



UTLA Membership Rap

Hello! My name is _____, and I am the UTLA [*Chapter Chair or Vice Chair*] here at our school [*or chapter*].

I want to welcome you to your union: UTLA, United Teachers Los Angeles.

We are an organization of educators who have the right to legally negotiate our salaries, benefits, **and** working conditions with our employer, LAUSD, as a group. We are also part of a nationwide movement by educators to improve education and the lives of the students we educate.

Unlike non-union workplaces, we have a say in our compensation and working conditions. As members of UTLA, we decide together what is important to **us** as educators and set the agenda for these negotiations with LAUSD.

[For substitutes, point out that we are one of the few teacher unions that include substitutes in our bargaining unit. We see substitutes as full members and part of our union family!]

As educators, we alone fund our union with the resources needed that allow us to build the powerful organization we have today, through which we can win pay increases (like the 5% we just got), lower class sizes, hire more staff, and protect our rights as employees by enforcing our contract.

Right now, I am going to ask you to join United Teachers Los Angeles officially. Here is a link to the membership card, which takes just a few minutes to fill out. **I am going to give you a few minutes to fill out Sections 1 and 2.**

ACTION – Share Link (in chat if on Zoom, or by email or text to phone if face to face):

<https://bitly.com/3vmXIVx>

ACTION – Wait for new member to complete Sections 1 and 2, and then move onto Section 3

Section 3: PACE

PACE is our Political Action Council for Educators. Our union dues can't be used for political purposes, so we have PACE to advocate for education issues.

ASK: Do you know what School Board Members do? *[Wait for them to answer — add that School Board members set district policy and vote to approve our contracts — which include our health insurance, pay, class size, staffing, and other policies.]*

During our last School Board race, billionaire developer Eli Broad wrote a check for \$100,000 a day before the election. **None** of us can write a \$100,000 check, but collectively we can help fund campaigns to get pro-public education candidates onto the School Board and into local offices with our monthly PACE donations. We use this money to get our message out during precinct walks, phone banks, and mailers.

We also use this money to advocate for pro-public education legislation and legislators. Over the last few years, with a coalition of educators, parents, and community, we were able to get charter school accountability and transparency legislation **signed into law**. This was a *huge* lift, and we were able to do this through lobbying our legislators and the governor.

We are going into another round of School Board elections in 2022 and we are still fighting LAUSD's new privatization scheme called "Student Centered Funding."

Imagine that it's the day after these School Board races and we've now lost our ability to move a majority of the school board. Then, we find out that the pro-public education candidate we endorsed lost by *only 100* votes. You would want to know, without regrets, that you had done everything you could to get our candidate elected. Your \$16 per month could be the difference between electing someone who fights for public education versus someone who wants to privatize it. So, I am asking you to sign up for \$16 per month for PACE.

[For substitute teachers, point out that no deductions will begin until they have served 100 days within a school year to gain their permanent status.]

Will you join me in contributing to PACE?

This is Section 3 of the form. I will give you a few minutes now to fill it out.