



FRESNO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2023 Campus Connect: *Election Issue*

Voting will take place March 13, 2023 through March 23, 2023.



OFFICE: FTA Director at Large

Term of Office: 2023-2025



ERIC MENDOZA #1

My name is Eric Mendoza, and I am currently a FTA site rep at Addams Elementary. Addams has a large staff and student body that presents unique challenges for site reps.

Over the years, I have worked tirelessly at my site to advocate for staff and students.

That advocacy has led to improved working conditions for our staff, safer environments for our students, and the resolution of several CBA violations at our site.

A few of the wins I obtained for our site include: The elimination of requiring our teaching staff to do unsafe crossing duty on busy streets, a safer dismissal process for teachers and students in primary grades, and obtaining back pay for teachers who had been receiving deployed students without compensation.

As a teacher with FUSD, I understand the unique struggles our teacher's face. Including, working tirelessly every day in a system that at times undervalues us as educators. Our teachers show up to work every day, with very few resources, and still strive to give their best to their students. I believe our staff's hard work deserves to be recognized and that our teachers and staff should have a seat at the decision-making table at our sites.

I am a strong and proven advocate for teachers and staff and if elected as director at large, I will continue to advocate for staff and students every day.

Thank you for your support!



**MICHAEL DUNLOP #2
Incumbent**

Hello fellow members of the Fresno Teachers Association. My name is Michael Dunlop and I am proud to be a current Director at Large on the Executive Board. As I run for another term, I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to advocate for the arts and electives teachers within our organization and I am hoping to have the opportunity to continue this work. The work that FTA does to support all Fresno Unified teachers is truly admirable, and I am committed to furthering our shared goals and objectives.

If re-elected, I pledge to continue my tireless advocacy for elementary music teachers, the arts, and all educators within our community. I believe that the success of our organization depends on the strength of our collective voice, and I am honored to be a part of that.

I ask for your support once again during this year's election. Please cast your vote for me between March 13th and March 23rd. Together, we can make a positive impact on the lives of Fresno Unified teachers and students.



**RACHEL DOMINGUEZ
#3**

My name is Rachel Dominguez. I am running for FTA Director At Large. I am an electrician and a proud member of FTA as a trades professional. I have been an electrician with FUSD since 2015. Before that I was a dues paying, member in good standings with the IBEW Local 100. I come from a strong union family background. I have multiple family members that are educators in our organization. I am a strong believer in union solidarity. I have served on the last two bargaining cycles and I am currently on both the teachers and trades bargaining teams. I have been a part of Rep. Council as a site rep. or alternate since 2016. I am here to stand with educators and advocate for them and I stand with all our FTA members. I advocate for children, education, equity, diversity, and our community. I am ready to fight hard for our educators, trades professionals, nurses and our entire organization to get the respect and support that is needed and deserved. I look forward to the opportunity to working with and for you all of us! Helping us, so we can do the best for the students.



**MARISA RODRIGUEZ #4
Incumbent**

I am grateful for the opportunity to further serve FTA. I am in my twelfth year of teaching at the secondary level. I have worked within FUSD for the past 9 years, first at Fort Miller Middle and now at Roosevelt High. I previously served as FTA rep for Fort Miller, during which we maintained 100% membership. I have served as a Director at Large for the past 4 years now and I'm excited to be running again for the same 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 7 years I have been active with our FTA organization. It has been both stressful and exciting to see our organization come through the "Pre-strike" and pandemic years.

Throughout my time as an educator and across school sites I have been inspired by colleagues to participate in the future development of educators in our community. 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.



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MEGHAN SCHIMMEL #5
Incumbent

Greetings Fellow FTA Members, I once again come before you and ask for you to consider me for a Director at Large position.

I have had the opportunity these last few terms to serve you as a Director at Large, which has allowed me to advocate on your behalf. For this I thank you.

The importance of this work has not been something I take lightly, nor is it a venture I could have taken on my own. It is because of all of you that we have been successful at achieving our goals and fighting for the contractual rights we deserve! Even when there has not always been complete agreement on 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 that goal while representing all member's concerns.

I am proud to have worked with the other board leaders to create a clear vision for our schools and district, while continuing to protect and maintain the rights of our members when they have needed it most.

It is with this intent that I humbly ask you vote Meghan Schimmel for Director at Large.



JOSE SANDOVAL #6
Incumbent

Greetings fellow FTA members, My name is Jose Sandoval, I've been a teacher for 10 years in FUSD. For the past two years I've served as one of six directors at large. In that time, I've been very vocal about the lack of support for our SPED teachers, about the need for increased social emotional supports, for elementary sites to have full time paras, and most recently fighting for increased safety measures in our schools.

With the tragic events that have occurred across the country in schools, it is imperative that leadership does what is necessary to keep our schools safe. With a two-billion-dollar annual budget the district should never deny any of our sites the materials and/or security personnel to keep them safe.

Unfortunately, what I've seen in this district is a culture of fear on campuses. I believe we can empower our educators to advocate for themselves by enforcing what is ours, the collective bargaining agreement. Empowered teachers excel in the classroom and when we excel so will our students. The district wants to increase minutes and micromanage teachers, but quite honestly, we are tired of being disrespected by people who have no idea how to be effective in a classroom. I believe it's time we own our power and systemically change this district.

I know I have so much more to offer. I plan to continue advocating for teachers and students across this district. Please entrust me with your vote on March 13th.

Thank you,
 Jose Sandoval



ROM ORM #7
Incumbent

I have worked in education for many years, starting as a B.I.A., Khmer and English for Fresno Unified in 1992. Currently I teach 4th grade at Norseman Elementary School. If I am reelected to the executive board, I will continue to emphasize optimal working conditions for all of our members and ideal learning environments for our students. Please use your vote to help me promote the continued success in the Fresno Teachers Association by supporting me. Thank you for participation in this election.



JON BATH#8
Incumbent

No Statement

**IMPORTANT
 ELECTION
 INFORMATION**

Electronic voting **opens at 9:00 am on March 13, 2023 and closes on March 23, 2023 at 5:00 pm.** You may also vote via paper ballot in the office between 1-5 pm.

Please make sure to cast your vote. If you do not receive an email with the voting information please send your correct personal email to Janette@fresnoteachers.org.

*The order of candidates is according to the ballot and following CTA guidelines.

**F N U V E M D P R Z C H S Y
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Become involved cast your vote!



FRESNO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2023 Campus Connect: *Election Issue*



OFFICE: CTA State Council

Term of Office: 2023-2026



CHRISTOPHER FINLEY #15

There are many challenges that face us as teachers, and our hope lies in us having a unified voice. Our individual interest must be rooted in the greater good, our students and our communities depend on it. The role of the union is to address the needs of our schools and communities, and I am committed to doing this work. What this looks like for each of us may be different, but it will be our commonalities that will better public education for the masses. Our voice will be our rallying cry. As a member of state council, I will bring your voice to the table. Our mission as a union is to insure public policy that guarantees access to a quality public education. I am a second-generation educator following in the footsteps of my father who fought against segregation and discrimination during his tenure as a public-school teacher and administrator. Today's fight includes special interest and those who would like to see public education dismantled and put in the hands of private for profit corporations. We know that this model would not serve all of our children equitably. I have previously served on the state council as a delegate, and it is my will to serve you once again. I am well versed in the challenges that we as educators face and would love to be your advocate at the state level. I am asking for your vote of confidence for state council delegate.



MEGHAN SCHIMMEL #16
Incumbent

Greetings Fellow FTA Members, I once again come before you and ask for you to consider me for a State Council position.

I have had the opportunity these last few terms to serve you on the Teacher Evaluations and Academic Freedom committee which has advocated fiercely to protect teacher rights and autonomy within the classroom. The importance of this work was especially highlighted during the height of the recent pandemic as policy was created, pushed forward in committee, and on the council floor that went on to guide district policy and practice statewide, including here in the Central Valley as well as Fresno Unified.

I am proud to have worked with a State Council team and on a committee who has been on the forefront of protecting our teachers in the times they have needed us most. It is because of this that I desire to continue serving you, the members, as a State Council Representative.

It is with this intent that I humbly ask you vote Meghan Schimmel for State Council Representative.



MARINA SANTOS #17
Incumbent

My name is Marina Santos and I'm running for the California Teachers Association State Council Representative. My beliefs are shaped by my 17 years+ of teaching high school English. I have extensive educational experience, from teaching at a public charter school, then at a rural one-high school school district, and, finally, at a diverse, urban high school for the third-largest school district in California. While teaching, I obtained many specific titles: Masters of Education, San Joaquin Valley Writing Project teacher leader, Member-at-large for California Association of Teachers of English, Yosemite Conference chair, Human Rights chair, Fresno/Madera Service Center Council Secretary, CTA Assessment & Testing chair, and CTA Ambassador. However, my most important titles are teacher and mother. At times, teaching and parenting are interchangeable. Committed representation at CTA State Council is imperative for our union's success. The way we test and how frequently we test are both results of legislation that we vote on and the people that we elect. Teaching is political! Your vote would allow me to continue my work as a chair for the assessment committee (AST). AST work that eliminated racially biased SATs, questioned stringent ELL testing requirements, and reduced the amount of CAASPP testing. Let me be the consistent and cogent voice! Re-elect Marina Santos for State Council.



PETER BECK #18
Incumbent

Greetings fellow FTA members. My name is Peter Beck and I have been a State Council Representative for the past six years.

When I first began, FTA President Tish Rice charged me with building relationships with other large urban locals statewide. By my second term, these relationships began to bear fruit as FTA synthesized what it learned from large locals from the southern border up to the California-Oregon border. Protections that we bargained for during the pandemic: a reduction in meeting hours, more teacher agency in PLC and meeting times and community schools are just a few examples of how relationships with our fellow union brothers and sisters have made a difference in FUSD. This exchange is a reciprocal one as I have also shown that FTA thinks outside the box in ways such as having SOLUTIONS to combat literacy deficiencies, helping our unhoused students, reduced SPED caseloads and other student support structures.

In addition, I have helped FTA cultivate personal relationships with CTA President E. Toby Boyd, Vice-President David Goldberg and Treasurer Leslie Littman.

I am proud to have had a part in building these relationships and continue to collaborate with other large urban by representing FTA on CACS (California Association for Community Schools) and LUAC (Large Urban Advisory Committee).

In closing, I am representing FTA on the front lines at the state level and have been at the forefront community schools work. I *humbly* ask for your vote to complete a third term as your State Council Representative.



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Term of Office: 2023-2026



MANUEL BONILLA #19
Incumbent

It's important that Fresno and the Central Valley are heard on important issues at the CTA State Council. For the past three years, I've worked alongside our current state council representatives to make this happen, including advocating for Community Schools and working on the CTA Communications Committee. I also developed key partnerships with statewide leaders. Re-elect me to help continue this work.



Jon Bath #20

No Statement

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Become involved cast your vote!