

PTA AND ELECTIONS

Voting is the Foundation of Democracy.

PTA members care about children & their issues – not just our own, but every child in California and the nation.

Because the purpose of PTA includes advocating for laws that further the education, physical and mental health, welfare, and safety of children and youth, as well as fiscal responsibility regarding public tax dollars in public education funding...

PTA does have a role in elections.

- Register voters & encourage voting
- Host candidate forums
- Develop & publish candidate questionnaires
- Furnish voter information
- Support or oppose ballot measures, which may include signature-gathering



IRS RULES

PTA is a noncommercial, nonsectarian, and **nonpartisan** tax-exempt organization, so we do not, in our official capacities – directly or indirectly – participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to any **candidate** for public office, or devote more than an insubstantial part of our activities to attempting to influence legislation by propaganda or otherwise. (5%)

Therefore, PTA does NOT:

- Endorse or help any **candidate** or **political party**, including those running for school board or other nonpartisan offices
- Invite only one candidate to speak at a meeting – ALL must be invited
- Ask a candidate to sign a pledge
- Distribute campaign materials at a PTA event
- Wear campaign paraphernalia at a PTA event

Facilities use permit allows PTA to set the rules; clarify by posting a sign at the entry.



PTA LEADERS

- ▶ *Leaders and members may campaign as individuals, but not at a PTA event.*
 - ▶ *Current or former PTA board members must not use their PTA title or the name of the PTA to endorse a candidate, even if just for purposes of identification. For example, in a published list of supporters of Mike for Mayor, it's OK to include your name, "Susie Smith", but NOT "Susie Smith, President, Sunshine Valley PTA".*
 - ▶ *PTA leaders should consider whether privately endorsing a candidate (without using a PTA title) could negatively affect a future relationship with an elected official should the other candidate win.*
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