WHY A BERNIE ENDORSEMENT MATTERS

Bernie Sanders is the only major presidential candidate – now or in the last 25 years – who has been willing to take on the billionaires behind the national privatization agenda. That’s why the UTLA Board of Directors voted 35-1 and the House of Representatives voted 135-46 to begin a member engagement process to consider endorsing Sen. Bernie Sanders for President in the Democratic Party primary.

UTLA Engagement Process

The process approved by the UTLA House and Board calls for a deeper engagement among leaders and members than ever before. An endorsement in the primary could help us capitalize on the power we built during our strike and seize the opportunity to impact the national conversation on public education. Below is the timeline of the process:

- Sept. 11 – UTLA Board of Directors votes 35-1 to begin exploring an endorsement process for Sen. Bernie Sanders.
- Sept. 18 – UTLA House of Representatives votes 135-46 to confirm the process to explore endorsing Sanders.
- Oct. 2 – Chapter leaders to discuss and review endorsement materials.
- Oct. 2-Nov. 12 – Chapter leaders engage members on the UTLA endorsement process.
- Nov. 13- Area Meeting and advisory up or down vote by chapter leaders; to be followed up by a final decision on endorsement by the House of Representatives.

Bernie Stands With UTLA

- Sen. Bernie Sanders endorsed our 2017 candidates in the LAUSD school board election.
- He was the first major US politician to publicly support our 2019 strike.
- He pushed for donations to our strike fund, leading to a cascade of influential support and an increase in the fund of more than $100,000.
- Bernie spoke at our 2019 Leadership Conference and said that UTLA is leading the political revolution.
- He signed a pledge to support the Schools and Communities First funding initiative and Our New Deal for Public Schools.
- In the days after his UTLA speech, LAUSD employees ranked among his top 10 donors nationally, and teachers are the No. 1 profession of his donors.

“When it comes to progressive K-12 policies and an anti-privatization plan, no other candidate comes close to Bernie. A UTLA endorsement leading up to the California primary would echo across the country.”

Aurora Mireles, NBCT
1st Grade Teacher – Rowan Ave. ES
Best K-12 Education Plan
Sanders is the candidate with the strongest educational plan, including:

- Triple Title 1 funding and fully fund IDEA at 10% above what was promised 40 years ago (for a total of at least 50% of the cost of special education)
- Increase teacher pay to a minimum starting salary of $60,000 nationwide with adjustments for cost of living and other factors
- Public support of the Schools and Communities First Initiative which would raise $11 billion in funding for California schools and social services
- Ban for-profit charters and support the moratorium on public funds for charter school expansion until a national audit has been completed to determine the impact of charter growth in each state
- Implement accountability measures for charter schools
- Increase public school funding overall including $5 billion in funding for sustainable community schools
- This is just some of his detailed education platform – much more can be found at: https://berniesanders.com/en/issues/reinvest-in-public-education/

Electability: Sanders Can Win
As the electorate becomes more diverse, defeating Trump will require a candidate who can motivate a diverse coalition of voters. With some of the highest polling with women, young voters, people of color, and independents, Sanders is that candidate.

- Sanders leads with Latino voters, and is second only to Biden with African-American voters.
- Sanders performs best with the largest voting block in the country, independent voters, beating Trump by 10 points among independents.
- Sanders is the first candidate to reach 1 million donors, the only candidate with more individual donors than Trump, and the candidate with the most donors in the 206 swing counties that flipped from Obama to Trump.

Expanding the Labor Movement With Strong Worker Rights Platform
Sanders is the only candidate with a plan to systematically strengthen the union movement. His Workplace Democracy Plan will create the conditions for working people to build power through unions and challenge economic inequality. Such a shift will change the conditions in which we negotiate with the district and greatly improve the lives of our students.

“Bernie Sanders has the only campaign that isn’t about an individual—it’s about a broad movement, just like our strike was.”

Cecily Myart-Cruz
UTLA/NEA Vice President