



# IN STRENGTH & UNITY

## COLLEGE STAFF GUILD

### AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS LOCAL 1521A

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SPRING 2016



Furutani, Butler and State Treasurer John Chiang.

## Warren Furutani

### We need a proven champion for State Senate District 35

The former head of the LACCD Board of Trustees knows his way around public education and the veteran legislator knows his way around Sacramento, and he has been a true champion for classified employees.

“When people ask me why I want to go back to the state legislature, I tell them we still have unfinished business. We have much to do to strengthen education – with community colleges at the heart of it – especially now that so many adults are returning to learn new skills.”

Furutani wants to create a state-wide career-tech system to prepare Californians for the middle class jobs of the 21st century.

Let’s send our warrior back to Sacramento!



## California Counts

By President Velma J. Butler

Every presidential election is unique, but the 2016 campaigns are already unforgettable and we’re still in the primaries.

Although Donald Trump is now the presumptive Republican candidate, neither Hillary Clinton nor Bernie Sanders has locked up the Democratic nomination yet.

For the first time I can remember, California voters will decide which presidential candidates the country will choose between in November. We will also cast ballots on June 7 for a U.S. Senator and dozens of Representatives, the State Legislature, local officials and bond measures.

**For the first time I can remember, we will decide which presidential candidates American voters will choose between in November.**

No wonder more than 600,000 Californians registered to vote or updated their information in just the first three months of the year, and many more will sign up before the general election.

This election is big in every way possible, but our future comes down to each one of us voting. Choices up and down the ballot are too important – and too close – for any Staff Guild

member to sit this one out. Here’s how I see the big races:

- Who do you want to nominate the next three Supreme Court justices? I want Hillary or Bernie, not Donald Trump.

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## Kamala Harris

### A U.S. Senator who will fight to make college affordable

As Attorney General, Harris cracked down on for-profit diploma mills that left California students with no job prospects and a lifetime of debt. She also protected survivors of campus sexual assault. In the Senate, she will fight to make college more affordable to prevent students from drowning under massive debt.

“Meaningful access to education is a pathway to the American dream. We know the ladder of opportunity is broken when the national Class of 2015 is the most indebted in history.”



Velma J. Butler and Kamala Harris

Harris’ education program begins with affordable childcare for working families and early literacy programs. She supports President Obama’s plan to eliminate tuition at community colleges and streamline transfers to four-year universities.

She will make a great successor to Sen. Barbara Boxer!

## CALENDAR

### MAY

- 11 Board of Trustees
- 13 CFT Division Meetings
- 14 CFT Committees/  
State Council Meeting
- 19 Executive Board
- 25 Board of Trustees
- 30 Memorial Day Holiday

### JUNE

- 7 State Primary Election
- 16 Executive Board
- 22 Board of Trustees

### JULY

- 4 Fourth of July Holiday
- 6 Board of Trustees
- 14 Executive Board
- 17–21 AFT Convention-  
Minneapolis
- 20 Board of Trustees

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## AFT College Staff Guild

The American Federation of Teachers College Staff Guild is an affiliate of the CFT/AFT, AFL-CIO.

The AFT College Staff Guild Local 1521A represents more than 1,200 clerical and technical employees of the L.A. Community College District.

President: Velma J. Butler

First Vice President: Dorothy Bates

Second Vice President:  
Mary Van Ginkle

Treasurer: Shirley Chen-Page

Secretary: Mercedes Gaitan

Grievance Secretary: Fern Reisner

Executive Director: Diana Ramon

Communications Consultant:  
Steve Weingarten

# Vote to Extend Prop 30

At stake is \$94 million per year for LACCD

Since voters passed Prop 30 in 2012, the measure has pumped about \$7 billion per year into public education and other state programs slashed during the Great Recession. Nearly \$240 million went directly to LACCD.

About 15 percent of that revenue came from a one-quarter of 1% increase in the sales tax, which will expire at the end of 2016. The other 85 percent came from higher taxes on Californians making more than \$250,000 per year. The CFT and other unions want to extend for 12 years the tax on the wealthy, which is set to end in 2018.

“We can’t afford to let Prop 30 expire,” says CFT President Joshua



Suleman Ishaque and Dionne Morrisette gather signatures.

Pechthalt. “Without it, public education will return to the devastating years of budget cuts, layoffs, skyrocketing class sizes and tuition increases.”

# Yes on Proposition 50

Cut off salaries and benefits to corrupt state legislators

Prop 50 would allow either house of the State Legislature to suspend members — with or without pay — by a two-thirds vote.

Prop 50 is a response to the cases of three state senators who faced legal troubles in 2014. Two were indicted on various corruption charges. A third was convicted of perjury and voter fraud for lying about whether or not he lived in his district. The Senate voted overwhelmingly to suspend the three lawmakers, even though the state constitution explicitly allows for only expulsion.

The California Constitution does not currently allow a lawmaker to be stripped of salary and benefits, so the Legislature placed Proposition 50 on the June ballot to ask voters for the power to suspend their members and dock paychecks.

If Prop 50 passes, the question will be if our legislators have the intestinal fortitude to clean up corruption.

## Velma...

Continued from page 1

- If voters extend Prop 30, public education will have enough funding for 12 more years.
- Californians need a champion like Warren Furutani in Sacramento.

This is the time for classified employees to walk precincts, call voters and get out the vote for candidates who support quality public education.

**Darlene Richarte of Pierce College joined COPE to play an active role in extending Prop 30 and pass a higher minimum wage.**

**“It’s hard to part with the money, but when you realize the potential benefits, it’s well worth it.”**

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# Hillary Clinton v. Bernie Sanders

The American Federation of Teachers was the first national union to endorse Hillary Clinton, but many Staff Guild members are also “feeling the Bern” as the decision on who will lead the party comes down to the wire in California. Here is where the two candidates stand on issues that move many Staff Guild members:

## COLLEGE

### Hillary

- Ensure no student has to borrow to pay for tuition, books or fees to attend a four-year public college in their state.
- Allow Americans to refinance past student loans at current rates.
- Hold colleges and universities accountable for controlling costs and making tuition affordable.
- Students will contribute their earnings from working 10 hours a week.
- Families will make an affordable and realistic family contribution.
- The federal government will provide grants to states that commit to these goals, and cut interest rates on loans.

### Bernie

- Make tuition at public colleges and universities free to students and paid for by taxing Wall Street speculators.
- Stop the federal government from making a profit on student loans; cut interest rates on loans; allow Americans to refinance past loans at today’s low rates.
- Allow students to use need-based financial aid and work-study programs to make college debt-free.

## LABOR

### Hillary

- Raise the federal minimum wage to \$12 an hour.

- Require up to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave.
- Give a tax credit to businesses that create high-quality apprenticeships leading to jobs.
- Restore unions’ collective bargaining rights.

### Bernie

- Raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2020, and the tipped minimum wage to \$15 by 2023.
- Put 13 million youth to work with the Rebuild America Act.

**Julio Ortiz of East L.A. College became active in COPE as budget deficits were threatening LACCD.**

**“I saw how we could help ourselves and the community by electing good candidates and passing good propositions.”**

- Require at least 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave, 2 weeks of paid vacation, and 7 paid sick days.
- Strengthen unions and the voices of working people through the “Workplace Democracy Act.”

## JUSTICE

### Hillary

- Dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline.
- Strengthen bonds of trust between communities and police.
- Defend every American’s right to vote.
- Protect immigrants’ rights and keep families together.
- End the epidemic of gun violence in our communities.

**Mary VanGinkle of the District Office joined COPE when she was elected secretary of the College Staff Guild in 2002.**

**“Politicians listen to us and try to get things done when they see us as supporters and constituents.”**

- Close the education achievement gap.
- Revitalize the economy in communities being left out and left behind.

### Bernie

- Address the five central types of violence against black, brown and indigenous Americans: physical, political, legal, economic and environmental.
- Dismantle inhumane deportation programs and detention centers.
- Create a swift and fair road to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.
- Ensure our border remains secure while respecting local communities.
- Regulate the future flow of immigrants by modernizing the visa system and rewriting bad trade agreements.

## WOMEN

### Hillary

- Defend women’s health and reproductive rights.
- Defend and enhance Social Security.
- Provide quality, affordable childcare.
- Work to close the pay gap.

### Bernie

- Fight for pay equity for women.
- Expand and protect women’s reproductive rights.
- Only nominate Supreme Court justices who support Roe v. Wade and women’s reproductive rights.
- Make quality childcare and Pre-K available to all Americans.
- Expand the WIC program for pregnant mothers and infants.
- Make healthcare a right.
- Expand Social Security.

**Leilani Piernas of Southwest L.A. College joined COPE about a year ago.**

**“I’m glad to help make sure we elect the right candidates.”**

# Election 2016 June 7 Primary

## U.S. Senate

Kamala Harris

## L.A. County Board of Supervisors

4 ..... Janice Hahn  
5 ..... Kathryn Barger

## Municipal Elections

El Segundo  
City Council ..... Don Brann  
Lawndale  
Mayor ..... Robert Pullen-Miles

## State Senate Districts

21 ..... Jonathon Ervin  
25 ..... Anthony Portantino  
27 ..... Henry Stern  
31 ..... Richard Roth  
33 ..... Ricardo Lara  
35 ..... Warren Furutani

## State Assembly Districts

36 ..... Darren Parker  
39 ..... No Recommendation  
41 ..... Chris Holden  
43 ..... Ardy Kassakhian  
44 ..... Jacqui Irwin  
45 ..... No Recommendation  
46 ..... Adrin Nazarian  
47 ..... Cheryl Brown  
48 ..... Bryan Urias  
49 ..... Ed Chau  
50 ..... Richard Bloom  
51 ..... Jimmy Gomez  
52 ..... Freddie Rodriguez  
53 ..... Miguel Santiago  
54 ..... Sebastian Ridley-Thomas  
57 ..... Ian Calderon  
58 ..... Cristina Garcia  
59 ..... Reggie Jones-Sawyer  
61 ..... Jose Medina  
62 ..... Autumn Burke  
63 ..... Anthony Rendon  
64 ..... Mike Gipson

66 ..... Al Muratsuchi  
69 ..... Tom Daly  
70 ..... Patrick O'Donnell

## U.S. Congress Districts

25 ..... Brian Caforio  
27 ..... Judy Chu  
28 ..... Adam Schiff  
29 ..... Tony Cardenas  
30 ..... Brad Sherman  
32 ..... No Recommendation  
33 ..... Ted Lieu  
34 ..... Xavier Becerra  
35 ..... Norma Torres  
37 ..... Karen Bass  
38 ..... Linda Sanchez  
40 ..... Lucille Roybal-Allard  
41 ..... Mark Takano  
43 ..... Maxine Waters  
44 ..... Isadore Hall  
46 ..... Joe Dunn  
47 ..... Alan Lowenthal

These recommendations are drawn from endorsements by the California Federation of Teachers and California Labor Federation.



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