

**Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee
Endorsement Questionnaire Educational Candidates**

Candidate Information:

Candidate Name: Carol Mills

Race/Area #: FUSD, Trustee Area 5

Address:

Carol Mills for School Board Committee

P.O. Box 828

Fresno, CA 93712-0828

E-mail: carolmillsfUSD@comcast.net

Website: www.votecarolmills.com

Phone: 559-696-1426

Campaign Manager/Consultant:

Jason Carns 287-0064

Please use no more than 100 words to respond to the following:

1. Do you support publicly funded universal preschool? I absolutely support publicly funded universal preschool. I supported Fresno Unified offering free preschool. The earlier we are able to engage children in a quality education, the better chance they will have to succeed throughout their educational career. Studies show that universal preschool can reduce the income-related achievement gap in reading by 41% and in math by 27%.

2. What will you do to help ensure adequate funding for music and art programs at all primary and secondary levels? I have supported increasing music and art programs using district funds, grants, and community partnerships. I will continue to collaborate with my colleagues and administration to ensure adequate funding for music and art programs. These programs are not just extracurricular activities but are vital to an overall educational experience.

Studies show students who study art are 4 times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement and 3 times more likely to be awarded for school attendance. The same research shows that sustained learning in music and theater correlates strongly with higher achievement in both math and reading.

3. Please describe how you will improve the quality of education (in the district for which you are running)? I will continue to work hard, as I have in the past, to ensure that the voices of students, their families and our staff are always heard. I will continue to work to increase our graduation rates, improve facilities, increase CTE and innovative program opportunities, ensure our campuses are a safe place for all, and ensure teachers and other staff have the resources they need to help them with the incredible job they do. I also support adequate funding for our schools through Prop. 15.

4. What is your plan for reopening schools after the COVID-19 crisis? The safety of students and staff are a priority. I have supported purchasing PPE at district expense and would support bringing back high needs students in small groups and adopting block scheduling to meet CDC guidelines for reopening. I work to ensure everything that can be done for students and teachers to have the resources they need during COVID 19, including a laptop/tablet and hotspot for every student needing one; continuing to feed our students free meals; making sure all employees remain employed; and ensuring social/emotional supports are available to students.

5. Describe how schools and districts can secure additional social emotional supports via adding counselors, social workers and nurses. This is a critical need and during my time on the Board this has been a priority for me and we have increased counselors, nurses, school psychologists and other social/emotional support personnel. I will continue to make this a priority and support additional funding sources like Prop. 15 so we can meet the needs of all students, since the district is experiencing a nearly 32% reduction in funding this year.

Candidate Signature:

Carol Mills

(Use the draw function to sign. Signing confirms candidate's permission to post responses on the CVPPAC Web site.)

Thank you so much for your time and energy in completing this questionnaire. Your responses will be posted on the CVPPAC Website and distributed to CVPPAC members. All completed questionnaire responses are to be submitted to Daren Miller

at darenmilleremail@gmail.com by **11:59 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 14 (without exception)**. The CVPPAC endorsement meeting will be held on **Saturday, Sept. 26, via Zoom**.

Contact Daren Miller at 559-382-9909 or darenmilleremail@gmail.com with your questions.