

Dear Friend:

I was born and raised in Los Angeles. I attended LAUSD public schools and a California public college. I've raised my family here and built a successful business. All three of my kids attended public schools. The mother of two of my grandchildren is Latina; her parents having emigrated here from Mexico.

I have been blessed with much success. But I couldn't have achieved any of it without the solid educational foundation I received from our local public schools. That's why I have given millions of dollars supporting neighborhood public schools and why my wife, Susan, and I have decided to spend our own resources supporting Dr. Christina Martinez Duran for School Board and opposing incumbent Jackie Goldberg.

Despite what some people, including Ms. Goldberg, might say to scare you, let me start by saying that I am a Democrat who has dedicated my life to serving progressive causes such as fighting big tobacco and the NRA. I had been an independent (no party preference) since 2011 as I have always been far more loyal to issues than to parties. Last year I registered as a Democrat because I strongly oppose the current President, and I believe in Democratic values on issues, such as standing up for children in underserved communities who don't have the voice against powerful special interests.

Other than supporting the Democratic Senatorial Committee this past year, I have not contributed to political parties in years. Like many things Jackie Goldberg wrote about me, her charge that I contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Republican party in 2019 is **completely untrue**. In fact, I voted for and contributed the maximum to Hillary Clinton in 2016 and believe that it is imperative Donald Trump be defeated. This past year, I gave maximum donations to presidential candidates Elizabeth Warren and Cory Booker. I also believe that taxes on the wealthy should be raised to better fund our public schools and support our best and brightest teachers.

The fact is, we care so deeply about the success of all LAUSD's diverse children that we simply could not stand by and do nothing while our district failed another generation of kids. LAUSD does not work well for low-income communities, especially Latino and African American children. This has been the case for a very long time. If you look at almost any metric, (proficiency rates in reading and math, college-eligible graduation rates, etc.), the school district does not serve low-income children of color well. I believe we need to change this. For LAUSD to serve their students well, it must have a school board that is relentlessly focused on doing what is best for kids, putting children first in every decision they make. That is why I have been so active in supporting candidates in recent years that will prioritize children over powerful and monied special interests.

Jackie Goldberg has served on the LA School Board, LA City Council and state legislature over a thirty plus career as a politician. We need a fresh perspective. We need board members who are focused on making dramatic improvements to the system by putting children first. That is not Jackie Goldberg. Every single statement in the mail we've supported has been factual and

thoroughly researched, such as her vote as a school board member to shut down operations in LAUSD for Teach for America in 2019 and her vote as an Assemblymember **against** banning fake guns in California's public schools. (Shockingly, she was only one of two legislators to side with the NRA in that vote.)

Dr. Christina Martinez Duran is a bilingual education teacher and an expert in helping school districts improve. She's the kind of person this district and its diverse families deserve.

Please join me in supporting a teacher for a change. Dr. Christina Martinez Duran for School Board.

Sincerely,

Bill Bloomfield