Who’s better for our schools?

CANDIDATES FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Tony Thurmond

He is committed to public education and youth
The proud father of two daughters in public schools, Thurmond’s life work has centered on public education and public service. These commitments run deep—his mother immigrated from Panama to become a teacher.

He has been a social worker and has taught
Holding dual master’s degrees in law and social policy and social work, Thurmond spent 20 years as a social worker and has 12 years of direct experience teaching life skills classes, after-school programs, and career training.

He has experience as a local elected leader
From 2005-2008, while serving on the Richmond City Council, Thurmond was the liaison to Richmond’s Youth Commission, Workforce Investment Board, and the West Contra Costa Unified School District. Thurmond then joined that East Bay school board, serving from 2008 to 2012. He oversaw truancy prevention programs, backed school-based mental health programs, and launched a program to teach life skills to disadvantaged youth. He helped restore district fiscal solvency, while preserving counseling, after-school, music, and athletic programs. Thurmond led a campaign that reduced school suspensions by 27 percent.

He was elected to the State Assembly in 2014
Improving and supporting public education have been Thurmond’s priorities in Sacramento. He has fought for funding to keep students in school, to ensure youth in foster care have college opportunities, to expand early education and after-school programs, and to expand school-based health, mental health, and social service programs. Thurmond has supported housing for educators and other incentives to help attract and retain educators in California.

Marshall Tuck

He takes money from Wall Street
Deep pockets once again are spending big money to try to elect Tuck because he supports a corporate takeover of public schools that would allow out-of-state for-profit companies to run California public schools with taxpayer money.

He is not a teacher
Although he has made numerous claims to have been an educator, Tuck has zero professional teaching experience.

He fights against teachers
Attempting another time to elect Tuck is the top priority of groups whose mission is to scapegoat teachers, weaken their rights, undermine their secure retirement, and even eliminate teachers’ unions.

His agenda is a full-out assault on educators’ rights
Tuck’s history has been to push so-called education “reforms,” which translates to more high-stakes standardized testing, evaluating and paying teachers based on student test scores, and less freedom for teachers to teach students the critical thinking skills they need for success academically and in the adult work world.

In a nutshell, Tuck’s agenda is a full-out assault on educators’ rights. He has promoted eliminating the right to a hearing before dismissal, increasing the probationary period from two years to 10 years, and eliminating experience as a factor in decisions about layoffs.

He believes in testing over teaching
Tuck’s education agenda is to push more high-stakes standardized testing, evaluating and paying teachers based on student test scores, and less freedom for teachers to teach.
It’s the same tired anti-educator agenda and another Tuck campaign to promote the corporate takeover of California’s public schools.

Vote Tony Thurmond on June 5, 2018
ENDORSED BY UTLA & THE CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY
Who’s better for our state?

CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA

Gavin Newsom

He is endorsed by CTA and CFT
Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom has a clear progressive vision for our state, anchored by fully funded and supported public schools. A champion for social justice and equal rights, Newsom has fought for school safety, Dreamers, and for marriage equality. He’s fought for universal health care, fair tax structures, and increasing the minimum wage. Newsom will stand with and for students, educators, and all working families across California.

He prevented teacher layoffs as mayor
Newsom has long supported increased funding for education and is committed to making investing in students a top priority as governor. As mayor of San Francisco, Newsom set up a rainy-day fund that prevented teacher layoffs during the recession and state budget cuts.

He opposes privatization
Newsom opposes the privatization of public education and the proliferation of charters, especially those run by private management companies that want to profit off our kids. He supports holding charters to the same standards of accountability and transparency as neighborhood public schools.

He believes that public schools must serve all students
In encounters with educators, Newsom often jokes how he was not the kind of child that charter schools sought out. This is because Newsom was diagnosed as having severe dyslexia and was often the “low performing kid” in the class. Dyslexia still affects Newsom, but he says it paved his way to strengthen other skills and it informed his belief that public schools must serve all students—not just some.

Vote Gavin Newsom on June 5, 2018
ENDORSED BY UTLA–CTA–CFT

Antonio Villaraigosa

He turned his back on teachers’ unions
In 2005 Antonio Villaraigosa, a former UTLA staff member, turned his back on teachers’ unions during his second bid to become mayor of Los Angeles when he championed mayoral takeover of LAUSD. Villaraigosa sought to do so through an assembly bill, signed by then-Governor Schwarzenegger, that eventually was ruled unconstitutional.

His Partnership schools received a landslide of “no confidence” votes from teachers
Villaraigosa then challenged LAUSD and was able to gain control of some schools through a nonprofit entity called the Mayor’s Partnership for Los Angeles Schools. During his leadership, teachers at eight of the 10 campuses gave the Partnership landslide “no confidence” votes.

He was labeled a failure as LA mayor
In 2009, Villaraigosa made the cover of Los Angeles magazine, under the headline “Failure.” The accompanying article detailed how Villaraigosa confused campaigning with governance, wasted 22 weeks in his first term trying to take over the school board, and did little to help education in the city of Los Angeles.

He worked for a controversial company accused of exploiting the Latino community
Shortly before a group of black and Latino community leaders accused Herbalife Ltd. of being a pyramid scheme and called for its investigation, Villaraigosa was hired by Herbalife as an advisor. While Villaraigosa asserted, “Herbalife has been a solid member of the Los Angeles business community and a strong presence in the Latino community,” the community leaders declared that a vast majority of Herbalife distributors—who were primarily Latino—were paid less than a living wage.