

# Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee

## Endorsement Questionnaire for Educational Candidates

Candidate Information:

Candidate Name: Andy Levine

Race/Area #: FUSD, Trustee Area 5 (special election)

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Phone: (559) 355-5169

Campaign Manager/Consultant: Maria Lemus

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

1. Do you support publicly funded universal preschool? Why or Why not?

*I am in strong support of universal pre-K and was thrilled to see the state of California lead the nation on this in last year's budget, making pre-K universal over the next few years. The evidence is clear that early childhood education has an immense impact on a child's readiness for K-12 and likely success throughout their education. This is especially true for our students in low-income, ELL, and other vulnerable households. As Trustee, it will be a priority of mine to see Fresno Unified now lead the way in implementing this standard for the state.*

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

*I'm a strong believer in funding for music and the arts across all levels. Increased LCFF funds from the state could and should go towards this, as well as FUSD applying for the \$3B in state funding to pilot community schools. More on that model below, but community schools include more holistic supports for students and their families, which includes arts and music. Where we already have individual schools specializing in this area - such as Roosevelt - I would also want to be sure we are scaling what's working, so that all students can benefit from it and not only pockets.*

3. Please describe how you will improve the quality of education as an elected trustee for FUSD?

*The \$700M in federal relief funding gives an unprecedented opportunity to provide more personalized supports for students, especially those most at risk of falling behind. Providing more counseling and direct support for students outside the classroom will also help teachers focus on their students' academic needs in the classroom. This starts with a more intentional process of inviting parents, teachers and students to give input (not just online surveys) on how we should prioritize these resources. FUSD is the third-largest district in the state and must become more innovative and fiscally responsible in how it spends its over \$1B budget.*

4. What is your plan for operating schools during the COVID-19 crisis?

*I've heard numerous concerns from parents and teachers about lack of communication and proactive resources from the district at this moment. While I am grateful that we're still able to do in person learning during this surge, I believe we need more testing and available KN95 masks. I also believe our schools should be hosting vaccine clinics. Finally, I worry about a "stay in person at any cost" mentality that risks sacrificing our community's health, first and foremost, and want to be sure we are at least prepared (tech and otherwise) for potential short-term returns to online learning as needed.*

5. Describe how FUSD can provide additional social emotional supports at all school campuses?

*Investing in social, emotional and mental health should be a top priority in how we spend the \$700 million in federal relief funds. I don't believe the current spending plans reflect that. As mentioned, I will also be sure that FUSD applies for a portion of the state's \$3B to pilot community schools, which provide these comprehensive supports for the whole child and family. My mom was a school psychologist for students with social and emotional challenges for the County, so I know how critically important this is.*

6. Please list your top 5 campaign donors and the amounts contributed.

*Trudi Thom (mom) - \$4000*

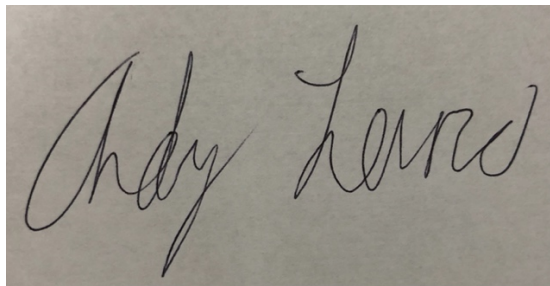
*Paul Pierce - \$3000*

*Justin Keane (longtime family friends) - \$3000*

*Juan and Amy Arambula - \$1500*

*Janine Nkosi - \$1200*

**Candidate Signature:**

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style and appears to read "Andy Lernd".

(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](mailto:darenmilleremail@gmail.com) by Monday, January 31, 2022 **(without exception)**.

The CVPPAC endorsement meeting will be held on **Saturday, February 12, 2022 (possibly via zoom)**.

Contact Daren Miller at 559-930-4909 or [darenmilleremail@gmail.com](mailto:darenmilleremail@gmail.com) with your questions.