

2019 SPRING ELECTION

FTA DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE SPECIAL ELECTION

-SHORT TERM ENDING JUNE 2019

JOHN HAZELETT

NO STATEMENT

ROM ORM



I have worked in education for many years, starting as a B.I.A., Khmer and English for Fresno unified in 1992. Productive working and learning conditions have always been a top priority for me. If I am elected to the executive board, I will continue to emphasize optimal working conditions for our members and ideal learning environments for our students. Please use your vote to help me promote the continued success of the Fresno Teachers Association by supporting me. Thanks for your participation in this election.

FTA DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

TERI REICHERT (INCUMBENT)

NO STATEMENT

MARISA RODRIGUEZ



I am grateful for the opportunity to further serve FTA. I am in my eighth year of teaching at the secondary level. I have worked within FUSD for the past 5 years at Fort Miller Middle School. This has been my third year serving as FTA rep for my site, during which we have maintained 100% membership at the Fort. I am honored to have been nominated for this position.

I started my career in education working as an After School Program Leader with Teaching Fellows at Terronez Middle School. While obtaining my credential through Fresno Pacific, I student taught at Roosevelt High School. Working at both sites, I fell in love with the diversity of FUSD students. In the past 2 years I have worked summer school sessions at Cesar Chavez Adult School and Hoover High School. Throughout these experiences I have enjoyed serving a variety of students from different age groups.

Throughout my time as an educator and across school sites I have been inspired by colleagues to participate in the future development of FUSD. We are living in exciting times with all the activism-surrounding labor unions throughout the country in response to the Janus Supreme Court decision. As a history major and social science teacher, I feel a responsibility to engage in this work. I take the opportunity to serve FTA very seriously, and if elected, I will strive to uphold a sense of professionalism and devotion to our kids across the district.

Thanks for your consideration.

LINDA HERMAN (INCUMBENT)



Twenty-nine years in the district, a family history in education, and the raising of my four children, have all been influences in my career as a teacher. My love for the students that we dedicate our lives to each and every year finds me wanting to continue to use my voice in the decisions that our made about the future of teaching in our district. Since being elected to serve on the Executive Board, I have been around many great colleagues who have shared with me ideas/concerns/ thoughts, for how to work smarter not harder in a field where the pendulum is constantly swinging. To be able to share these ideas, and be a part of the inside workings of our FTA union (where decisions are made that can actually effect change) is where I am feeling lead to keep moving forward in my career in education. As so many others of you who are reading this, I too am concerned every year as changes are made that will affect the way I, and all of you as well, will teach. The voice of reason behind our great population of talented and highly qualified teachers, is none other than our powerful teacher's union. I would love for you to again elect me to be one of your Directors At Large, so that I can continue to represent you in the manner that you are deserving. Put your faith and trust in me to continue to be your voice. Thank you.

JOHN HAZELETT

NO STATEMENT

MEGHAN SCHIMMEL



I have always seen myself as a reluctant leader, but have also found it hard to keep my mouth shut when things don't seem quite right. So as you can see it is a bit of a catch 22! This is what must have made it easy for my now retired teaching neighbor Bob Hoe to approach me early on in my career and say, "You should be a union rep!" And so began this crazy, amazing, joyful, stressful, fulfilling, life changing ride.

Life changing because this union work has not only changed my life through all I've been involved in, but through all of the people I have met and things we have overcome and changes made in our district, our schools, our classrooms, our communities, as well as in our students and families lives. This work, to improve the future of FTA and Fresno Unified, never stops and I would like to continue to do what I can to that effort.

My desire is to continue serving you, the members, through representation on the Executive Board as a Member at Large. Even when I have not always agreed with how to reach the goals we have set for our union, I have always tried to find common ground to help us get closer to an ultimate goal while representing all member's concerns.

It is with this intent that I humbly ask you to vote Meghan Schimmel for Executive Board Member at Large.

DEBORAH SCHMIDT (INCUMBENT)



I feel fortunate to have been selected to serve as Director-at-Large on the FTA executive board during this past year. It has been both an eye opening and learning experience for which I am grateful.

I have been active with FTA for the past 22 years, first as a participating member and then as a rep for Fresno Adult School. I have attended four NEA-RAs, and I was honored to serve on the last FTA bargaining team. I have seen great changes in FTA over the last 22 years. The positive movement over the last 4 to 5 years has been nothing short of amazing. We avoided a strike, negotiated a contract that some said we would never receive, and we are thriving post-Janus. In my eyes, FTA is stronger and more effective than ever before! I am proud have been a part of these victories.

As members of FTA, we are currently looking forward toward even greater possibilities for continuing growth which include engaging our community in ways that can benefit both FTA and our community with new and expanding opportunities. This will allow teachers to fulfill a new interactive role with our community beyond that within the boundaries of our schools and FUSD.

I am excited about these opportunities for continuing growth and ask for your support in helping move FTA forward towards its full potential by voting for me, Deborah Schmidt, for the position of FTA Director-at-Large.

MARINA SANTOS (INCUBENT)



My name is Marina Santos and I'm running as Director-at-Large for FTA. In the three years since joining Fresno Unified School District, I have taught at a high school north and at one south of Shaw. The disparities in classroom resources, instructional leaders, and access to ongoing professional development opportunities have given me reason to raise my voice for change at my school site, in my union, and at FTA's Executive Board table. As a colleague, I rallied support for differential professional development for ten teachers who were sent to conferences for two consecutive years. As an English teacher inundated with district policies and procedures, I was elected to sit on the District Assessment Council and Unit Study teams where I objected to costly district assessments and demanded culturally responsive teaching. As an active Eboard officer, I went from strike organizing to new teacher organizing. My rally call was to "be ready for the unknown" at the BAT meetings to "be about it" at several New Teacher Orientations/Conferences. That call--"to be about it" has defined my role and driven my passion for a better union. Please reaffirm my voice in the union by reelecting me Marina Santos, as Director-at-Large! Thank you!

ROM ORM



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vote to help me promote the continued success of the Fresno Teachers Association by supporting me. Thanks for your participation in this election.

STATE COUNCIL

JEROME RICE



I have had the honor of serving you these past 6 years at CTA State Council. I currently serve on the Political Involvement Committee at State Council as Recording Secretary. Serving on this committee has been an eye-opening experience to the collective power of CTA. Attacks on public employees and attacks on public education have been successfully turned back because of CTA's work on our behalf.

Many of these attacks come in the form of ballot initiatives. These initiatives are often withdrawn and never make it to the ballot because of CTA's ability to flex statewide political muscle. Recently public school champion, Tony Thurmond was elected with the help of CTA's concerted efforts; Thurmond's billionaire-supported, anti-union, pro-charter school opponent was defeated in a close contest.

Our affiliation with CTA is important for FTA; from training our members to providing added resources in the way of grants, we need to continue to collaborate with CTA and coordinate our efforts whenever it is practical and beneficial to our members. With your support, I hope to continue serving you at State Council. FTA members would also greatly benefit from representatives to CTA State Council like Jon Bath and Deb Schmidt. Both have been very involved in FTA and either would serve you well on the council. Please cast one of your votes for me, Jerome Rice, thank you very much!

JOHN HAZELETT

NO STATEMENT

DEBORAH SCHMIDT



As an active member of FTA for the past 22 years and having served as a site rep, NEA-RA delegate, a member of the last bargaining team, and current director-at-large on the executive

board, I see the opportunity to serve on the CTA State Council as an additional avenue for both supporting and promoting FTA on state and national level.

Last year at the NEA-RA in Minneapolis, I joined both NEA and CTA as a lifetime member. I intend to advocate for education and teachers at the local, state, and national level for the duration of my membership which is **the remainder of my life**. Serving on CTA State Council will allow me to gain more knowledge of policies and procedures at the state level. It will also promote opportunities to network and establish connections at both the state and national level which would prove indispensable in my future efforts in advocacy for education.

I would appreciate your vote as a candidate for CTA State Council.

JON BATH



I hope you can elect me, Jon Bath, with one of your votes so I can remain on the CTA State Council. While I am involved in many ways with FTA this is actually a small time commitment that I believe is well worth the effort. State Council meetings only occur three times a year and currently I serve on the Retirement Committee to help guide CTA policy in regards to our CALSTRS program. This is also very helpful to me so that I can better understand our retirement system to better serve FTA members.

Currently I am serving FTA as Negotiations Co-Chair and as the chair of FTA's Political Action Committee. In these roles I have discovered that knowledge is power. Yes, I keep quite busy! But I take on these positions at the direction of our FTA President and our FTA Executive Board.

Guess what? I hope you elect me to remain on CTA State Council. But more importantly I hope you join in to help FTA improve education in FUSD. Union fees really only cover the cost to service basic needs of members and our true power comes from the collective volunteer work that has been helping us see positive gains for members and students in the last few years. So please participate in the events, become a site rep, or maybe consider running for Executive Board and you can help lead our organization. Thanks for your support.