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# Chapter Talking Points

*March 3, 2020*

## Info for chapter leaders

### **Election Day TODAY**

- Talk to members about participating in the GOTV effort after school today (see below). We need to be out in force on March 3 to get out the vote and overcome the billionaires' negative campaign. Organize a group from your school and walk together. Let's have the largest crowd walking on this last day!

### **This Thursday, March 5 – Drop Schools and Communities First petitions**

- 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.

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## Talking points for chapter meetings

### **GOTV walking Tuesday, March 3 from UTLA offices in Van Nuys and Carson.**

- This is it. We are in an epic fight for our future. Join our final campaign push to get our team elected to the LA school board on March 3: Jackie Goldberg, Scott Schmerelson, Patricia Castellanos, and George McKenna. When we fight, we win and we need to be out in force to win. Talk to your chapter chair or just show up and join us to connect with voters in these last crucial hours.

#### 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:**

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

## If you are one of the lucky ones who can vote in Districts 1, 3, 5, or 7

- **We've crunched the numbers, and our strongest path to victory involves EVERY ONE of our eligible members voting for the Teachers' Choice:**
  - District 1: George McKenna
  - District 3: Scott Schmerelson
  - District 5: Jackie Goldberg
  - District 7: Patricia Castellanos
- In these final days of the campaign, the billionaires and the charter lobby are spending \$20,000 an hour to attack our candidates. Together we can stop them from buying the School Board and threatening our healthcare, our secure retirement, our class size and hiring gains, and more. Together we can elect partners to the board and organize for more progress for our schools and our students.

*It's easier than ever to vote this year because of 3 big changes to the LA County voting system.*

### **VOTE AT ANY VOTE CENTER**

LA County voters can cast a ballot at any one of almost 1,000 Vote Centers across the county—not just the location closest to your home. Find a Vote Center [here](#).

### **VOTE AT WORK**

Because you don't have to go to an assigned location to cast your ballot, you can vote at your school if it is a Voting Center. See links below for the more than 150 school-based Vote Centers, which will be open Tuesday.

### **SCHOOL VOTE CENTERS BY UTLA AREA**

[North](#)

[South](#)

[East](#)

[West](#)

[Central](#)

[Valley East](#)

[Valley West](#)

[Harbor](#)

Go to [UTLA March 3 endorsement page](#) for more endorsements.

- **Coronavirus update**

UTLA is monitoring recent developments regarding the Coronavirus (known as COVID-19). UTLA and LAUSD officials are meeting this week to discuss response protocols and contingencies to prepare our schools in the event of an outbreak.

We are urging LAUSD to review current infection control practices as well as the appropriate supplies and cleaning equipment to stem the possible spread of the virus in LAUSD schools and communities. Among our immediate concerns are that staff and students should not be

sanctioned for taking sick leave, and all schools must be provided with soap and hand sanitizer.

As health experts work to stem the spread of the virus in California, there are some precautions to take specific to school staff, including stepping up reminders to students and parents on current infection control policies:

- Follow good hand hygiene and encourage it in your students. Students should be given additional time and opportunities to wash their hands. Instruct students to wash their hands with soap and water after using the bathroom and before eating.
- Everyone should avoid touching their faces — particularly eyes, nose, and mouth — with unwashed hands.
- Students and staff with any respiratory illness should be encouraged to stay home from school and consult their healthcare providers.

We will provide more information as it becomes available.

## **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 – 3-5-2020
  - Community Schools Forum (hear from experts & get support on application) – 3-21-2020
  - Community Schools Application due – 4-27-2020
  - Schools notified if they are designated a Community School in Cohort 2 – 5-8-2020

## **UTLA internal election results**

- Cecily Myart-Cruz has been elected president of UTLA. She is the first biracial Black woman elected to lead the union in its 50-year history. Ballots for the UTLA citywide elections were counted at UTLA headquarters Friday, February 28 . Full election results are be posted [here](#). The results are pending challenges and must be certified by the UTLA Board to be official. The new officers and Board of Directors take office July 1, 2020, and will serve until June 30, 2023.

## **Time off for Voting**

- If you haven't voted yet, the law provides a maximum of two hours paid time-off, if you do not have sufficient time outside of working hours to vote. Additionally, to allow staff members to exercise their right to vote on March 3, schools should not schedule any before- or after-school faculty meetings or any after-school activities that require staff participation (prescheduled banked time sessions are an exception).
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## **UTLA action calendar**

**March 5:** SCF petition drop at specified locations

**March 18:** Area Meetings (special meeting)

## **School Board Election Calendar**

**March 3:** GOTV Precinct Walks

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

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