



2011 UTLA Citywide Election Frequently Asked Questions and Answers (FAQs)

SEPT-NOV 2011 ELECTIONS: UTLA-NEA VP & HARBOR AREA AFT BOD

A. Which positions are being elected? Who gets to vote?

There is a re-run of the run-off election for UTLA-NEA Vice President. The candidates are M. J. (Mary Jan) Roberts and Ana Valencia. This is a citywide election. NEA affiliate members, and Dual members, in all UTLA areas will get ballots, which are scheduled to be mailed on November 4, 2011.

There is a Harbor Area AFT Board of Director election to fill a vacancy due to a resignation. This is an election in Harbor Area only. AFT affiliate, and Dual members, in the Harbor Area may vote at the Area meeting on Nov. 2 at White Middle School from 3:45 pm to 5:30 pm. Counting at 5:30 pm.

B. If I want to change my affiliation from AFT to NEA, or NEA to AFT, or become a Dual member, may I?

Yes, but UTLA must be notified by October 4, 2011 in order to vote. See "How to change your Affiliation".

C. I am an itinerant member who works at different schools, or a Substitute. Can I still send in the form to indicate the UTLA Area I work in the most so I can vote in the Board of Director election for the Harbor Area?

Yes, if you work in Harbor Area the most. But UTLA must be notified by October 13, 2011. See "Voter Area & Special Category Designation" form.

D. Will there be forums with the two UTLA-NEA V.P. candidates?

No, but the UTLA Area meetings on September 21 and Nov. 2 are expected to give time to both candidates, or their representatives. Also, videos of the two candidates are on the UTLA Elections website, and photos and statements of the candidates will be in the October 21 edition of the United Teacher and on the website.

Any other questions should be mailed to: 2001elections@utla.net

(dated Sept. 2, 2011)

ARCHIVED FAQs FROM JANUARY 2011 ELECTION

1. Which positions are being elected? Who gets to vote for which ones?

ALL UTLA members should receive ballots as there are contested elections for ALL the citywide offices. ALL members vote for President, Elementary and Secondary Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Only NEA, and Dual, members will be able to vote for NEA affiliate Vice President. Only AFT, or Dual members, will be able to vote for AFT affiliate Vice President. Officers, and Board of Director members, serve a three year term beginning on July 1, 2011.

SOME of the UTLA Area Board of Director positions, and Special Category positions, only had the required number of candidates and they have been declared "Unopposed and Elected."

Those elections will NOT be on any ballots. Please look at the list of candidates on the election webpage <http://www.utla.net/utlaelection>, under #2) "List of candidates".

2. If I don't receive a ballot, or receive the wrong ballot, what should I do?

Call Tara Thomas at UTLA at (213) 637-5165. If two ballots are received from the same member/voter, only the original will be counted.

3. What is the last date that candidates can withdraw without having their names on the ballots?

Candidates can withdraw at any time by sending a brief letter to Tara Thomas stating they want to withdraw, indicating the race. Make sure to sign and date the letter.

In order to withdraw without having the candidates' names on the ballot, and not using space in the United Teacher Special Election Edition, Tara should receive the letter by January 10, which is the deadline to submit statements and photos for the UT.

4. Where can I see what previous statements looked like in the Special Election Edition of the United Teacher?

Go to the UTLA website: <http://www.utla.net/ut/archives>. Scroll down to Jan. 25, 2008 Special Election Edition. It may take a minute to load.

5. Can we bring our flyers to UTLA early?

No, No, No. Candidate flyers can only be delivered to the UTLA basement from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm on Thursday, January 13, 2011.

All boxes will need to be marked on all four sides with the candidates' names and office. Also, a large envelope with 50 flyers will need to be given to UTLA Election Committee members.

6. Can the flyers be folded into thirds, or in half, or folded into airplanes?

No. Flyers must be flat, no larger than 8 1/2 x 11", nor heavier than 24 lb bond stock. They may be on colored paper, printed on both sides, and printed with colors. Candidates may submit "group" or slate flyers. The flyers may endorse other candidates.

7. Can candidates submit statements with a photo of the candidate and someone else?

No, the photo for the Special Election Edition of the United Teacher must be of the candidate only. A candidate may submit a statement, but not a photo, OR a photo, but not a statement.

8. May candidates, or candidate slates, use rooms in the UTLA building?

Yes. Rooms will only be assigned to candidates, or slates, if they are available after UTLA business is scheduled first. Rooms on the afternoon of the House of Reps meeting will probably not be available, for instance. Only rooms on the 8th and 9th floors can be used. If more than one candidate, or slate, requests a room the candidate making the earliest request will be honored.

Please remember that NO UTLA supplies, paper, staplers, envelopes, etc. may be used for campaigns.

9. If I want to change my affiliate from NEA to AFT - or AFT to NEA may I?

No, the deadline to change affiliates was October 4, 2011.

10. I am a Substitute, or itinerant member, who works at different schools? Can I still send in the form to indicate the UTLA Area I work in the most so I can vote in the Board of Director election for that Area?

No, the deadline for UTLA to receive the Voter Area and Special Category Designation forms was December 31, 2010.

11. What are the qualifications for the Board of Director position representing Bi-lingual members?

Actually, this Board of Director position was created to represent bi-lingual teachers teaching in a Bi-lingual Program: Waiver-to-basic, Dual Language and LAPL (Language Arts in the Primary Language). The UTLA Election Committee only received the list of these people (about 336) the day after Winter Break at UTLA began. All candidates need to be verified.

12. Will there be DVDs of the Candidate Videos sent to the Chapter Chairs to show at UTLA meetings at the schools?

No, Each UTLA Area Chairperson will be given a DVD to show at the Area meeting if the Steering Committee so decides. Some UTLA areas, with contested Board of Director elections, may decide not to use them.

The candidate videos will be put on the 2011 UTLA Election webpage in late January. Members will be able to watch all the candidates for Citywide office. The videos will be grouped by each election (President, NEA V.P, AFT V.P, etc).

13. Will there be forums with the Citywide candidates like during the last election?

Yes, there will be three forums. Details have not been finalized, but the eight candidates for UTLA President will probably be able to give statements and answer questions in a rotational format. Other candidates may come to meet the members before and after the forums.

A. Valley Forum (Taft High School - Wednesday, January 19, 6:30 pm)

B. Forum at UTLA (Thursday, January 20, 6:30 pm)

C. Forum in the South/Harbor areas (to be determined)

14. What are the guidelines for Chapter Chairs, especially those supporting particular candidates and/or slates?

A letter will be going to all UTLA Chapter Chairs outlining their rights and responsibilities, and is also available on the UTLA 2011 election webpage.

Basically, Chapter Chairs can endorse candidates and slates if they wish. They cannot use UTLA resources, like the UTLA school roster, to do so. Chapter Chairs have the right to approve or deny permission to candidates to campaign at your school - based on reasonable grounds: Altered schedule for testing that day, etc. Also, Chapter Chairs need to give candidates a reasonable and equal opportunity to communicate with members. For example, if the Chapter Chair puts flyers for one candidate in mailboxes, she/he needs to do the same for all candidates- or put them on the counter in the office, or put flyers on the UTLA bulletin board.

Any other questions should be emailed to: 2011elections@utla.net