

Elections Issue
Volume 25: Issue 1

Affiliate of CTA and NEA

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Upcoming:

Rep Council:

February 21, 2024

March 13, 2024

April 10, 2024

May 8, 2024

*Meeting Called to
Order at 4:30 pm*

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SBTA General Election 2024

SBTA's General Election will be held from February 22 through March 7, 2024. The following duties are for twelve (12) SBTA Board of Director's seats, State Council seats (number to be determined by CTA), and NEA-RA delegate seats (number to be determined by NEA). These positions are open to all members of SBTA, CTA, and NEA.

SBTA EXECUTIVE BOARD POSITIONS

Elementary School (6), Middle School (2), High School (3), and Special Services (1) Positions: (*majority vote required*)

- Attend all Rep Council and Board Meetings
- Work with SBTA Committee(s)
- Liaison to elected Reps and their Schools
- Be responsible for the work and progress of the association
- Attend Association Conferences
- Review and recommend the annual budget to the Rep Council
- Act as Rep Council when the majority of schools are not in session
- Term expires June 30, 2026

NEA Local Delegate: For the year of 2024

Delegates will attend the NEA yearly meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania which is held July 3, 2024 through July 7, 2024. SBTA funds delegates for up to \$2,000.00 in expenses. Delegates are expected to attend all California State Meetings, as well as the NEA General Assembly meetings. This NEA Meeting sets policy for NEA for the year 2024. Term is for one year. Positions determined by plurality.

CTA State Council Position Seats 1, 2, and 3: Term expires June 2027

Three (3) positions and two (2) alternates. State Council delegates attend four CTA State Council Meetings per year. The meetings begin on Friday night and end Sunday afternoon. Delegates also attend San Geronio Service Center Council meetings held four Saturdays per year. All expenses are reimbursed by CTA. Majority vote required.

This edition of News and Views is intended to provide candidate information to the SBTA membership. All candidates are listed according to the CTA alphabetical order provided.

O G Y V E F X I B C J H P D U W S T Z N K M L Q R A

The following statements were prepared by the candidates, and are printed in their own words.

General Election Calendar 2024

January 10, 2024	Preparation of candidacy forms
January 16, 2024	Candidacy forms posted to SBTA website
January 26, 2024	Candidacy forms due to SBTA Office by 5:00pm
January 26, 2024	Candidate's statements due by 5pm for the <i>News and Views</i>
January 29, 2024	Preparation of ballots
February 7, 2024	Sample ballots to candidates
February 14, 2024	<i>News and Views</i> emailed/posted to SBTA website
February 21, 2024	Candidates Speeches at SBTA Rep Council
February 22, 2024	Ballots available for pick-up & in US Mail
February 22 - March 7, 2024	Balloting at the sites/Special Services <i>All campaigning shall cease</i>
March 7, 2024	All ballots due to SBTA office by 5 p.m.
March 8, 2024	Counting of ballots
March 8, 2024	Teller's report to the President
March 11, 2024	Announcement of results (email, website)
March 11, 2024	Preparation of run-off ballots
March 21, 2024	If no run off - deadline to file challenge
April 11, 2024	Run-off ballots in Pony to sites/Special Services
April 11 - April 18, 2024	Balloting at the sites/Special Services <i>All campaigning shall cease</i>
April 25, 2024	Run-off ballots due at SBTA by 5pm
April 26, 2024	Counting of run-off ballots
April 26, 2024	Teller's report to the President
April 29, 2024	Announcement of results (email, website)
May 9, 2024	Last day to file a challenge by 5pm (if there is a run-off)

Every effort has been made to insure the accuracy of each of the candidate statements, and are placed according to the CTA alphabetical order for 2023-2024. Some formatting was necessary due to the dimension and aspect ratio of the allotted space. The spellings of candidate names are transcribed from the Declaration of Candidacy forms. Font selections on printed submissions were matched as closely as possible, or assigned in the case of handwritten submissions. Statements in excess of 100 words, as per the Declaration of Candidacy, are limited to first hundred words only and are notated as such. Word count was made through utilizing the Microsoft Word Counting tool, and rechecked by the Elections Committee Chairperson. A set of three periods (...) at the end of the candidate's statement indicate truncation. Final photo quality is dependent upon the quality of the submitted photo; printed, copied, of emailed as a .jpg or .pdf file.

-News & Views Staff

Views and opinions expressed in the News & Views are those of the individual contributors, and do not reflect the position or policies of SBTA, CTA, or NEA. Our intended readership is limited to the members of SBTA currently working within SBCUSD, in San Bernardino, CA.

Candidates for the General Election 2024

Elementary School Executive Board

Sandy Owens
DeAndra Fossett
Alexandra Chapin
Faith Hurst-Bilinski
Lisa Stark
Raymond Long, Jr.

Middle School Executive Board:

Connie Jones
Veny Jimenez
Jenifer Mullen

High School Executive Board:

Roberta (Birdie) Figueroa
Annette Billups
Marc Pollitt
Desirée Thomas
Jerry Kimery
Erin Moran

Special Services Executive Board:

Dr. Shirley Jean
Ryan Harsch

CTA State Council, Seat 1

Barbara Pastuschek-Cox
Desirée Thomas
Jerry Kimery

CTA State Council, Seat 2

Jerry Kimery
Christina M. Marquez

CTA State Council, Seat 3

Stephanie Fletcher
Dr. Shirley Jean
Desirée Thomas
Jerry Kimery

CTA State Council, Alt Seat 1

Desirée Thomas
Jerry Kimery
Robert Varela Rodriguez

CTA State Council, Alt Seat 2

DeAndra Fossett
Steven Hurst-Bilinski
Jerry Kimery

NEA Local Delegates

DeAndra Fossett
Stephanie Fletcher
Ashley Bettas-Alcalá
Annette Billups
Adrienne Cook
Alexandra Chapin
Dr. Shirley Jean
Faith Hurst-Bilinski
Steven Hurst-Bilinski
Barbara Pastuschek-Cox
Daniel Solkowitz
Lisa Stark
Desirée Thomas
Jerry Kimery
Erin Moran
Christina M. Marquez
Christina LeRoy
Jessica Robles
Robert Varela Rodriguez

Candidacy Statements



SANDY OWENS

for
Elementary Executive Board

- Current Elementary Board member for 14 years
- 10+ years as a Site Rep
- Active member of your Bargaining Team for 14 years

I'd appreciate your vote!

DeAndra Fossett

As a BIPOC woman deeply attuned to the imperative of social justice, I proudly declare my candidacy for the San Bernardino Teachers Association Union. Committed to fostering an equitable educational landscape, I advocate for the rights of students, teachers, and schools. With a passion for inclusivity and a firsthand understanding of the challenges faced by marginalized communities, I pledge to tirelessly work towards creating an environment where every individual, irrespective of background, thrives. Together, let us champion a union that embodies diversity, equality, and justice, ensuring a brighter future for our educational community.



Roberta "Birdie" Figueroa
For High School Board of Directors



- Six years on the High School Board
- Served on SBTA/District committees: Human Civil Rights, New Teacher, Scholarship, Retirement, Dual Enrollment, Safety and Wellness
- More than 24 years as a High School SBTA Representative at Pacific and San Andreas High
- More than 24 years as a Teacher and Career Program Specialist

I am a passionate voice with the utmost integrity advocating for you. With your support, we can do great things!

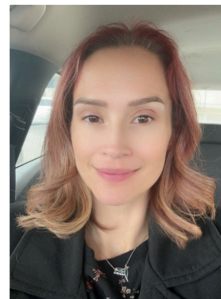
Stephanie Fletcher

For State Counsel Seat #3
&
NEA Local Delegate

Experience:

- *7 yrs as a High School/Elementary School Counselor
- *7 yrs as a Program Specialist (PBIS/RJ & Bullying Intervention)
- *4 yrs as a Site Rep
- *4 yrs on the SBTA Bargaining Team representing Special Services

Thank you for putting your trust in me!



Candidacy Statements

Re-Elect Ashley Bettas-Alcalá NEA Delegate



As your President, I have fought to ensure that our district continues to prioritize the safety of **ALL** SBTA members, while also protecting your rights. Every educator deserves a safe and supportive work environment because we know that your working conditions are also our students learning conditions. As your NEA-delegate, I will bring the perspective and concerns of the SBTA membership to the national level. We are stronger together and I would be honored to have your vote.

Annette Billups

I am honored to run for the positions of Executive Board and NEA Local Delegate. With an unwavering commitment to advocating for the rights and well-being of educators, I bring 10 years of experience in the classroom, 3 years as a Site Representative and a deep understanding of the challenges teachers face. My goal is to foster a collaborative and inclusive environment, ensuring fair representation for all members. Together, let's empower our teaching community, ensuring a supportive and thriving environment for educators and, by extension, the students we serve. Your support will make a lasting impact on our...



My name is Adrienne Cook. I have been honored to be an SBTA/CTA/NEA member for 40 years, serving as a school site rep, Secretary, NEA-RA delegate and currently as a Board of Director.

This is my last year as an educator, and I am excited to serve as a delegate once again for the NEA Representative Assembly. I have been a strong advocate for scholars and educators for 40 years. I want to continue this work to make sure scholars' and especially educators' voices are heard and represented.

Thank you in advance for your vote for me to...



ALEXANDRA CHAPIN



- ♥ Dedicated SPED Teacher & MTSS TOSA
- ♥ Current Executive Board Member
- ♥ Active member of several committees & workgroups
- ♥ Current SBTA rep at CTA State Council
- ♥ Multi-year NEA Local Delegate at the NEA Representative Assembly
- ♥ Gigantic Nerd
- ♥ Committed passionate advocate for positive change!

Connie Jones Middle School Executive Board

Your Partner in the work for Recognition and Support for Middle School Teachers.



- More than 6 years experience as a Middle School Executive Board Member
- 18+ years as a Middle School Teacher
- Frameworks Curriculum Writer for SBCUSD
- More than 30 years as a Teacher and 10 years as a Demonstration Teacher
- C.T.E. Certified Teacher
- Site Tech Coach, Department Chair, TIP and Onboarding Support Teacher

Dr. Shirley Jean

In the last three years CTA State Council and as an NEA RA Delegate, I've advocated for the inclusion of autism awareness and Arab Heritage Month on the CTA calendar. I've had the honor of selecting award recipients for CTA engagement through the Communication Committee. I also advocated for preschool inclusion and tuition-based preschool for SBCUSD employees. As a member of the NEA Black Caucus and the CTA African American Caucus, I've worked to address unique challenges affecting the BIPOC educators. I am humbly seeking your support for re-election. I am committed to communicating with our members ...



VENY JIMENEZ MIDDLE SCHOOL EXEC BOARD



- 19 YEARS SBTA REP
- 4 YEARS BARGAINING TEAM MEMBER
- 19 YEARS ELA/ELD/ELF MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSROOM TEACHER
- 2 YEARS ON THE MIDDLE SCHOOL EXEC EBOARD WORKING MEMBER
- I WILL REPRESENT ALL TEACHERS AND FIND THE ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS
- BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
- COLLABORATIVE-PASSIONATE
- YOUR COLLEAGUE FOR OUR TEACHER JOURNEY

FAITH HURST- BILINSKI for Elementary Executive Board & NEA Local Delegate



I've previously served as **site rep, Elections chair, and IPD chair**. I *currently* serve as one of your **Elementary Executive Board members and on CTA State Council**. Please allow me to continue serving you as your ***Elementary Executive Board Member*** and as your ***local delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly*** this year.

Thank you for your continued support!

Candidacy Statements



My name is **Steven Hurst-Bilinski**. I have been representing teachers as a Union Rep and a NEA Local Delegate nearly as long as I have been a teacher. I work hard for you and our union, both as the Communications Chair and also as a past NEA Local Delegate. I have volunteered in the union for almost a decade before teaching and I understand the importance of the union and the power of our voice! I am hopeful that you elect me to represent our members and California at State Council and the Representative Assembly. **Thank you!**

My name is Ryan Harsch and I am seeking your vote to serve a second term as an Executive Board member representing Special Services. I feel that we have made some tremendous strides but there is still much work to be done. I am resourceful, hard-working, and possess strong leadership skills. I am responsive to the needs of the various teams that I work with. Furthermore, I am more than willing to serve and strive to effect positive change for all groups that constitute Special Services. Thank you for your consideration.



Marc Pollitt

High School Board of Directors

Barbara Pastuschek-Cox

CTA State Council and NEA Local Delegate

Your TRUSTED, loyal voice for informed and effective communication!



- More than 7 years experience as your SBTA Vice President
- SBTA Grievance Chair
- Served on the NEA Priority Schools Presidents' Forum in Washington D.C.
- SBTA District committees: SBCUSD Co-Op, Calendar, Safety Task Force, and Strategic Planning
- CTA Institute for Teaching Moreno Valley Think Tank
- 25 years as a Special Education Teacher & Moderate/Severe Frameworks Curriculum Writer for SBCUSD
- C.T.E. Certified Teacher
- Experienced as a High School SBTA Rep. and SBTA Board of Directors

Candidacy Statements

Daniel A. Solkowitz for NEA Local Delegate



- Experienced delegate to 8 previous RAs.
- Author of 5 adopted New Business Items as an NEA delegate.
- Organizer of a SBTA standing committee.

I will be your voice at the NEA Representative Assembly!



My name is **Lisa Stark** and I'm currently a member of SBTA Executive Board for Elementary (6 years) and I'm seeking reelection. I'm also asking for your vote to represent SBTA as an NEA/ RA Local Delegate in Philadelphia. I've been to 9 previous RAs and I'd like to represent you again! I've also been a member of the elections committee for 11 years. Thank you! **DON'T BE IN THE DARK! VOTE FOR STARK!**

Hello Members,
I am asking for your support as a NEA Delagte this year in Philadelphia. I have attended before and would like the opportunity to represent you at this General Assembly. Please Vote for me as your voice at this important Delegation. Thank You, Desiree



I am Dr. Jerry Kimery, and I am running for the following: CTA State Council Seat 1, 2, and 3, CTA State Council Alternate, and NEA Local Delegate. My prior experience includes being a teacher at Pacific High School for eighteen years, a site representative for seven years, a member of the SBTA Board of Directors for six years, and treasurer for three years.

I am the Vice Chair of the CTA Ecology Justice Caucus and Co-Chair of the NEA Ecology Caucus. Moreover, I have a Ph.D. in labor unions from UCLA.



Candidacy Statements

Erin Moran

**For High School Board
Rep and NEA Local
Delegate**



**A trusted voice working hard for
YOU!**

- More than 5 years experience as your SBTA Board Rep
- 8 years as a NEA-RA Rep
- 15 years as a site rep
- SBTA District committees:
 - Negotiations
 - SBCUSD Co-Op
 - Grievance Committee
 - PAR Committee
 - JET Team
- More than 20 years as an English, Film, and sports literature teacher for SBCUSD

My name is Jenifer Mullen. I am running for the Middle School Executive Board Member position to be an advocate on behalf of middle school members. After my journey as an elementary teacher for 19 years, I transitioned to a middle school teacher librarian. My 15+ years of service as an SBTA rep, along with my role as an SBTA Elementary Executive Board Member for 2-1/2 years, showcases my commitment to being a voice for my colleagues.

Please vote for me, Jenifer Mullen.



I am running for reelection to the offices of CTA State Council and NEA Delegate. I serve on Rep Council and regularly attend school board meetings to fight for teachers, professors, students, staff and our diverse society.

We can stop the injustice against our colleagues, our children, and our communities when we organize. Elected officials seek my advice and approval, and I know how the legislative processes work.

I would appreciate your vote.

**Thank you,
Christina M. Marquez**



Raymond Long, Jr.

Dear esteemed SBTA members,

I stand before you with gratitude and pride, seeking your support for reelection to be your SBTA Elementary Board member. Together, we achieved significant milestones. Our dedication improved contract language, salaries, and overall securing better terms for all members. This isn't just about numbers; it's about fostering a community where every educator thrives. As your board member, I pledge to continue this journey, advocating for fair compensation and empowering educators as our profession is forever changing. Together, let's build a future where our passion for education is matched by the respect we rightfully deserve.



Candidacy Statements



Christina LeRoy

Candidate for NEA Local Delegate

I have been a proud SBTA member and special educator for over 39 years, working with children with speech and language needs. It has been an honor to be elected by you to be a local delegate for the last seven Representative Assemblies. These years past the pandemic have been hard for everyone. I will continue to be a strong advocate for all students, parents and teachers and will work hard to support positive solutions for the challenges we now face in education.

I appreciate your support!

Hello my name is Jessica Robles, I am running for NEA RA Local Delegate. I have attended the previous two Representative Assemblies, and will continue to represent our members from San Bernardino.



**Elect
Robert V. Rodriguez**



**State Council Alternate Seat
#1
NEA-RA Local Delegate**

I am a special education teacher and Past-President of SBTA. Currently, I serve on the National Education Association Executive Committee representing you at the national level. I will always fight to protect our rights in the classroom and our students!

Vote
Balloting Held

**February 22nd
to
March 7th, 2024**



Leadership & Contact Info

2023-2024

President	Ashley Bettas-Alcalá	San Bernardino Teachers Association
Vice President	Barbara Pastuschek-Cox	San Bernardino Teachers Association
Secretary	Jessica Robles	Riley College PREP Academy
Treasurer	Sheila Houston	HR Certificated
Senior High School Reps	Roberta Figueroa Erin Moran Marc Pollitt	San Andreas High Cajon High San Gorgonio High
Middle School Reps	Connie Jones Veny Jimenez	Chavez Middle Chavez Middle
Elementary School Reps	Alexandra Chapin Adrienne Cook Faith Hurst-Bilinski Raymond Long, Jr. Sandra Owens Lisa Stark	Riley College PREP Academy Hillside Elementary Davidson Elementary Thompson Elementary Wilson Elementary Lytle Creek Elementary
Special Services Rep	Ryan Harsch	Special Ed
Grievance Chair	Barbara Pastuschek-Cox	San Bernardino Teachers Association
State Council Reps	Barbara Pastuschek-Cox Christine Marquez Dr. Shirley Jean Faith Hurst-Bilinski Sheila Houston Alexandra Chapin	San Bernardino Teachers Association Fairfax Special ED Davidson Elementary HR Certificated Riley College PREP Academy
State Council Alternates	Ashley Bettas-Alcalá Desirée Thomas Ryan Harsch	San Bernardino Teachers Association Sierra Special ED
Regional UniServ Staff	Justin Arnold	San Bernardino Teachers Association