

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

JANUARY 2020

Orange County will have a new way of voting in March, 2020

Orange County will have a new way of voting when the Primary Election rolls around in March.

There will be no precinct polling places. Every registered voter will receive a ballot in the mail. After completing the ballot, you can:

- Mail it back to the Registrar of Voters, with no postage required,
- Drop it off at any one of the 110 secure Ballot Drop Boxes located throughout the county, or
- Take it to one of the 188 Orange County Vote Centers.

Here's another alternative. Beginning on February 22, you can go to any Voter Center in the county, have your ballot pulled up, and vote right then and there. You will get a printed ballot, mark your choices and then scan the

ballot into the system. This creates a paper trail for the results.

Each Vote Center will be staffed by four to six employees who will be able to check your registration status and, if necessary, register you to vote on the spot. Other registration problems can be fixed immediately as well. This eliminates the need for provisional ballots, which are inconvenient for voters and time-consuming to tally.

The staff members will be connected to the statewide voter database which allows them to determine if a person has already voted, even if it was in a different county. This increases security and ballot integrity, and eliminates questions of voter fraud.

The Voter Centers will be open for 11 days, including weekends, up to and including Election Day.

For more information, go to OCVote.com

The 2020 U.S. Census is coming. Why is it important?

Every 10 years the United States government conducts a census of every person living in the United States, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories.

The 2020 Census will begin on April 1. Each home will receive an invitation to respond to a short questionnaire. You will be able to respond by phone, by mail, or—for the first time—online. Participating in the census is required by law, even if you recently completed another survey from the Census Bureau.

Why is it important?

The census provides critical data that teachers, lawmakers, business owners, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to schools, hospitals, fire departments, roads, and other resources based on census data.

The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. State legislatures or independent bipartisan commissions use the information to redraw congressional district lines and state legislative districts.

Is your information kept private?

When you respond to the census, your answers are kept anonymous. They are used only to produce statistics.

By law, the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about you, your home, or your business, even to law enforcement agencies. That's protected under Title 13 of the U.S. Code. The law ensures that your private information is never published and that your

answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court. Every census employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life. Before releasing data products, the Census Bureau verifies that they meet its confidentiality standards.

For more information, go to <https://2020census.gov>.

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Forum Friday, January 24

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Fountain Valley School District Boardroom
10055 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley

Hear from a panel of Orange County
school district superintendents

- **Christopher Downing**, Ph.D., Anaheim Elementary
- **Ramon Miramontes**, Ph.D. Buena Park
- **Terry Walker**, Ed.M., Irvine Unified

and

Al Mijares, Ph.D.
Orange County Superintendent of Schools

Free and open to all PTA members.

State committee recommends approval of OCDE budget

Competing budgets for the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) were reviewed by a committee of the California Department of Education, which decided that the budget submitted by the county superintendent is valid.

The OCDE has been without an official budget since last summer, when two versions were submitted to the state department. The budget submitted by Orange County Superintendent Al Mijares was rejected because it did not have the approval of the county Board of Education. Three county board members – Ken Williams, Lisa Sparks and Mari Barke – sent their own budget to the state, eliminating \$172,442 for professional development and legislative advocacy from a \$257 million total. That version was also rejected because it did not include the signature of the county superintendent.

In November, the three Orange County board members filed a lawsuit against Mijares and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, challenging

whether the board or the county superintendent should have final say over the county's education budget.

In response to the disputed budget, the State Department of Education formed a three-member Budget Review Committee, with one member mutually agreed upon by both the county superintendent and the board members, and one member proposed by each party.

This group examined both proposals and received input from four out of the five OCDE board members, the OCDE superintendent, and the OCDE associate superintendent of administrative services.

The Budget Review Committee unanimously recommended that the budget presented by Mijares be approved as presented. This budget “meets the fiscal solvency for current and multiyear financial commitments,” the committee wrote, and was “presented appropriately in public session, including a public hearing.” The committee also determined that there was adequate opportunity for county board members to review, discuss, and provide input on the budget before it was presented for approval at the June 26, 2019 board meeting.

State Superintendent Thurmond accepted the recommendation and approved the budget presented by Mijares.

It is not known if this decision will have an impact on the lawsuit.

OC school board election in March

The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) provides services and resources to local school districts as well as education programs for special needs students, including those who are homeless, in foster care or incarcerated. The department is directed by trustees who are elected from five county areas.

Three trustee areas are up for election in the March 3 Primary. Candidates are:

Trustee Area 1

Rebecca “Beckie” Gomez (Incumbent)
Jim Palmer
Steve Rocco

Trustee Area 3

Andy Thorburn
Ken L. Williams Jr. (Incumbent)

Trustee Area 4

Jordan Brandman
Vicki Calhoun
Paulette Chaffee
Tim Shaw

PTA Advocacy Conference Call

The next California State PTA advocacy conference call is scheduled for Wednesday, February 5, at 7 p.m.

Call-in Directions:

- Conference Dial-In Number: 1 (605) 313-4821
- Participant Access Code: 604265#
- To mute or unmute during the session, press *6.

Don't miss out!
Sacramento Safari
February 24 and 25

Registration deadline
January 27

Register now at
www.fourthdistrictpta.org



Safari activities begin at 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 24 and end at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25. Please schedule your arrival and departure accordingly.

Be sure to book your air travel!

Recommended flights:

Through Orange County (SNA)

Southwest #1384, departs Orange County at 7:15 a.m.

Southwest #345, departs Sacramento 8:20 p.m.

Through Long Beach (LGB)

Southwest #2035, departs Long Beach 8:30 a.m.

Southwest #1411, departs Sacramento 7:30 p.m.

Sacramento Safari Orientation
Friday, February 14 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Fountain Valley School District
10055 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley