



# Chapter Talking Points

*November 12, 2019*

## Info for chapter leaders

### **Attend the last Area Meeting of 2019 on November 13**

- It is essential that you attend or send a representative to the November 13 Area Meeting. We will be holding the advisory vote on whether to endorse Bernie Sanders in the Democratic Primary for U.S. President. All members are welcome to come and participate in the vote. We will also get into deeper details about the work that has to be done around bargaining, the School Board race, SCF, and the many other issues facing us. Materials will be available, including petitions for the School Board campaign and the Schools and Communities First Funding Act which will close commercial property tax loopholes and restore \$12 billion a year to schools and other community services.

### **Continue to get signatures for the School Board petition**

- Work the rosters to identify members who are registered to vote in board districts 1, 3, 5, and 7 (marked in last column) and encourage them to sign the petition to commit to vote for the UTLA endorsed candidates. **This is an essential first step in making sure our members vote.**

### **Continue monitoring contract compliance with the Chapter Power Checklist**

- Continue reporting the state of contract compliance and any issues at your site on the [updated Chapter Power Checklist](#).

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## Talking points for chapter meetings

### **Electing the four candidates our schools need**

- **See your Chapter Chair to determine if you are one of the 10,000 members who are registered in Districts 1, 3, 5, or 7. If so, sign the School Board petition now.** We are all counting on you to help us elect a School Board that will work for the benefit of our students, not a board beholden to the whims and schemes of billionaires and special interest groups.
- There are seven seats on the School Board and to have a majority of pro-public education and pro-teacher candidates we need to win the four seats coming up for election in March 2020. Our

four candidates—George McKenna, Scott Schmerelson, Jackie Goldberg, and Patricia Castellanos—will give us the majority we need so we can work together for the benefit of all. To win this majority, it is imperative that all members embrace each of the four candidates as “their” candidate. We all have to take responsibility for turning these four victories into one victory for our schools and our students.

## **Engage in the vote for the possible endorsement of Bernie Sanders for the Democratic Party primary election**

- After weeks of consideration, chapter leaders and members will participate in an advisory vote at the November 13 Area meetings this Wednesday, on the endorsement of Senator Bernie Sanders in the Democratic Party primary. After the advisory vote, the UTLA House of Representatives will vote on the endorsement.

**Even though other candidates have discussed education and some have even come up with a plan of their own, Bernie Sanders still has the strongest K-12 educational plan among all the presidential primary candidates:** His plan includes tripling Title I funding and fully funding IDEA, increasing teacher pay to a minimum starting salary of \$60,000 nationwide with adjustments for cost of living and other factors, and instituting a moratorium on public funds for charter school expansion until a national audit has been completed to determine the impact of charter growth in each state.

—**Read the engagement timeline and [Why a Bernie Endorsement Matters](#)**

## **School Board rejects Nick Melvoin’s school ranking system**

- Last Tuesday, the LAUSD School Board voted 6 to 1 against the School Performance Framework, a system championed by School Board member Nick Melvoin, that would have assigned district schools an obscure single-digit rating on a scale from 1 to 5. Instead, the School Board approved Board Vice President Jackie Goldberg’s proposal to share raw data on students’ test scores. “Summative approaches hide a lot, that’s why we’ve been disaggregating information,” Goldberg said during the meeting.

UTLA has been very critical of Melvoin’s proposed school rating plan. Daniel Barnhart, UTLA Secondary Vice President, called the rating system “Yelp for our schools.” The ultimate intent of SPF was also questionable after the release of CCSA emails where the rating system is discussed as “another pathway for [charter] access to facilities.”

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## **UTLA action calendar**

**November 13:** Area Meetings