

CUCPTSA CHILD ADVOCACY BRIEF - OCTOBER 2014

LOCAL CUSD UPDATE

CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS 2014

Remember to VOTE! The mid-term election season is in full-swing and parents are urged to make sure they are registered to vote, review their Voter Information Guides and most importantly, vote on or before November 4th. The CUSD Board of Trustees consists of seven members elected to four year terms by specific geographic districts. There is no primary election and the general election will be held on November 4, 2014. The seats from Trustee Areas 4, 6 and 7 are up for election in 2014 and the seats from Trustee Areas 1, 2, 3 and 5 will be up for election in 2016.

Trustee Area 4 Candidates

- Craig Alexander
- Martha McNicholas

Trustee Area 6 Candidates

- Ellen M. Addonizio (Incumbent)
- Gila Jones

Trustee Area 7 Candidates

- Lynn Hatton – Hodson (Incumbent)
- Julie Collier

To retain tax-exempt status and continue to receive tax-deductible contributions, PTA may not endorse or oppose a candidate for national, state or local office.

October 6, 2014	First day to request vote by mail ballot. For more information, http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_m.htm
October 20, 2014	Last day to register to vote. For more information, http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm
November 4, 2014	ELECTION DAY, all polls open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. To find out where you vote, go to http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/new-voter/where-how-vote.htm

TRUSTEE BY AREA ELECTIONS

The current method of electing trustees of the Capistrano Unified School District was approved by CUSD voters in the November, 2010 election. Each trustee represents one of seven district areas. Voters residing within each district area can only vote for a candidate that will represent that area. Residence address is what determines your Trustee Voting Area, not your student's school address. If you are not sure of your Trustee Area, maps and detailed boundary information can be found here, <http://capousd.ca.schoolloop.com/tmaps>.

LCAP

In September 2014, new Superintendent Kirsten Vitale addressed PTA leaders and highlighted CUSD's new LCAP (Local Control Accountability Plan) which was recently approved by the OC Department of Ed. The LCAP is a critical new change in California Public Education, whereby each school district must engage parents, educators, employees and the community on an annual basis to review and/or revise the existing plan to meet the needs of all students. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Michelle Le Patner outlined the 6 goals of the newly launched LCAP:

Goal 1: Students will demonstrate **academic growth and proficiencies** needed to ensure readiness for college and career.

Goal 2: Provide **interventions and support** for academically, behaviorally and socially /emotionally **at-risk students**.

Goal 3: Increase the number of English learners who achieve English fluency.

Goal 4: Increase the number of students on-track to graduate from high school who are college and career ready, reflecting a K-12 broad course of study.

Goal 5: Expand parent and community engagement with emphasis on representation of all students and parents.

Goal 6: Develop a multi-year plan to enhance facilities that are safe, healthy and appropriate to foster academic achievement. Increase the number of student and staff technological devices required to support 21st Century learning.

SUPERINDEPENDENT COMMUNITY FORUMS

Thursday, November 6, 2014	7:00 pm	San Clemente School Theater
Monday, January 26, 2015	7:00 pm	CUSD Board Room
Tuesday, April 28, 2015	7:00 pm	Aliso Niguel High School Theater

STATE UPDATE

AB1719 - FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN

In supporting this bill, PTA voiced to the Senate Education Committee that the kindergarten curriculum has become more academic, and the Common Core State Standards bring opportunities for deeper, richer learning, thus requiring more instructional time.

WATCH THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION CANDIDATES FORUM

A forum for candidates for the position of California's Superintendent of Public Instruction was held at the Los Angeles County Office of Education on Wednesday, September 17. The event was hosted by the Los Angeles County Office of Education and the Los Angeles County School Trustees Association, and co-sponsored by the California State PTA and The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund. Watch the entire forum on [The California Channel](#).

SCORES ON EXIT EXAMS HOLD STEADY

The latest results of the California High School Exit Exam (CHSEE) echoed a similar refrain from past years, with the number of seniors passing the test holding steady year-over-year but showing gains in the number of students who pass in their sophomore year. About 95.5 percent of the class of 2014 passed the exit exam, matching the record-high passage rate set by the class of 2013, according to [preliminary results](#) released Friday by the California Dept. of Ed. But the fate of the CHSEE is unclear since, although it is a requirement for high school graduation, it is aligned to the old state standards.

SUPERINTENDENT TORLAKSON INVITES COMMENTS ON DRAFT HISTORY- SOCIAL SCIENCE FRAMEWORK

State Superintendent Tom Torlakson has announced that California is moving forward to improve the way educators teach history and social science by gathering public comment on a new framework. The draft will provide guidance for teachers, administrators, and parents on how to implement the curriculum, based on content standards in the classroom. The draft covers more recent historical events, reflects changes in the law since the last framework was adopted in 2001, and helps educators teach the critical analytical skills students need for 21st century careers. For full article: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr14/yr13rel96.asp>

FEDERAL UPDATE

Vote in the national election -- visit ocvote.org until October 20th to register or verify your voting status.

Three seats representing CUSD in the U.S. House of Representatives are up for election.

District 45 (eastern portion of CUSD) -- Rep. John Campbell is retiring. Drew Leavens (D) and Mimi Walters (R) are running to replace him.

District 48 (north coastal portion of CUSD) -- Incumbent Dana Rohrabacher (R) is running against Sue Savary (D)

District 49 (southern portion of CUSD) -- Incumbent Darrell Issa (R) is facing challenger Dave Peiser (D)

2015 FEDERAL BUDGET AND EDUCATION FUNDING: On September 18, the Senate approved House Resolution 124, a “continuing funding resolution” or CR, to maintain current 2014 funding levels until December 11, 2014. The new 2015 fiscal year began on October 1, 2014 and without the CR we would be experiencing another government shutdown. The president has asked for a 2% increase in education funding, outcome unclear for now. Both houses are currently on recess from DC until mid-November.