

Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee

Endorsement Questionnaire for Education Candidates

Candidate Information

Candidate Name: Dan Bordona

Race/Area #: Fresno Unified School District Trustee, Area 6 (Hoover region)

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Website:

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Campaign Manager/Consultant: Pedro Ramirez

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

1. Please describe how you will improve the quality of education as an elected trustee for the school district?

I will strongly support more local voice in how we educate our children. FUSD has relied heavily on outside consultants to make instructional decisions. We have experts, our teachers, who need to have a much larger voice at the table.

We need to raise the bar on academic achievement and expectations. Over 50% of our students are performing below standards in Math and English, yet approximately 90% receive diplomas.

I have over 30 years' experience in FUSD as a teacher and administrator. That gives me the background to better understand education and how to make the right decisions to support academic growth.

2. Describe how the school district can provide additional social emotional supports at all school campuses?

More supports are needed the PS through 6th grade levels. The earlier we can begin to intervene and support students and their families in dire need of SE supports, the better outcomes these children will have by the time they reach high school. High schools do have a high level of support (social workers, school psychologists, SE specialists, substance abuse counselors), but the system gets overwhelmed. Stronger supports earlier will help to mitigate this.

3. What role should the school board play in determining the selection of books / materials for school libraries?

Reading materials at school should be a school decision. Students should always have access to age-appropriate reading material at the school library.

School board trustees should not be politically motivated, nor make decisions that may have impact on their future political aspirations.

4. What should be the policy of the school district as regards notifying parents of student's request for use of gender pronouns and other identifying characteristics?

There has to be trust between parents and the schools. Open communication is foundational to building trust. Unless the issue involves child abuse or a legitimate concern of immediate harm to a child, then school personnel should not hide information from parents. It may be necessary to provide school staff with better training on how to have difficult conversations with parents. Schools should also provide parents with better information regarding gender pronouns, etc.

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

1. SEIU \$2,000
2. Fresno Teacher's Association \$5,000 (pledged) FTA has been supporting through canvassing.
3. Operating Engineers Have pledged support. No amount specified yet.
4. Central Labor Council
5. Sheet Metal Workers Have pledged support. No amount specified yet.

Candidate Signature: *(Use a script font to sign below). Signing confirms candidate's permission to post responses on the CVPPAC Web site.)*

Daniel P Bordona

If you want to be considered for endorsement by the CVPPAC, you will need to complete the attached candidate questionnaire and e-mail it back to us at fresnocvppac@gmail.com no later than 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, August 31st.