

Oakland School Board Endorsements for the Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club

Four of the seven OUSD Board seats are up for election in Nov, making 2020 critical. The fact that no incumbents are running presents even more opportunity to reshape the school board. The board currently has a majority of pro-privatizers and directors who are unable/unwilling to exert the political will to move the district to financial and academic stability as well as away from a very inequitable distribution of its limited resources.

Privatizing organizations like GO Public Schools and CCSA (California Charter School Association) are certain to funnel hundreds of thousands of dollars into these campaigns and must be strenuously opposed.

The Education Committee is evaluating the many candidates and will follow with endorsement recommendations. Following are links to interviews, written questionnaire responses and forums conducted by the teachers' union and other community groups:

- 1) The OEA has interviewed most of the candidates and has posted the interviews and responses to written questions online:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-kCn0vky4aOl2T4KTJ03L_KU0ueMyKZjgBi1wz51HgE/edit

And for those of you who may also be puzzled by how to get to the candidates answers to questions in both interviews and questionnaires you will not see the usual arrow to click on when you roll your cursor over the name or question. Instead you have to roll your cursor over the candidate's name, click on it despite lack of an arrow and then click on what pops up. Same for the interviews except the clicking will occur on the questions not the candidate's names.

- 2) Josh Krafchin, a local education activist, sponsored an online forum in May and plans to hold more forums: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=275459250255152>
- 3) Action 2020, a local education activist organization, is holding a series of forums on the school board race:
- 4) Our Wellstone Education Committee interviewed only 4 of the candidates (Dist. 1 Stacy Thomas, Dist. 5 LeRoy Gaines, Dist. 7 Kristina Molina and Bronche Gerard Taylor). The reason we only interviewed Thomas, Gaines and Taylor was because they were late filers who didn't participate in the interviews above. We interviewed Molina as she appeared to be among the most progressive candidates but we wanted to clarify with she was active in the anti-vaccination movement. For these 4 you will have to rely on our Committee's summary conclusions and recommendations which will be provided soon.

District 1: https://www.action2020oakland.org/ousd_district_1_forum

District 3: https://www.action2020oakland.org/ousd_district_3_school_board_candidate_forum

District 5: https://www.action2020oakland.org/ousd_district_5_school_board_candidate_forum

District 7: https://www.action2020oakland.org/ousd_district_7_school_board_candidate_forum

4) GO Public Schools, a local pro-privatization organization, held an endorsement forum: <https://goadvocatesoakland.org/2020/07/2020-school-board-candidate-endorsement-process/>

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Below is the list of candidates running for school board. This is final. Filing closed on August 12th.

#### District 1

Includes Chabot, Claremont, Emerson, Hillcrest, Kaiser, Peralta, Piedmont Ave, Sankofa, Oakland International and Oakland Tech.

Currently represented by Jody London.

- Austin Dannhaus
- Sam Davis
- Stacy Thomas

#### District 3

Includes Hoover, Lafayette, M.L. King, Westlake, Place/Prescott, West Oakland Middle, McClymonds, Bunche and Street Academy.

Currently represented by Jumoke Hinton Hodge.

- Maiya Edgerly
- Mark Hurty
- Cherisse Gash
- Maximo Santana
- Van Cedric Williams

#### District 5

Includes Bridges, Brewer, Fruitvale, Glenview, Global Family, International Community, Manzanita Community and Seed, Think College Now, United For Success, Urban Promise, Fremont and Life Academy.

Currently represented by Rosie Torres.

- Leroy Gaines
- Mike Hutchinson
- Shelia Pope Lawrence
- Jorge Lerma

#### District 7

Includes Acorn, Brookfield, Elmhurst, Encompass, Esperanza, Korematsu Academy, Grass Valley, Howard, Madison (upper and lower) New Highland, Reach, Rise, Castlemont, Rudsdale and Sojourner Truth Independent Study.

Currently represented by James Harris.

- Kristina Molina
- Ben Tapscott
- Bronche Jerard Taylor
- Clifford Thompson
- Victor Valerio