

Chapter Talking Points

October 5, 2020

Info for chapter leaders

Area meetings this Wednesday, October 7

- This Wednesday, October 7, we will review our Prop 15 and School Board election campaign, strategize for the final stretch leading to November 3, and discuss outstanding issues related to distance learning. Be sure to join or have a representative from your site attend this meeting. Zoom links will be sent in a separate email on Monday.

Prop 15 and School Board Campaign

- Money is pouring into the opposition coffers at a fast pace. To offset their money advantage, we must step-up our work on the Prop 15 and School Board campaigns using our three-step plan below. Winning the School Board seats and passing Proposition 15 are our main priorities at this time.
- **Our three-step plan to win:**
 1. Get commitments from every member to vote for Prop 15 by asking them to sign onto this online pledge <https://www.utla.net/yes-prop-15-pledge>
 2. Recruit at least 5 members from your chapter to join you for phone banking (from home) for 4 hours in October. Sign up here <https://lateacherschoice.org/#campaignnow>
 3. Get one-on-one commitments from chapter members who are noted on your chapter roster as being registered in Board District 3 and 7 to vote for Scott Schmerelson (BD3) and Paty Castellanos (BD7).

Attached is a [short power point presentation](#) you can use in your virtual chapter meetings. It is also [attached as a pdf](#) in case you want to print it and see the talking points in the notes section easier.

Also attached is [an FAQ](#) and a [handout](#) on Prop 15.

Rosters

Chapter Rosters are updated regularly and sent to your chapter email. Your roster indicates who is registered to vote in Board District 3 or Board District 7, and who has already officially declared their support for Prop 15 by signing the online petition.

[Power Point presentation](#) (will download)

[Power Point presentation](#) (PDF)

[Prop 15 FAQ](#)

[Prop 15 Handout](#)

[Prop 15 Pledge](#)

[Phone banking sign up](#)

Talking points for chapter meetings

Complete the survey on Crisis Distance Learning and the Safe Reopening of Schools

- More than 10,700 UTLA members have already completed the UTLA survey on Crisis Distance Learning and the safe reopening of schools. If you haven't taken the survey yet, please take a few minutes today to do so. Your voice is critically important.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the health, racial justice, and economic crisis impacting public education and the broader society, the UTLA Bargaining Team and Board of Directors want to hear from you about how distance learning is going for you and your students, and about your assessment of the relative risks of returning to in-person instruction. The results of this survey will guide our enforcement of the distance learning sideletter and the bargaining regarding the reopening of schools. The survey will be open until October 9.

- **[MEMBER SURVEY LINK](#)**

If you know a colleague who did not receive the survey link, please share this form with them: <https://www.utla.net/resources/utla-survey-support>

Stop corporate greed - Vote YES and support Proposition 15

- Corporations are afraid of losing the tax loopholes that for years have allowed them to rob our schools and communities of the funding they need. Corporate greed is insatiable and will do anything, including lying, to continue to line the pockets of the wealthy. [Commit to vote Yes](#) and expose the corporate lies against Prop 15. Encourage friends and family to read the actual ballot measure and check out the facts at www.yes15.org/debunk.

PROPOSITION 15

- **RECLAIMS** \$12 billion per year for K-12 schools, community colleges and local communities
- **CLOSES** commercial property tax loopholes that allow big corporations like Chevron & Disney to avoid paying their fair share
- **ENSURES** full transparency & accountability for all reclaimed revenue
- Completely **EXEMPTS** all residential properties
- **PROTECTS** homeowners and renters
- **EXEMPTS** smaller businesses valued at under \$3 million and agricultural land
- Only 10% of the biggest, wealthiest commercial properties will generate 92% of the revenue

Everyone must do their part - phone bank this week to elect an educator-friendly School Board

- There is less than a month to election day on November 3 and vote-by-mail ballots are arriving in mailboxes this week. This is the time to work extra hard to get our candidates, Scott Schmerelson and Paty Castellanos, elected to the School Board. Our candidates are under attack by the privatization forces spending millions of dollars trying to defeat us. Don't wait till it is too late. Don't stay on the sidelines, thinking you won't be missed or needed. It takes all of us working together to get our candidates elected. Your colleagues and your students are counting on you to help them elect an unbiased School Board that will work for all students and will respect educators. Sign up to phone bank today at <https://lateacherschoice.org/#campaignnow>
- Talk to your Chapter Chair about phone banking as a group and commit to phone bank 4 hours in October. It is easy and you can do it from home at a time of your choosing, but the impact on the election will be immeasurable.
- **Phone banking hours_**

Daily: 4 - 8 PM

Saturday, Oct 10 and Sunday, Oct. 11: 12 - 8 PM

Ongoing negotiations and Bargaining on physical reopening

- We are in the process of negotiating around voluntary work conditions for members providing one-on-one tutoring, assessments, and targeted adult education classes, all programs that require some level of in-person work. Until we reach an agreement on the work conditions, we are encouraging our members to not volunteer for these programs.
- We will soon be bargaining around the health, safety, and learning conditions needed for a physical reopening of schools. This does NOT mean that we will be advocating going in soon. The inside and outside transmission rates, district adherence to health and safety protocols, and the testing and contact tracing program will all need to meet appropriate standards. All members should participate in the UTLA survey on Crisis Distance Learnings and the Safe Reopening of Schools. The results of the survey will inform this bargaining.

UTLA House of Reps nominations open in October

- Self-nominations will open the first week of October to serve for the 2021-22 term on the UTLA House of Representatives, the policy-making body of our union (see Article V-House of Representatives). The House of Representatives meets six times a year to debate policy and vote on motions that determine UTLA's direction. UTLA members can self-nominate based on their school and House Electoral District.
- All UTLA members in good standing are eligible to nominate themselves. In those electoral districts where the number of candidates exceeds the number of House seats, balloting will be held. Other House of Representative members include the Board of Directors, UTLA-R, Committee Chairs, and Representatives specified in Article V, Section 2 b. Links to self-nomination forms will be posted at utla.net and emailed to members.

Early Education Center Board of Directors

- There will be a special election for a vacancy to fill the Early Education Center (EEC) Board of Director position. Ballots will be mailed out the end of November to Early Education Center members. Be sure that UTLA has your correct address and go to <https://utlaelections.org> for more information.

UTLA calendar

Oct. 7: Area meetings

Oct. 10: Pre-Retirement Workshop, 8 am to 12 noon

Oct. 14: PACE meeting

Oct. 28: House of Reps meeting

UTLA member communication not authorized by a candidate or a committee controlled by a candidate.