



Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee

Endorsement Questionnaire—Educational Candidates

Candidate Information:

Candidate Name: Noha Elbaz

Race/Area #: Clovis Unified School District Board Trustee Area 4

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Campaign Manager/Consultant: Ty Williams

Please use no more than 100 words per question to respond...

1. Do you support publicly funded universal preschool?

Yes, I do support universal preschool. Preschool time and again has been shown to set students up for success in Kindergarten and beyond. The ability for children to access early childhood education should be a fundamental right, not something that is left for the benefit of those who can pay for it. We must strengthen our public school system, starting with universal preschool.

2. What will you do to help ensure adequate funding for music and art programs at all primary and secondary levels?

Music and art should not be viewed as “optional” but instead just as important as math and reading. Study after study shows the positive impact the arts have on those “core” subjects. Music and art need to be taken out of the category where they are viewed as “extracurricular” and instead be blended into the standard curriculum of schools. Right now music and art tend to be funded primarily by individuals and Parent groups which by definition gives kids from more privileged backgrounds an advantage, this needs to stop.

3. Please describe how you will improve the quality of education (in the district for which you are running)?

The most immediate focus needs to be reducing the class size. In elementary classrooms, we are seeing nearly 40 students per class and more than 40 at the middle and high school levels. This is unacceptable. This makes individualized attention that our children need and deserve, impossible. Allocating resources to bring class size down will have an immediate impact on outcomes for students at every level. There have been multiple studies that prove that outcomes

for students, particularly for students of color, are dramatically improved in smaller class settings. We must fund schools and get this done.

4. What is your plan for reopening schools after the COVID-19 crisis?

Safely is key. I am not an epidemiologist so I will listen to experts and follow their guidance to keep students and staff safe. Cutting corners and making exceptions is not an option because, like nearly every other aspect of public education, our schools can either be leaders and hubs of community success or if executed poorly they will become vectors for the disease itself.

COVID has shined a spotlight on many issues that have long existed in our district and I want to see us take lessons away from this that will help benefit our district beyond COVID.

5. Describe how schools and districts can secure additional social emotional supports via adding counselors, social workers and nurses.

My district has 1 school psychologist per elementary school and slightly more on the HS level. It's not enough with a district of nearly 43,000 students. The American School Counselor Association recommends one counselor for every 250 students, and that must be the minimum standard for CUSD which is well above that number. My children's elementary school has nearly 1,000 students. 1 counselor doesn't even scratch the surface of what's needed. With COVID, this amplifies a problem that has long existed. Many insurance plans (if families are ensured), don't cover counseling, so again, you only get what you can afford.

6. Will you vote for Proposition 15 and 16? Please explain your response.

I will vote yes on both.

Prop 15: I do not believe that businesses should be allowed to continue to raise their prices for products and services while there is a freeze on their property taxes, and this will pump much-needed monies into a public school system that is overcrowded, underfunded, and critical to our communities.

Prop 16: Systemic racism, gender bias, and a whole host of other discriminatory practices remain rooted in our system of government and across our society. To say that these things "no longer exist" is to deny reality. As a woman and a minority, I have seen this first hand throughout my career. We continue to see the rich and the powerful, in control and we need to help balance the playing field.

Candidate Signature: Noha Elbaz

(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 Web site 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.

Central Valley Progressive PAC
Voter Endorsement Committee