



Chapter Talking Points

February 25, 2020

Info for chapter leaders

Countdown to Election Day March 3

- On the last week before the March 3 election, remind members what is at stake if there is a privatizer majority again on the LAUSD Board. Precinct walks are well attended and vibrant but we can do more and have to do more if we are going to overcome the billionaires' negative campaign. Let's have the largest crowd walking on this last weekend!

Continue working on the Schools and Communities First petitions for March 5 drop

- Keep working on the Schools and Communities First petitions. On March 5, deliver the signed petitions to one of the drop locations that were distributed at the last Area Meeting. We need to turn in as many signatures as possible to ensure this initiative gets on the November ballot.

Talking points for chapter meetings

Privatizers are desperate to take back the School Board: Together we can stop them

- The billionaire privatizers' spending on the School Board election keeps increasing day by day and their attack mailers keep getting more vicious and deceiving. Their independent expenditures against our candidates are well over \$4 million, and on track to spend \$1 million a week and push this election to be the most expensive School Board race in US history. These are the people who want to cut our healthcare, undermine our secure retirement, roll back our gains on class size and staffing, and eliminate our union. If you're a voter, you've seen what their money is paying for: offensive attack ads targeting Jackie Goldberg, Patricia Castellanos, and Scott Schmerelson — people who have devoted their lives to public service.
- We counter these attacks by joining precinct walks, talking to voters at the door and telling the truth about our candidates. The community respects and listens to teachers. They remember our strike and are ready to support our candidates when we ask them. The few hours you invest now will help to safeguard our healthcare, our retirement, and our working conditions. We all need to participate because we will all feel the impact of this election. Join a precinct walk this weekend, Monday, March 2, or Tuesday, March 3 to defeat the lies of the billionaire privatizers.

- **All UTLA Chapters, participate in these last four days: Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday Precinct Walks.** Chapter members will meet at the UTLA campaign offices in Carson or Van Nuys and be assigned to neighborhoods for voter outreach in pairs. **See your chapter chair today to sign up.**

UTLA Campaign Offices

Walks for Board District 7 Patricia Castellanos

103 W. Carson Street, Carson, CA 90745

Walks for Board District 3 Scott Schmerelson

6634 Valjean Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91406

Time: GOTV Precinct Walks from campaign offices

Saturday, February 29, 10 AM to 2 PM

Sunday, March 1, 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Monday, March 2, precinct walk until 8 PM, join us anytime after school

Tuesday, March 3, precinct walk until 8 PM, join us anytime after school

If you are interested in walking individually, visit www.lateacherschoice.org to sign up and for more information.

What to expect at Precinct Walks: Members meet at the campaign office to get materials and a quick briefing on message and the PDI mobile app. The PDI app is the tool we use to organize our voter outreach. It shows a map of the houses you are going to on your phone, provides the names of the voters and a place for you to record their responses. Members go out in teams of two and knock on the doors of the assigned houses to talk to voters about what matters to you as a teacher, what matters to them as community members and why our candidates are the best for public education. Our experience is that people love hearing from teachers about the school board campaign. They trust us.

Community Schools Informational Meeting this Thursday, February 27

- One of the victories of our successful strike was winning investments into 30 schools to become Community Schools – to better serve our students, bring more educator and parent voice in, and provide a positive vision of schooling against privatization. Each school designated as a Community School receives one-time general funds of \$150,000 in Year One and \$250,000 in Year Two. The funds allocated for Year One are meant to support planning and preparation for the implementation of the four Community Schools Pillars. All schools designated are required to use part of the funding to select a Community Schools Coordinator for two years.

Seventeen out of the 30 schools have already been selected for the Community Schools designation in Cohort 1, and have been working this academic year (this was their Year One) on their planning and implementation.

- The application process will begin soon for schools interested in applying for the next round, Cohort 2, in which 13 more will be selected.

The timeline for Cohort 2 has been slightly adjusted to allow for schools to have some time to find and hire a Community Schools Coordinator before the school year ends:

- Applications will be made available - March 5, 2020
 - Community Schools Forum (hear from experts & get support on application) - March 21, 2020
 - Community Schools Application due - April 27, 2020
 - Schools notified if they are designated a Community School in Cohort 2 - May 8, 2020
- **UTLA will hold a meeting this week to get information out to our chapters and to begin assisting schools.** The UTLA Community Schools Informational for schools interested in applying for the Community Schools Designation for Cohort 2 will be **this Thursday February 27, 2020 - 6pm to 8pm, UTLA Room 911.** Interested schools should send 1-2 representatives and RSVP to Esperanza Martinez at emartinez@utla.net.

Your data is key to forcing district to reduce overtesting

- Through our strike, we won an agreement to identify all district assessments and the impact on instructional time, with the stated goal of reducing testing by 50%. A joint Testing Task Force was formed and has been meeting according to the agreement, but the district had been dragging its feet on compiling necessary data. Now the district has finally agreed to ask local districts to collect this information from schools, and we need your help to keep administrators accountable and verify the accuracy of the data the district provides.

We ask that every elementary school call a grade-level meeting before March 17 to list all the assessments you administer throughout the school year beyond those mandated by the state or federal government. Elementary school teachers will receive a special email next week with more information.

As the testing task force meets with the district to tackle the issue of overtesting, your grade-level and school-wide discussions will support our push at the table and pressure the district to do right by our students.

The deadline for voting in the UTLA elections is this Friday

- It is not too late to vote in the UTLA elections, however this is the last week. We want every UTLA member to have the opportunity to vote. If you have not received your ballot, lost it, or believe that you should be eligible to vote for an office not on your ballot, please go online to utlaelections.org and click on the tab for the Replacement Ballot Request form.

The deadline to request your pin for online voting is Thursday, February 27 at 4 pm. Your vote must be cast online no later than 8 am on Friday, February 28. The deadline to request a paper ballot has passed but you can still vote online using the pin the election company will send you. If you already have a paper ballot and wish to vote with it, remember that the deadline for receiving it at the election company post office box is 8 am Friday, February 28. **If you are worried your paper ballot won't reach the PO Box in time, vote online.**

If you have other problems with your ballot, please fill out the [Replacement Ballot Request Form](#). Please explain your issue in detail in the Comments section so staff can research your situation.

- Refer to these site if you need support voting online
<https://utlaelections.org/information/how-online-voting-works/>

A direct link to vote online once you have your PIN number:
<https://www.ivsballot.com/UTLA/login.aspx?AcceptsCookies=yes>

UTLA action calendar

February 27: Community Schools informational meeting at UTLA

March 5: SCF petition drop at specified locations

March 18: Area Meetings (special meeting)

School Board Election Calendar

February 29 and March 3: GOTV Precinct Walks

Now through March 3: Voting period

March 3: Election Day (last day to vote)

Member communication not authorized by a candidate or a committee controlled by a candidate.