June 5 Primary Election

FEDERAL AND STATE

U.S. Senator: Dianne Feinstein
Governor: John Chiang
Supt. of Public Instruction: Tony Thurmond

Lieutenant Governor:
Ed Hernandez* and Elian Kounalakis (Duo)

Attorney General: Xavier Becerra*
Sec. of State: Alex Padilla*
Treasurer: Fiona Ma*
Controller: Betty Yee*

L.A. COUNTY

Supervisor District 1: Hilda Solis
Supervisor District 3: Mendel Kuehl
Assessor: Jeffrey Prang

Endorsed by L.A. County Labor Federation
* Endorsed by California Labor Federation

Demand... Continued from page 1

• Per capita dues keep rising, but classified locals like ours get fewer services.
• Classified members must always remind CFT leaders of our needs and presence at conventions, conferences and trainings.

• Under the current CFT structure, a classified member would never be able to lead the state federation.
• 1521A sees the lack of diversity among CFT leaders and staff.
• This isn’t a moment for baby steps. Unless we change the union’s basic structure, classified members will always be underserved. We need a Cultural Revolution against educational elitism.

Thurmond... Continued from page 1

school, while helping them set higher educational goals for themselves.”

Thurmond, whose mother was from Panama, is proud that his two daughters now attend public schools. “Cities and states across the nation are finding innovative solutions to provide two free years of community college,” Chiang said.

Classified workers stand with John Chiang!

Classified CFT Members Demand Representation

By President Velma J. Butler

Nearly one in seven AFT members are classified employees, but community college staff isn’t a priority at the union’s national or state levels. We pay dues, as do faculty members, but we aren’t treated with the same representation.

When will AFT put classified members at the head of the line? We’re not even on the agenda. Instead, we must constantly remind our leaders – especially the state federation – that we are stakeholders and investors in the union. Conventions, conferences and trainings are all geared toward teachers’ issues.

I’m sick of this neglect. For years, AFT Local 1521A members who spoke up were isolated and ostracized. We recently set off alarms at AFT headquarters by withholding our per capita dues to the CFT.

President Randy Weingarten sent Secretary-Treasurer Lorretta Johnson to intervene. Dr. Johnson met with the CFT, the Council of Classified Employees (CCE) and the Staff Guild E-Board. She basically recommended we “all just get along,” but didn’t actually address any of our specific concerns:

• Too many faculty leaders are unapproachable and show complete lack of respect for classified members.

John Chiang for Governor

The College Staff Guild recently endorsed John Chiang for Governor in the June 5 primary election. Executive Board members praised Chiang – who currently serves as State Treasurer – for keeping his word to dock legislators’ pay if they didn’t pass a budget on time and for refusing to furlough state workers.

Chiang, who was also State Controller, brings strong economic credentials and public service experience to a crowded field of candidates. He is also making personal character an issue. As his campaign website puts it: “You deserve a governor with the integrity to lead and the character to make every Californian proud. You deserve a governor you can trust, a governor with the credibility to go after harassment in government.

But his bottom line is economic relief for millions of Californians for whom a quality education, a decent home and a dignified retirement are increasingly out of reach.

Spurred by a Cultural Revolution against educational elitism, we must be the change we wish to see. We will demand strong representation and we will demand more. "These programs have the ability to make every Californian proud. You deserve a governor you can trust, a governor with the credibility to go after our specific concerns:"

Chiang is committed to providing all Californians access to the resources and opportunities his immigrant parents enjoyed and were able to provide him, and to ending sexual

Tony Thurmond for Supt. of Public Instruction

Tony Thurmond points to his public education as a solid foundation for a 20-year career as a social worker, followed by a political climb from his local school board to the State Assembly.

Today, Thurmond is fighting a former charter school executive with nearly unlimited backing from wealthy supporters to succeed Tom Torlakson as Superintendent of Public Education.

Thurmond chairs the Assembly Labor Committee and sits on the Education Committee, and has sponsored several major bills with classified employees and working families in mind. AB43, for example, would tax private prisons and other for-profit companies to pay for preschool and after-school programs known to prevent incarceration.

“These programs have the ability to excite children about learning and strengthen a student’s engagement in education.”

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Trustee Hoffman Leads on Sexual Harassment, Bullying

The Board of Trustees is taking unprecedented steps to protect District employees and students against sexual harassment and bullying.

LACCD Trustee Andra Hoffman, who chairs the Board’s Ad-Hoc Committee on Title IX/Sexual Harassment, recently released a report showing the number of reported complaints nearly doubled from 14 in 2016 to 27 last year.

Even those numbers are misleading, according to Staff Guild President Velma J. Butler. “Harassment is clearly not being reported. In a district this large, it is impossible that only 27 cases occurred last year,” Butler said.

Hoffman said she is pressing for policies that guarantee claimants can report harassment knowing “there will be full investigations, there will be appropriate responses, and there will be no fear of retaliation.”

The District is looking at Article 3, Section E of the AFT Local 1521A contract as a template for a reporting system.

“We have language that addresses non-sexual harassment,” Butler said. “LACCD has no mechanism for employees to blow the whistle on abuse.”

Strongest Defense in Janus Case: Solidarity

The Supreme Court is poised to muffle Labor’s political voice while corporate influence is more blatant than ever.

For more than 40 years, the law of the land has recognized the role of collective bargaining at work. Under the 1977 Abood decision, public-sector employees who don’t join a union must pay an “agency fee” that covers the cost of bargaining, grievance handling and almost all activity except political organizing.

Now, though, a rightwing majority on the Supreme Court is about to change that direction. Trump-nominated Justice Neil Gorsuch and four sitting conservatives are expected to rule in favor of anti-union arguments to end agency fees.

The Janus Case would cut funding for public-sector unions, which have so far resisted anti-labor attacks better than private sector employers. The decision follows the Citizens United ruling that corporations can give unlimited financial support to political action.

How much of an economic punch Janus will pack is still to be seen. The decision will not change the way the Janus Case will continue to show members how valuable unions are.

A recent poll by the National Education Association shows a link between how satisfied members are with their union and how recently they spoke with a union representative. The NEA found that 71% of members who spoke with an officer during the previous year were somewhat or very satisfied, compared with 30% of those who had never spoken with a union representative.

Labor activists across the country have been signing up co-workers as dues-paying members and donors to political action committees. One of the brightest hopes for working Americans is that young people are trending pro-union, up to 70% in some public opinion polls.

The conservative frenzy to strangle unions goes beyond gaining a greater edge in collective bargaining. For decades, unions didn’t have the individual strength to improve working conditions in contract negotiations.