



# SBTA General Election 2026

### Inside this issue:

General Election Information 1

Election Calendar 2

List of Candidates 3

Candidacy Resumes 4-9

SBTA Workshops 10

SBTA’s General Election will be held from February 20 through March 6, 2026. The following duties are for twelve (12) SBTA Board of Director’s seats, State Council seat, State Council Alternate seat, 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)*

### Duties:

- 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, 2028

### NEA Local Delegate: Term of Office 2026

Delegates will attend the NEA yearly meeting virtually which is held July 3, 2026, through July 6, 2026. Delegates are expected to attend all California State Meetings, as well as the NEA General Assembly meetings. The NEA Meeting sets policy for NEA for the year 2026. Term is for one year. Positions determined by plurality.

### CTA State Council Position Seat 6: Term of Office 2026-2029

One (1) positions. 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 Geronimo Service Center Council meetings held four Saturdays per year. All expenses are reimbursed by CTA.

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.

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

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

## Upcoming:

### Rep Council:

February 11, 2026

March 11, 2026

April 15, 2026

Meeting Called to

Order at 4:30 pm

## Monte Awards and Retirement Dinner

May 21, 2026

### Contact Info

1997 E. Marshall Blvd.  
San Bernardino, CA 92404  
Phone: 909-881-6755  
Website: [www.sbta.info](http://www.sbta.info)

# GENERAL ELECTION CALENDAR 2025-2026

## General Election Calendar 2025-2026

Executive Board - CTA-NEA/RA

January 7, 2026	Preparation of Candidacy Form
January 21, 2026	Candidacy forms posted on SBTA website
January 23, 2026	Candidacy forms due by 5pm
January 23, 2026	Candidates' statements due by 5pm for the <i>News &amp; Views</i>
January 26, 2026	Preparation of Ballots
February 2, 2026	Sample Ballots to candidates
February 2, 2026	<i>News and Views</i> emailed/posted to SBTA Website
February 11, 2026	Candidate Speeches at SBTA Rep Council
February 11, 2026	Ballots in PONY & US Mail
February 12 - February 26, 2026	Balloting at the sites/Special Services All campaigning shall cease
February 26, 2026	All ballots due at SBTA by 5pm
February 27, 2026	Counting of ballots @SBTA 5pm
March 2, 2026	Teller's Report to the President
March 2, 2026	Announcement of Results (email & website)
March 2, 2026	Preparation of run off ballots (if necessary)
March 12, 2026	If no run off - deadline to file challenge
March 20, 2026	Run off Ballots in PONY and US Mail
April 6 - April 17, 2026	Balloting at the sites/Special Services All campaigning shall cease
April 17, 2026	Run off ballots due at SBTA by 5pm
April 17, 2026	Counting of Run off ballots
April 17, 2026	Teller's Report to the President
April 20, 2026	Announcement of results (email & website)
April 30, 2026	Last day to file a challenge by 5pm

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of each of the candidate statements, and are placed according to the CTA alphabetical order for 2025-2026. 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 Google Docs word counting tool, and rechecked by the Elections Committed Chairperson. A set of three periods (...) and a statement in the lower right corner of the ad indicate truncation. Final photo quality is dependent upon the quality of the submitted photo; printed, copied, or emailed as a .jpg or .pdf file.

-News & Views Staff

# CANDIDATES FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION 2026

## **Elementary School Executive Board:**

Faith Hurst-Bilinski  
Val Rinehart  
Deandra Fossett  
Lisa Stark  
Raymond Long, Jr.

## **Middle School Executive Board:**

Connie Jones  
Veny Jimenez

## **High School Executive Board:**

Jerry Kimery  
Erika Martinez  
Roberta (Birdie) Figueroa  
Daniel Solkowitz  
Damian Lozano

## **Special Services Executive Board:**

Ryan Harsch  
Olivia Hart

## **CTA State Council Rep Seat 6:**

Jerry Kimery  
Olivia Hart  
Sean Cassidy  
Daniel Solkowitz

## **CTA State Council Seat 6**

### **Alternate:**

Jerry Kimery  
Olivia Hart  
Ashley Bettas-Alcalá  
Daniel Solkowitz

## **NEA Local Delegate:**

Barbara Pastuschek-Cox  
Jerry Kimery  
Faith Hurst-Bilinski  
Steven Hurst-Bilinski  
Olivia Hart  
Sean Cassidy  
Erin Moran  
Christine Marquez  
Ashley Bettas-Alcalá  
Jessica Robles  
Robert Rodriguez  
Val Rinehart  
Deandra Fossett  
Daniel Solkowitz  
Lisa Stark  
Raymond Long, Jr.  
Brittany Guillory  
Dominc Torp  
Leonard Ayala

# CANDIDACY STATEMENTS

## Barbara Pastuschek-Cox For NEA Local Delegate

Your TRUSTED, loyal voice for intelligent, informed choice and effective communication!



- SBTA President
- San Bernardino County Presidents' Coalition Vice Chair
- SBTA Vice President 2016-2025
- Served on the NEA Priority Schools Presidents' Forum in Washington D.C.
- SBTA District committee experiences: Curriculum Assessment, Calendar, Safety Task Force, SBCUSD Co-Op, & attends School Board meetings
- More than 27 years as a Special Education Teacher & Frameworks Curriculum Writer w/ M.S. in Special Education, CTE Teacher, CTE Demo Teacher and Pathway Lead

**Thank you for your continued support!**



I am Dr. Jerry Kimery, and I am running for the following: SBTA Executive Board-High School, SBTA State Council Seat 6, SBTA State Council Alternate Seat 6, and NEA Local Delegate. My prior experience includes being a teacher at Pacific High School for twenty 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.

## FAITH HURST-BILINSKI FOR



**SERVING SBTA MEMBERS SINCE 1997!**

**PAST EXPERIENCE:**  
SITE REP  
ELECTIONS CHAIR  
IPD CHAIR.

**CURRENT SERVICE:**  
**ELEMENTARY EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
**RA LOCAL DELEGATE**  
**CTA STATE COUNCIL DELEGATE.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

## Steven HURST-BILINSKI for NEA Local Delegate



**Experience:**  
SBTA Communications Chair  
Site Rep  
NEA Local Delegate

# CANDIDACY STATEMENTS



My name is Ryan Harsch and I am seeking your vote for a third term as an Executive Board member representing Special Services.

I have been involved with special education for 25 years, as a teacher, department chair, and program specialist. I have also acted as a CTA Representative and NEA local representative.

Serving on the Board for the past four years has provided me with the initial tools and knowledge to best fulfill this role. I feel that we have made some tremendous strides but there is still much work to be done. I am resourceful, hard-working, and responsive [...]



VOTE Dr. Olivia Chavez-Hart

1. Executive Board - Special Services
2. CTA State Council - Seat 6
3. CTA State Council - Alternate Seat 6
4. NEA Local Delegate

I'm a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teacher, Water Polo/ Swim Coach, Induction Coach, Teach Plus Fellow, and an advocate for equity.

It would be an honor to advocate for you and voice your concerns at all levels because you deserve to be heard.



**Sean Cassidy**

State Council Representative  
NEA Local Delegate

**Erin Moran**

NEA Local Delegate

# CANDIDACY STATEMENTS



Christina M. Marquez

**NEA-RA Local Delegate**

I'm a fifth-grade teacher serving my second term on CTA State Council's State Legislation Committee. Additionally, I have served on Rep Council for 21 years. I have been awarded the SBCUSD's Crystal Apple Award and CTA's Ted Bass Award. I attend school board meetings to ensure board members respect teachers, students, staff, parents, and our diverse society. We can stop the extremist attacks on 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



My name is Erika Martinez, and I am running for the Executive Board position representing High School. I am a Deaf and Hard of Hearing teacher at San Geronio High School and have proudly served SBCUSD for 10 years.

I currently serve as the Special Education Department Chair and have been a Site Representative for three years, advocating for educators and working collaboratively with administration. These experiences have strengthened my leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills. I am committed, collaborative, and reliable, and I would be honored to continue serving our members.

Thank you for your vote and support!

## Re-Elect

### Ashley Bettas-Alcalá

**NEA Delegate & State Council Alt.**



Every educator deserves a safe and supportive work environment because we know that your working conditions are also our students learning conditions. As your SBTAs Past-President, I will bring the perspective and concerns of the SBTAs membership to the national and state level. We are stronger together and I would be honored to have your vote.



I am running for NEA local delegate. I have attended 3 previous RA's. I believe in strong public schools, professional dignity for educators, and equitable opportunities for every student. If elected, I will listen carefully to members, engage thoughtfully in deliberations, and vote with integrity on issues affecting our profession and students. I would be honored to represent our local and serve with dedication and accountability.

# CANDIDACY STATEMENTS

**Elect**

**Robert V. Rodriguez**



***NEA-RA Local Delegate***

I am a special education teacher, Past-President of SBTA and former member of the NEA Executive Committee. Currently, I am running for NEA Secretary-Treasurer to represent you at the national level. I will always fight to protect our rights in the classroom and our students!



I respectfully seek reelection to the SBTA Executive Board to continue serving educators across our district. Over a decade in education and five years in SBCUSD, I bring classroom and union leadership experience to my role on the Executive Board. I began my career as a classified aide, became a site representative, and stepped in to complete an Executive Board term when support was needed. My journey to become a Teacher for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has shaped my commitment to union advocacy. I value collaboration, active listening, and bringing member concerns forward with clarity and purpose.



My name is DeAndra Fossett, and I am running for the SBTA Executive Board elementary position and the NEA local delegate position. I have served on the SBTA executive board for the past two years and would like to continue supporting our members and helping them advocate for themselves. I also had the pleasure of representing CTA at the 2024 NEA Representative Assembly in Philadelphia. I believe strongly in our union and am committed to working alongside members to advocate for our rights. I would truly appreciate your support and your vote in the upcoming election cycle.

**Roberta "Birdie" Figueroa**  
**For High School Board of Directors**



- Eight years on the High School Board
- Served on SBTA/District committees: Human Civil Rights, New Teacher, Scholarship, Retirement, IPD, Dual Enrollment, Safety and Wellness
- More than 26 years as a High School SBTA Representative at Pacific and San Andreas High
- More than 26 years as a Teacher and Career Program Specialist

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

# CANDIDACY STATEMENTS

## Daniel Solkowitz

High School Executive Board  
State Council Representative  
State Council Alternate  
NEA Local Delegate



My name is **Lisa Stark** and I have been a Member of the SBTA Elementary Executive Board for the last 6 years. I have enjoyed the many learning opportunities brought to me and I would like to continue to learn and grow. I am asking for your vote so I can continue to represent members of SBTA as an Executive Board Member and an NEA RA Delegate. Thank you! **DON'T BE IN THE DARK! VOTE FOR STARK!**

My name is Raymond Long and I stand before you with gratitude and pride, seeking your support for reelection to the **Elementary Executive Board** and to **NEA Local Delegate**. My time as an elementary board of directors has provided insight on what our members truly need to be successful and respected. I will be honored to continue this work of fighting for fair wages, better and safer working conditions, and policies that uplift our profession. Your voice deserves to be heard beyond our district, and I will ensure it is. Please consider voting for me! Let's get to work!



## VOTE FOR DAMIAN LOZANO FOR SBTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER HIGH SCHOOL



My name is Damian Lozano, and I am running for SBTA Executive Board Member High School. I believe in collaboration and advocating for fair working conditions that allow teachers to focus on what matters most, their well-being and supporting our students. With experience working across departments and supporting schoolwide initiatives, I bring a practical, solutions-focused mindset. I am committed to listening to member concerns, communicating clearly, and working together to strengthen our union and our schools.

# CANDIDACY STATEMENTS

## BRITTANY GULLORY FOR NEA LOCAL DELEGATE



- I AM COMMITTED TO REPRESENTING THE VOICES, NEEDS, AND PRIORITIES OF OUR LOCAL EDUCATORS AT THE STATE AND NATIONAL LEVEL.
- I AM DEPENDABLE, ORGANIZED, AND PREPARED TO ATTEND ALL REQUIRED CALIFORNIA STATE MEETINGS AND THE NEA GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
- I WILL SERVE AS A STRONG LIAISON BETWEEN OUR LOCAL ASSOCIATION AND NEA LEADERSHIP, ENSURING CLEAR COMMUNICATION AND THOUGHTFUL, INFORMED REPRESENTATION.

My name is Connie Jones and I am a middle school teacher running for the union executive board to advocate for educators, with a strong focus on supporting middle school teachers. I have previously served as a middle school union board member and as a union site representative, giving me both leadership experience and a clear understanding of the day-to-day challenges teachers face. I am committed to listening to members, supporting fair working conditions, and ensuring middle school voices are represented. I would be honored to earn your support.



## VENY JIMENEZ MIDDLE SCHOOL EXEC BOARD

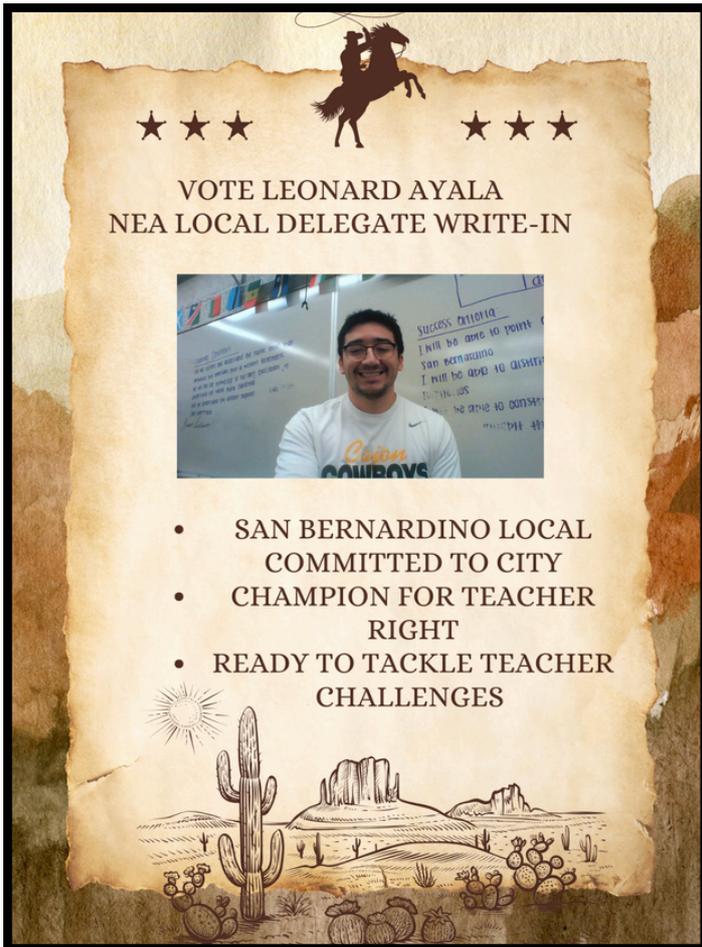


- 21 YEARS SBTA REP
- 6 YEARS BARGAINING/NEGOTIATIONS TEAM MEMBER
- 21 YEARS ELA/ELD/ELF MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSROOM TEACHER
- 4 YEARS ON THE MIDDLE SCHOOL EXEC BOARD WORKING MEMBER
- REPRESENTING ALL TEACHERS AND FINDING ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS
- FORMING CONNECTIONS TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS
- COLLABORATIVE-PASSIONATE-DEPENDABLE-BOLD-PERCEPTIVE
- YOUR COLLEAGUE FOR OUR TEACHER JOURNEY



I am running for the RA/NEA Local Delegate 2026 position to advocate for educators, students, and equitable access to quality education. I believe in collaboration, integrity, and active representation. If elected, I will vote and be your voice, ensuring local perspectives are heard at the national level. Thank you and I appreciate for your vote, Dominic Torp

# CANDIDACY STATEMENTS



★★★★

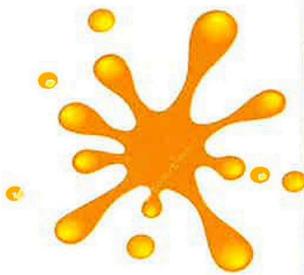
VOTE LEONARD AYALA  
NEA LOCAL DELEGATE WRITE-IN



- SAN BERNARDINO LOCAL COMMITTED TO CITY
- CHAMPION FOR TEACHER RIGHT
- READY TO TACKLE TEACHER CHALLENGES



**Members who did not submit a statement to News & Views only have the positions they are running for listed in the statement section.**



**Friday, February 13, 2026 from 5-7pm**

*Join other SBTA members for this night of relaxation*

*At the SBTA Office; 1997 East Marshall Blvd.; San Bernardino 92404*

*Paint with old friends & meet new ones.*

*Accepting RSVP starting on January 26, 2026 after 4pm; RSVP(s) are \$20 each.*

**YOUR VOTE  
MATTERS**



**VOTING TAKES PLACE  
FEBRUARY 12TH - FEBRUARY 26TH**

## **UNION CODE OF CONDUCT**

I will not criticize any union colleague except to the individual directly.

If any union colleague is being criticized in my presence, I will confront the criticism and ask that it stop.

I will not participate in any conversations with administration that criticize, or negatively speculate about any union colleague.

I will settle my difference with colleagues within my union.

I will engage in debate, offer others every opportunity for debate and respect minority viewpoints, but I will observe and support the majority mandate of my union.



# sbta

San Bernardino Teachers Association

## 2026

### Instruction & Professional Development Free Workshops All Members Are Invited!



January 28<sup>th</sup> - Grievance  
Workshop



February 18<sup>th</sup> - Teacher  
and the Law Workshop



March 18<sup>th</sup> - Know Your  
Contract



April 22<sup>nd</sup> - Retirement  
Must RSVP at SBTA



May 20<sup>th</sup> - Loan  
Forgiveness Workshop

**ALL WORKSHOPS WILL BEGIN AT  
4:30PM AT THE SBTA OFFICE.**

For more information, call the SBTA office (909) 881-6755.

**RSVP Now!**

[bit.ly/SBTAIPDRSVP](https://bit.ly/SBTAIPDRSVP)

