic Party. He has been a classroom teacher and a principal and frequently discusses the achievement gap for students of color and the hiring gap for teachers in underrepresented groups.

State Center Community College District Trustee Area 2: Nasreen Johnson

Johnson is a communications strategist for the ACLU of Northern California. Johnson says that it is her personal mission "to be an advocate for and defend those who are vulnerable." She does this through her volunteer work, her professional work and how she parents her children. "Having a strong community college system is critical, particularly in a community like ours where we have high poverty."

State Center Community College District Trustee Area 3: Dary Rezvani

Rezvani is an accountant and small business owner. He ran unsuccessfully last March for the nomination to run against incumbent Devin Nunes (R-Tulare) in Congressional District 22. Rezvani's stance on issues is progressive, and his knowledge and experience will make him a fine trustee, especially regarding issues with career and technical education.

State Center Community College District Trustee Area 7: Abena Cruise

Cruise is community outreach director for Table Mountain Casino and currently serves on the recently formed Fresno Commission on Police Reform. In a recent interview with GV Wire, Cruise stated that she represents the cultural diversity of Trustee Area 7 and that it is time for the board to exemplify that diversity with "progressive and new innovative ideas."

Mayor of Kerman: Espi Sandoval

Sandoval currently serves on the Kerman City Council. He says that is a Democrat because the party's principles are in line with his own, and he sees "justice, equality, diversity and patriotism under attack by the Republican Party." Sandoval's priorities include affordable housing for seniors and low-income families, building a community center and improving programs and services for senior citizens and youth.

Mayor of Selma: Louie Franco

Franco is currently serving as mayor of Selma on the City Council. His priority is to provide staff resources and support to address Selma's decaying infrastructure, which has limited the city's ability to bring housing and green space to the community. Franco says that equality is important to him: "I believe equality includes gender, race and socioeconomic equality."

Fowler City Council: Alex Grimaldi

Grimaldi is running for one of three seats on the Fowler City Council this election cycle. He cites President John F. Kennedy as his inspiration. Priority issues for Grimaldi include term limits for City Council, the method for selection of Fowler's mayor and financial transparency.

Fowler City Council: Patric Jones

Jones is running for one of three seats on the Fowler City Council this election cycle. He has lived in Fowler for more than 50 years and is a Fowler High School graduate. His passion is for Fowler's youth and seniors. Jones wants "to bring the town back together to become the shining star as it was years ago."

Sanger City Council District 1: Esmeralda Hurtado

Hurtado was appointed to the Sanger City Council in early 2019 to fill the vacancy on the council when her sister, Melissa, successfully won election to the State Senate. Since her appointment, she has worked to bring clean and safe water and affordable housing to Sanger. If elected, her priority will be infrastructure repair, especially city streets.

Sanger City Council District 3: Daniel Martinez

Martinez is the District 3 incumbent and currently serves as mayor pro tem. Martinez's priorities, if reelected, include continuing to ensure proper resources for Sanger in managing Covid-19, building on recent successes to expand affordable housing, continuing to build parks and green spaces, expanding Sanger's city limits, increasing industrial zoning space and addressing homelessness.

Fresno Unified School District Trustee Area 5: David Paredes

As a product of the Fresno Unified School District, Paredes feels that his first-hand knowledge as a graduate of the district will be beneficial in his role as a board member.

He has been endorsed by the California Democratic Renters Council and the California Young Democrats. One of his priorities would be to improve the district's Spanish-language outreach to parents, which would improve their children's access to proper technological resources and food.

Fresno Unified School District Trustee Area 6: Claudia Casarez

Casarez is the incumbent in Trustee Area 6. Casarez sees a major priority in her area as being the brain drain, in which students are attracted to magnet programs outside of her trustee area (Hoover). She would like to continue the work she has started to build the trustee area's own magnet program, with assistance from Fresno State, to keep high school students in their neighborhood.

Clovis Unified School District Trustee Area 4: Noha Elbaz

After graduating from Columbia University, Elbaz taught sixth grade in Arizona. She has worked in various levels of education. She has experience with both brick-and-mortar and online teaching. If elected, Elbaz will bring that diversity of experience in public education to a school board that currently has no members with any formal experience or training in the field of education.

Clovis Unified School District Trustee Area 7: Christopher Casado

Casado is seeking his fourth term on the board. He sees two major concerns for the district: "We have come so very far in understanding and promoting our cultural and racial differences; we need to listen and continue improving on this to evolve in today's environment. Second, funding will always be a huge issue and [of] major importance for this District; we are the second-lowest funded school district in Fresno County."

Central Unified School District Trustee Area 4: Shawn M. Brooks

Brooks has a ninth-grade son attending Central Unified schools. She feels that as a parent, she can bring the concerns of parents directly to the board, including the trust and safety of parents, students, teachers and staff. As an African-American female, Brooks feels she can bridge the communication gap in the district.

Sanger Unified School District Trustee Area 1: Sebastian Ardemagni

Ardemagni has served as a consultant for United Way and the Dolores Huerta Foundation. He feels that as a Sanger resident who left home and returned with a wealth of education/experience, he can inject a unique and informed perspective to better his community and promote democratic ideals toward the success of Sanger Unified students.

Sanger Unified School District Trustee Area 4: Vao Pa Her

Her is a karate instructor and youth mentor who served in the U.S. Navy from 2001 to 2005 and in the California Air National Guard from 2007 to 2015. If elected, he promises to work on the issue of "lack of support for teachers." He wants to work with parents and teachers to ensure that "the administration is not top heavy."

Selma Unified School District Trustee Area 2: Jaspreet Nagra

A recent graduate of UCLA, Nagra is motivated to implement what she has learned to make a positive difference in the community that raised her. Nagra is concerned by what she says is the "lack of transparency" in the decision of the Selma School Board to stop funding the Doctors Academy program in Selma schools, which she feels is essential for students in a rural area such as Selma.

Calwa Recreation and Park District Director: Laura Garcia

Garcia is running for this position because she feels children and families in southeast Fresno deserve better. Garcia says that the community deserves accountability and transparency and that her neighbors deserve to be involved every step of the way. Garcia wants to ensure all Calwa's children and families can enjoy Calwa Park as she once did as a child.

FEDERAL AND STATE ENDORSEMENTS

U.S. President/Vice President: **Joe Biden-Kamala Harris**

Congressional District 4: **Brynne Kennedy**

Congressional District 16: **Jim Costa**

Congressional District 21: **TJ Cox**

Congressional District 22: **Phil Arballo**

State Assembly District 31: **Joaquin Arambula**

Prop 14: Support

Prop 16: Support

Prop 18: Support

Prop 20: Oppose

Prop 22: Oppose

Prop 24: Neutral

Prop 15: Support

Prop 17: Support

Prop 19: Support

Prop 21: Support

Prop 23: Support

Prop 25: Support

DEMOCRATIC PARTY HEADQUARTERS

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VOLUNTEER CALL TO ACTION

