



# Chapter Talking Points

February 4, 2020

## Info for chapter leaders

### 2 Neighborhood Walks and 2 Weekend Precinct Walks

- Talk to members about signing up for 2 Thursday Neighborhood Walks and 2 Weekend Precinct Walks for the School Board elections. For details, see the [the chapter chair guide](#) for organizing precinct walks. Select your walking dates and send the precinct walk/neighborhood walk [signup form](#) to [jam@utla.net](mailto:jam@utla.net) as soon as possible.

### School Board & SCF petitions

- Keep working the [School Board](#) and Schools and Communities First petitions. Send the School Board petitions in on a regular basis.

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## Talking points for chapter meetings

### Let's elect our bosses! – the School Board

- The School Board elections will affect everything headed to 2021 and 2022 regarding our healthcare, salary, class size, staffing, etc. We can elect our own bosses, but to push our four School Board candidates to victory on March 3, every school needs to sign up for 2 chapter precinct walks on the weekends and 2 chapter neighborhood walks on Thursdays. Our team: Patricia Castellanos in District 7, Jackie Goldberg in District 5, George McKenna in District 1, and Scott Schmerelson in District 3. ***Regardless of where you live, be prepared to campaign with us for these four candidates because their decisions will impact the entire district.***
  1. **All UTLA Chapters participate in at least 2 Saturday and Sunday Precinct Walks between now and March 3.** Chapter members will meet at the UTLA campaign offices in Carson and Van Nuys and be assigned to neighborhoods for voter outreach in pairs.
  2. **UTLA Chapters located in Board Districts 3, 5, and 7 only hold an additional 2 after school neighborhood walks** to reach out to voters in the neighborhood surrounding their schools for two hours (preferably on Thursdays).
    - See your chapter chair today to sign up.

## **UTLA Campaign Offices:**

### **Walks for Board Districts 5 and 7**

103 W. Carson Street

### **Walks for Board District 3**

6634 Valjean Ave., Van Nuys CA 91406

### **Times:**

Saturdays 10 AM to 2 PM, Sundays 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM

**Individuals: visit [www.lateacherschoice.org](http://www.lateacherschoice.org) to sign up and for more information.**

- **WHAT TO EXPECT**

**Weekend 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 name of the voter and a place for you to record their response. 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 a community member 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.

**Thursday Neighborhood Walks (for chapters in Board Districts 3, 5, and 7 only):** UTLA will provide a packet of materials to the chapter chair ahead of the scheduled walk. Members meet at the school after dismissal to sign in and get a quick briefing and review of the PDI mobile app from the Chapter Chair (staff will help you prepare for this in the days before). Members team up and knock on the doors of registered voters in the neighborhood around the schools for 2 hours using the PDI mobile app to identify which doors to knock on. After a conversation about why it is important for your schools neighborhood to vote for the UTLA endorsed candidate, one of the members records the response in the PDI mobile app.

## **Privatizers, including CCSA, trying to buy their way into the School Board again**

- In a repeat performance from previous School Board elections, the privatizers have stepped up their donations and negative campaigning in the last couple of weeks. Pro-charter businessman Bill Bloomfield has donated more than \$500,000 to date and the California Charter Schools Association has spent \$451,000 in various campaigns, including anti-Schmerelson mailers. We anticipate the influx of pro-charter money, used primarily in negative campaigning against our candidates, will continue until election day.
- We fight back with precinct and neighborhood walks. As they step up their money and negative campaign, we step up our door to door, face to face campaign. Talk to your Chapter Chair to join this fight. Together we can beat the privatizers' money.

## Contract reopeners began last Wednesday, January 29

- On January 29, we began contract reopener bargaining with LAUSD, focusing on issues that need the most attention before full contract bargaining in 2022. We presented our proposals on salary (including bilingual differentials), special education, and class size and staffing (including mental health staffing). The next bargaining session is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12. Read the full text of the proposals [here](#).

## UTLA members to elect officers and board

- Election ballots are now in the mail to members' home addresses. They were mailed Monday, February 3 and are due back by February 28. Ballots will not be sent to school sites.
- Learn more about the candidates at [utla.elections.org](http://utla.elections.org), which has links to candidates' social media pages, flyers, and for officer candidates only, Q&A videos and be sure to participate in the election. The Special Election Edition of UNITED TEACHER will arrive at members' homes this week.

[Candidates for Citywide Office](#)

[Candidates for Area Board of Directors](#)

[Candidates for Special Categories Board of Directors](#)

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## Upcoming events

### Diane Ravitch book signing this Sunday, February 9

- Diane Ravitch will be talking about her new book and signing copies on Sunday, February 9, at 3:30 pm at the Central Library in downtown LA. In "Slaying Goliath: The Passionate Resistance to Privatization and the Fight to Save America's Public Schools, Ravitch fights back against "disruptors" who wish to privatize schools and she celebrates the grassroots efforts of parents, teachers, students, and communities that have rallied to keep their public schools alive. **Space limited. Reserve your seat at <https://ifla.org/event/diane-ravitch>.**

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## UTLA action calendar

**February 5:** Board of Directors meeting

**February 9:** Diane Ravitch book event

**February 12:** House of Reps meeting

### Primary Election Calendar

**February 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30:** Saturday and Sunday Precinct Walks

**February 22 through March 3:** Voting period

**March 3:** Election day (last day to vote)