



Spring 2025 Election Voter Guide

Election Window: Monday, March 17–Sunday, March 23 @ 5pm

The purpose of this Election Voter Guide is to inform SDEA members about the candidates running for elected positions within SDEA and for external union bodies such as CTA State Council and NEA-RA. This Election Guide is assembled and provided by the Election Committee and is meant as a non-partisan source of information for membership about both the election and the candidates running for office.

This Election Voter Guide will present information about candidates in the following order:

1. SDEA Officers (N/A This Cycle)
2. SDEA Board Members
3. CTA State Council Candidates
4. NEA-RA Candidates
5. Other Elected Positions, as Needed

The following information is included for each candidate:

- Elected Office Sought
- Name
- School/Program
- Photo (If Submitted)
- Candidate Statement (If Submitted, and with no edits by the Election Committee)

If more than one candidate is running in a particular race, candidate information shall appear in CTA Alphabet Order by last name. The 2024-25 CTA Alphabet is: C K N G U E H A M Y R J O V Q D Z B P F T L W X I S

The 2025 Spring Election Window is **Monday, March 17–Sunday, March 23 @ 5pm**. The election will be held electronically through our CTA-certified vendor, Simply Voting. **To ensure that you receive your ballot on Monday, March 17th at your personal email address, please confirm it is on file with SDEA. Please also add vote@simplyvoting.com to your safe senders list.**

If you have feedback on this voter guide please contact the Election Committee at sdeaelections@sdea.net.

In Solidarity,

Peter Oskin
Elections Co-Chair

Kristin Brown
Elections Co-Chair

Trace Cimmins

Mickey Brown

Patrick Schoettler

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AREA I, SEAT 1

Secondary - Crawford, Hoover, and Morse Clusters
2 Year Term

Jessica Arreguin

Bell Middle

Hi, I'm Jessica - a teacher with 15 years of experience working in the Morse and Lincoln Clusters. I have been an active member of SDEA at my site and served as both AR and CR for several years. I believe in the power of using our collective voice to get what we need to help our students thrive. I want to work to harness the power of SDEA to benefit our students, families, and communities while working for a strong contract that gives teachers what we need to be successful (including a salary that allows us to live where we work!). As a board member, I will help SDEA to continue moving to meet the ever-changing needs of our students and communities. Together we are stronger! Thank you!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AREA II, SEAT 4

Elementary - Lincoln, LMEC, Mission Bay, San Diego Clusters
2 Year Term

Tonnie Acosta

Webster Elementary



My name is Tonnie Acosta, and I am a third-grade teacher at Webster Elementary in the Lincoln Cluster. As an educator with a passion for advocacy and collaboration, I am excited to run for Seat 4 on the Board of Directors. Over the past three years as an Association Representative at Webster, I have prioritized clear communication, equitable practices, and advocating for the needs of my colleagues and students. I believe in transparency and thoughtful, shared decision-making and am ready to take on the responsibilities of serving on the Board. Balancing teaching, family life, and leadership roles has taught me how to stay organized, navigate challenges, and focus on solutions that work for everyone. I understand how vital it is to ensure teachers feel supported and valued because when educators thrive, our students benefit the most. If elected, I will fight for equitable policies and ensure that collaboration and shared decision-making remain at the forefront. I am committed to listening to members' voices and making decisions that reflect our shared values and priorities. Thank you for considering me for this opportunity to serve and contribute to our collective success.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AREA III, SEAT 7

Elementary - Clairemont, Henry, Kearny, La Jolla, Point Loma Clusters
2 Year Term

Molly Beth Stewart

Ocean Beach
Elementary



I am excited for the opportunity to serve on the SDEA Board of Directors to represent Area 3. I have been an educator in SDUSD for 24 years and have many more years left to go. I am active with the union at the local and state level as a site AR, current board member, service center representative, and State Council delegate. I am committed to education and serve on committees at my school site and within the district as a union representative. I have also been a presenter at CTA summer institute. I am a National Board certified teacher and hold credentials for multiple subject teaching and reading specialist. I believe in SDEA and know that I can make a difference with your support. I hope that you will vote for me.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AREA III, SEAT 8

Elementary - Clairemont, Henry, Kearny, La Jolla, Point Loma Clusters
2 Year Term

Amy Thomas

Lewis Middle

As a dedicated educator and advocate for student success, I am honored to seek a second term on the SDEA Board of Directors. With a deep commitment to both our profession and the students we serve, I am eager to bring my experience, passion, and collaborative approach to strengthening our union and ensuring that every educator has the support and resources needed to thrive. Throughout my career, I have prioritized student-centered learning and worked to implement effective accommodations for students with diverse learning needs, particularly those with 504 plans and IEPs. I believe that strong advocacy for our students goes hand in hand with advocating for teachers. We deserve fair wages, safe working conditions, and a voice in the policies that shape our classrooms. By working together, we can create a more equitable and sustainable teaching environment that allows us to focus on what truly matters—our students. If elected, I will work to represent our collective interests, push for policies that enhance our professional well-being, and build a stronger, more united teaching community. I would be honored to earn your support and serve as your representative on the Board of Directors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AREA IV, SEAT 10

At Large - Madison, Mira Mesa, Scripps Ranch, Canyon Hills, University City Clusters
2 Year Term

Deirdre Fabian

Adapted Physical
Education



My name is Deirdre Fabian, and I have had the privilege of serving the students and staff of San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) for 34 years, with the last 22 years dedicated to the district. I have taught in various capacities, first as a prep-time physical education teacher, and currently as an Adapted Physical Education teacher. Over the course of my career, I have consistently been committed to advocating for both our students and staff. As an active member of the San Diego Education Association (SDEA) since I began my career, I've held multiple roles, including Alternate

Representative and CR at Baker Elementary, AR at Whittier School, and most recently, I have served as the AR for the Adapted Physical Education team for the past seven years. Throughout these years, I've faced challenges, including being "pink slipped" several times, but my dedication to our community and to SDEA has never wavered. I have fought alongside hundreds of colleagues, and together, we have persevered. With your vote, I look forward to becoming an active and passionate voice for our members as part of the SDEA Board, representing Seat 10. I am committed to ensuring our students and staff have the support they need to succeed, and I will always use my voice to advocate for what is right. Together, we will continue to make a positive impact on our schools and our district. Thank you for your consideration and support.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AREA IV, SEAT 11

Secondary - Madison, Mira Mesa, Scripps Ranch, Canyon Hills, University City Clusters
2 Year Term

Janessa Gruby

CPMA

I began my teaching career in 2002 as a high school science teacher at Canyon Hills High School (formerly Serra H.S.). Within my first year, I became a CR, understanding the importance of having strong union representation on campus. A few years later, I became an Education Specialist and worked for charter schools, where union representation was absent. Witnessing the challenges my colleagues faced there made me realize how crucial union protection is for teachers. In 2018, I rejoined SDUSD in a temporary position at SDSCPA teaching middle school science. Four years later, I took on a new role as an Education Specialist at CPMA. Since then, I've served as our AR, advocating for my colleagues and upholding our strong contract. Now, I'm running for Seat 11 to continue representing and supporting teachers in a broader capacity

Rahel Gottlieb

San Diego High



This is a crucial moment in ensuring the rights of educators and in protecting our students and communities from a regressive national attack on public education, and on human rights.

Norma Reyes

Lincoln

Having been on State Council before, I want to continue working for both SDEA members and student working/learning conditions.

Maria Romano

Emerson / SLP

As a BIPOC educator with 14 years of experience, I am committed to advocating for equitable, inclusive education for all students and fighting for the rights and well-being of educators.

Kyle Weinberg

SDEA

SDEA President, Special Education/English/History teacher. We can amplify our power by organizing together with union and community allies across the state to win the schools our students deserve.

NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

44 Seats Available
2 Year Term

Jared Enyart

Mission Bay High

I am known for my inclusiveness, camaraderie, integrity, dedication, and teamwork, and I am committed to bringing these values to my role as a delegate at the NEA RA.

Meghann Hughes

Marston Middle

As a Special Education teacher, CTA State Council Delegate, Chair of the CTA-CEEC and former NEA-RA Delegate, I will continue to advocate for the public education students deserve

Kimberly Allard

Vista Grande Elementary

SDEA Board member, site rep, multiple committees, previous NEA rep. Advocate for better working conditions for educators, diverse educational opportunities for students, and FULLY FUNDED special education programs & support.

Vinita Rajah

SLP

First-generation Indian immigrant, multilingual SLP in California public schools for nearly 20 years, committed to advocating for anti-bias, antiracist, restorative practices fostering equitable, inclusive educational environments for students and educators.

Marcos Rico

Language Academy

I have been an active member of SDEA since 2000. It would be an honor to represent SDEA as a delegate at the NEA Assembly conferences.

Sarah Darr

SLP

I look forward to representing SDEA at NEA-RA. I believe in the power of democracy to strengthen public education and allow educators to best serve our students.

Monique Barrett

Marston Middle

VP SDEA, veteran BIPOC SpEd teacher 20 years. Active state and national-level for labor. Passionate advocate for Education, Social, and Racial Justice. I will continue to be OUR voice!

Kisha Borden

Teacher On Special Assignment

As a long time RA delegate, I would like to continue to represent the educators of San Diego and guide the work of the NEA at the national conference.

Augustus Phiasivongsa

Roosevelt International Middle School

First-gen Laotian refugee and immigrant, 20+ years union advocate, I champion RJP, Ethnic Studies, and anti-racist, anti-bias work. I fight for belonging, equity, and uplifting every student and teacher's voice.

Stacy Williams

TRACE

Special Ed. teacher for over 20 years! Goal is to fight for students with disabilities at the national level! Full Funding for IDEA!

Molly Beth Stewart

Ocean Beach Elementary



Educator SDUSD for 24 years. Active with union at local, state, and national level: site Rep, SDEA Board Member, Service Center, State Council, and previous NEA RA. We are CTA!