

2024 FACCC PAC Endorsements in Swing Districts

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This summative analysis of candidates for four pivotal legislative districts is a subset of the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges' (FACCC) 2024 candidate endorsements for the California State Assembly and Senate. After consultation and collaboration with various California community college faculty unions, Chair Natalina Teixeira Monteiro and the FACCC Political Action Committee (PAC) issued municipal, state, and Board of Trustee endorsements for both the March Presidential Primary Election and November General Election. On behalf of the FACCC Communications Committee, Ryan Tripp situated the PAC endorsements within biographical and select endorsement contexts. These four candidates all serve or intend to serve in state electoral districts on the verge of "swinging" between two California state candidates and two parties.

Introduction

California's prosperity depends on the quality of education provided to students. Educational funding is a critical issue that directly affects the ability of schools, colleges and faculty members to deliver high-quality education, so it is imperative to elect legislators who share the FACCC's commitment to supporting educators and students alike. The candidates who earned FACCC's endorsement have demonstrated a deep understanding of the obstacles confronting the California Community College system and have shown a steadfast dedication to advocating for its increased funding and resources. With the current requirement of two-thirds legislative approval for budget

expenditures, California needs legislators who are willing to fight for the funding necessary to increase accessibility to community college education. The candidates that FACCC identified have shown clear visions for the future of community colleges in California and have worked tirelessly to realize these visions. By endorsing the following four candidates, FACCC hopes to guide California citizens in voting for partisan representatives who will work in the Legislature to help secure access to the resources and support that students need to succeed in community colleges. The PAC and Communications Committee always seek political allies who share the mission and goals of FACCC.

Kipp Mueller (Democrat-SD 23)

In the upcoming November Senate District 23 (SD 23) election, Kipp Mueller emerges as a standout candidate. His steadfast commitment to addressing issues such as affordable housing, public safety, poverty, and economic development sets him apart as a candidate who understands the multifaceted problems within his district. Mueller's father was a house painter, and Mueller learned a great deal from him about the labor experience. As a result, much of his childhood was spent on rooftops and ladders—heading home "sunburned and sore, proud that [he] put in a hard day's work." For nearly four decades, his mother was a community college counselor for students with disabilities. She engaged with students who defied all odds in pursuit of their goals.

Mueller's emphasis on bolstering the means of people to afford their homes reflects his dedication to resolving homelessness in SD 23, which includes portions of Riverside, San Bernardino, and Los Angeles counties. By promoting the construction of significantly more housing units to meet the growing demand, Mueller aims to prevent individuals and families from experiencing housing instability and the risk of homelessness. Moreover, his call for affordable housing development in all areas of the state demonstrates his commitment to creating diverse and inclusive neighborhoods where residents of all backgrounds can thrive.

In addition to his housing initiatives, Mueller also recognizes the importance of formulating public safety measures that confront the causes of crime and ensure effective allocation of law enforcement resources. By advocating for proper training for professionals dealing with mental health, homelessness, and domestic violence circumstances, Mueller aims to enhance community responses to crises while allowing law enforcement officers to focus on preventing violent crime.

Mueller's comprehensive policy package positions him well to advance SD 23's diverse goals and aspirations. By electing Mueller, voters in SD 23 will ensure that their voices are heard, their concerns are considered, and their hopes for a more prosperous and inclusive community are championed in the state Legislature.

Pilar Schiavo (Democrat-AD 40)

Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo is a proven leader with a track record of advocating for the voters of Assembly District 40 and implementing policies that benefit her constituents. Schiavo, former owner of a small business and a dedicated advocate for healthcare, affordable housing, and public safety, is the daughter of small-business owners. Her father was an electrician, and her mother was a bookkeeper who managed the family's electrical business. When her father secured employment via a union, she witnessed its life-changing effect on her family. These formative experiences led her to active participation in the labor movement. Schiavo is familiar with the obstacles that independent entrepreneurs and families confront. Her focus on reducing taxes for small businesses demonstrates her commitment to fostering economic growth and prosperity. With a background

as a nurse advocate, Schiavo has firsthand experience providing healthcare, including reproductive healthcare, to over a million people. Her support for a woman's right to choose and her efforts to increase healthcare access highlight her dedication to AD 40, which includes parts of Los Angeles County from Santa Clarita in the north to neighborhoods in the city of Los Angeles in the south.

Schiavo's legislative advocacy of bills to make housing more affordable and combat homelessness highlight her proactive approach to tackling district issues. She has taken the lead in expanding stable housing and support services by securing resources to help seniors, veterans, and individuals struggling with transience. Through co-founding an organization that dispenses meals to people in need and finding shelter for vulnerable populations, Schiavo has shown her passion for social welfare. Her backing of public safety initiatives resulted from a hope to create a safe and inclusive environment for all residents. She has consistently advanced social welfare policy and worked to deliver tangible results. By reelecting Pilar Schiavo, AD 40 voters can ensure continued progress for the district with a dedicated leader at the helm.

Al Muratsuchi (Democrat-AD 66)

With his continuing commitment to education, environmental sustainability, and social welfare, Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi stands out as the ideal choice for reelection in his pivotal swing 66th Assembly District (AD 66), located in the Los Angeles South Bay and San Pedro.

Muratsuchi's second-generation Japanese-American father served in U.S. military installations in Okinawa, while his mother hailed from Gifu Prefecture in Honshu, Japan. Muratsuchi lived on various U.S. military bases overseas until 1982 when he arrived in California. A product of public schools and a first-generation college graduate, he attended the University of California, Berkeley, and received a Juris Doctor degree from UCLA.

Muratsuchi's distinguished record of legislative achievements underscores why voters in California AD 66 have sustained his incumbency in multiple elections. By increasing teacher salaries, enhancing education funding, promoting environmental sustainability, and advocating for social equity, Muratsuchi has demonstrated his unwavering commitment to improving constituents' lives in AD 66.

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One of the cornerstone achievements of Muratsuchi’s tenure is Assembly Bill 938, an initiative he introduced in April 2023 to help resolve the pressing school workforce shortage by proposing a substantial increase of 50% in teacher and essential school staff salaries by 2030. This bold step acknowledges educators’ invaluable contributions to our society and ensures a more sustainable future for California’s community colleges.

In social welfare, Muratsuchi has been a staunch advocate for equitable access to essential services and protection of community interests. Assembly Bill 483 (2023) is a testament to his commitment to improving school mental health services by advocating for increased funding and streamlining the Medi-Cal billing process. Furthermore, Assembly Bill 449 (2013) highlights Muratsuchi’s dedication to safeguarding vulnerable populations by increasing accountability for teachers accused of misconduct and preventing them from transferring between school districts. He was an early advocate for ethnic studies funding in the California Community Colleges system as well.

Al Muratsuchi’s legislative portfolio is a testament to his unwavering dedication to bettering the lives of Californians. By casting their vote for Al Muratsuchi, residents of AD 66 can rest assured that they are choosing a representative who is resolute in advocating and advancing California community college education, champions voter causes, and works toward a brighter and more equitable future for all.

Sharon Quirk-Silva (Democrat-AD 67)

Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva, a dedicated public servant and leader, has repeatedly proven her commitment to the people of California’s 67th Assembly District (AD 67). With a robust track record of accomplishments and deep connections to her communities, voters in this swing district have every reason to support her reelection.

Quirk-Silva’s extensive experience in both local and state governance sets her apart as a knowledgeable and effective representative. She is a graduate of Fullerton College and remains a steadfast supporter of the California Community College system. As a former mayor and member of the Fullerton City Council, she has demonstrated her ability to respond to the needs of her constituents and deliver results that improve the

quality of life for all residents. Her active involvement in various education, budget management, and community development committees at the state level validates her dedication to making improvements on a wider scale.

Moreover, Quirk-Silva, a Latina and former teacher in the Fullerton School District, offers a unique perspective and understanding of the issues within her district. Her personal connections and genuine care for her community prompted her to advocate for policies that benefit the diverse population of the 67th Assembly District, which includes parts of north Orange County and southeastern Los Angeles County anchored by the cities of Anaheim and Cerritos. Whether fighting for better access to education, affordable housing options, or improved state administration, she consistently puts the voices of her constituents first.

Quirk-Silva’s history of local service in Orange County guides her philosophy on how state government should operate. Her office relies on comments and suggestions from constituents to prioritize local issues, find solutions, and ensure that Orange County residents receive adequate resources. In addition, Quirk-Silva’s collaborative approach to governance and her willingness to participate in bipartisan negotiations have contributed to her role in reconciling conflicts and producing unanimity among stakeholders. Her inclusive leadership ensures that all voices are heard and leads to more effective and sustainable solutions to complex problems within the district. By reelecting Quirk-Silva to the Assembly, AD 67 voters can feel confident that they are choosing a dedicated and capable representative who will continue to work on their behalf for a better and brighter future.

Summation of Endorsements

FACCC regards these four endorsed candidates as the best choice for these four swing districts, as well as for the partisan politics of California. By endorsing legislators prioritizing equitable funding and access to education, FACCC promotes creation of an environment in which students can thrive, our teachers excel, and our communities prosper. Share this information with your family, friends, and neighbors—and vote for these worthy candidates in November. ■



2024 FACCC PAC-Endorsements

California Assembly

- AD 2 | Chris Rogers
- AD 4 | Cecilia M. Aguiar-Curry (I)
- AD 6 | Maggy Krell
- AD 7 | Porsche Middleton
- AD 10 | Stephanie Nguyen
- AD 12 | Damon Connolly
- AD 13 | Rhodesia Ransom
- AD 14 | Buffy Wicks
- AD 15 | Tim Grayson
- AD 16 | Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (I)
- AD 17 | Matt Haney (I)
- AD 18 | Mia Bonta (I)
- AD 19 | David Lee
- AD 20 | Liz Ortega (I)
- AD 21 | Diane Papan
- AD 23 | Marc Berman
- AD 24 | Alex Lee (I)
- AD 25 | Ash Kalra (I)
- AD 26 | Patrick Ahrens
- AD 27 | Esmeralda Soria (I)
- AD 28 | Gail Pellerin (I)
- AD 29 | Robert Rivas (I)
- AD 30 | Dawn Addis (I)
- AD 31 | Joaquin Arambula (I)
- AD 35 | Dr. Jasmeet Bains
- AD 36 | Joey Acuña
- AD 37 | Greg Hart
- AD 38 | Steve Bennett (I)
- AD 39 | Juan Carrillo
- AD 40 | Pilar Schiavo (I)
- AD 41 | John Harabedian
- AD 43 | Celeste Rodriguez
- AD 44 | Nick Schultz
- AD 45 | James Ramos
- AD 46 | Jesse Gabriel
- AD 48 | Blanca Rubio
- AD 49 | Mike Fong
- AD 50 | Robert Garcia
- AD 51 | Rick Chavez Zbur
- AD 52 | Jessica Caloza
- AD 53 | Michelle Rodriguez
- AD 54 | Mark Gonzalez
- AD 55 | Isaac Bryan
- AD 56 | Lisa Calderon (I)
- AD 57 | Sade Elhawary
- AD 58 | Clarissa Cervantes
- AD 60 | Corey Jackson (I)
- AD 61 | Tina McKinnor
- AD 63 | Chris Schoults
- AD 64 | Blanca Pacheco
- AD 65 | Mike Gipson (I)
- AD 66 | Al Muratsuchi (I)
- AD 67 | Sharon Quirk-Silva
- AD 69 | Josh Lowenthal (I)
- AD 73 | Cottie Petrie-Norris (I)
- AD 74 | Chris Duncan
- AD 77 | Tasha Boerner Horvath (I)
- AD 78 | Chris Ward (I)
- AD 79 | LaShae Sharpe Collins

California Senate Districts

- SD 5 | Jerry McNerney
- SD 11 | Scott Wiener (I)
- SD 13 | Josh Becker (I)
- SD 17 | John Laird (I)
- SD 21 | Monique Limón (I)
- SD 23 | Kipp Mueller
- SD 27 | Henry Stern (I)
- SD 29 | Eloise Reyes
- SD 31 | Sabrina Cervantes
- SD 33 | Lena Gonzalez (I)
- SD 35 | Michelle Chambers
- SD 37 | Josh Newman (I)

**(I)- Incumbent*