

Chapter Talking Points

February 14, 2022

Info for chapter leaders

THIS WEEK: GOTV for the Beyond Recovery Platform

Vote Wednesday through Friday, February 16 through 18

- With the new Superintendent now in charge, it is time to send a strong message of unity and determination by voting overwhelmingly and with a single voice to support our bargaining platform. Each one of us at our school sites must ensure all members participate in this vote and, as Chapter Chairs, it is crucial that you encourage your colleagues to vote yes to support the platform and establish a strong campaign to get out the vote.

*** Remind members to check their non-LAUSD emails** on Wednesday morning for the vote email from Integrity Voting Systems.

*** Create events to vote together** - maybe a socially distanced meeting in the parking lot or a larger classroom.

*** Through one on one and casual small group conversations remind supporters of the importance of the vote** and ask them to vote if they still have not done so.

Use your roster to keep track of who still has to be reminded and who has confirmed that they have voted. Your cluster leader, BOD member, or UTLA staff will be checking in with you.

- **MATERIALS AND LINKS**

Here are the links to the materials you will need to help you answer member questions. Additionally, a website has been created <https://Vision.utla.net> which houses the links to all the materials. The password to the Chapter Chair section is utlastrong. Please use that website as a resource.

Campaign Website: <https://Vision.utla.net>

Platform: https://vision.utla.net/s/UTLAPPlatform_Full.pdf

Platform Leaflet: https://vision.utla.net/s/UTLAPatform_Flyer.pdf

Talking points for chapter meetings

February 16-18: Vote YES to go Beyond Recovery

- After hundreds of meetings between you and your colleagues and your communities, we developed the Beyond Recovery Platform.

The Beyond Recovery Platform reflects the things that we need to address now to ensure our success as educators and our students' success inside, and outside, the classroom. The platform represents broad goals that will be developed into contact demands for negotiations beginning in the spring with LAUSD.

This collective effort is why this platform has been endorsed by:

- 100% of our Board of Directors
- 97% of our Chapter Leaders during last month's Citywide Leadership Meeting

This week, UTLA members will be engaging in the next step of this democratic process and voting on the Beyond Recovery platform.

With your YES vote, you are saying:

- YES to fighting for higher salaries and improved working conditions
- YES to fighting for wifi for students and updated tech for all
- YES to fighting for smaller class sizes and caseloads
- YES to fighting for support for student mental health and social needs

Check your personal email on Wednesday morning, February 16, for the voting email from Integrity Voting Systems and cast your ballot by Friday, February 18, at 5 pm.

We will not accept temporary band-aids. We are demanding sustainable support for COVID recovery and the recovery of our public education system.

[Beyond Recovery: The Fight for LA Schools flyer](#)
[The Beyond Recovery Platform](#)

VIDEO: “A clear and bold vision

- Henry Garcia, a fifth-grade teacher at 107th Street Elementary, talks about the importance of a solid vote of support for the Beyond Recovery Platform. **“I’m voting yes on the Beyond Recovery platform because it demonstrates a clear and bold vision** for increasing academic success for students, improving working conditions for educators, and advancing racial and economic justice in our communities.

“The platform proves these ideas are not mutually exclusive. Fighting for any of these doesn't have to come at the expense of another. **We can prioritize care for students and their families, educators, public schools, and our neighborhoods simultaneously.**”

Watch [Henry Garcia's video here](#).

Safety updates

- **MASKING:** The state has moved recently to lift some masking requirements, and LA County has signaled that it may do so soon. Per our agreement with LAUSD, any changes on masking this school year must be negotiated. Masking for staff and students has been a key element of the strategy to keep our schools and communities safe and protect our youngest students, who are unable to be vaccinated at this time. COVID positivity rates are on the decline, but it would be premature to stop masking at school sites while the virus is still widespread in our communities.
- **COVID SICK DAYS:** This month, lawmakers passed legislation (SB 114) providing up to 80 hours of supplemental COVID paid sick leave for most workers, a benefit that had expired September 21, 2021.

UTLA members, under our [June 2021 Sideletter, Section VI-B](#), are already covered for paid COVID leave days (as many days as needed when required to

isolate at home after a positive COVID test) for themselves. The state supplemental COVID paid sick leave also covers employees unable to work because they are caring for a family member who is required to isolate. Read more info on this [CTA Fact Sheet](#).

- **TESTING:** Regular COVID testing of students and staff will continue through the end of February. We are advocating that the testing continue. Like masking, regular testing has been a key to keeping our schools and communities safe.

UTLA endorses Rocio Rivas for LAUSD School Board

- On Wednesday, February 9, the UTLA House of Representatives — the largest policy-making body of the 35,000-member union — voted overwhelmingly to endorse Dr. Rocio Rivas for the LAUSD School Board District 2 seat in the June 2022 primary election. The endorsement follows previous endorsements of Dr. Rivas by UTLA’s political action committee (PACE) and Board of Directors.

Dr. Rivas is both an LAUSD graduate and parent of an LAUSD student. She currently serves as Policy Deputy for LAUSD District 5 Board Member Jackie Goldberg, specializing in policy development that advocates for charter school oversight, early education, dual language and bilingual education, magnets, and arts education, among other critical areas.

“As educators, we are proud to stand with Dr. Rocio Rivas, an ally in the fight for safe schools and a future better than the pre-COVID status quo,” UTLA President Cecily Myart-Cruz said. “We know a genuine and complete recovery must address previously existing needs exposed by this pandemic: more funding, more programs for students, and more support for educators. We look forward to a positive, issues-focused School Board campaign in District 2 that uplifts the needs of our school communities.”

UTLA has not endorsed primary candidates for the LAUSD District 4 and 6 School Board seats on the June 2022 ballot.

[Learn more about Dr. Rocio Rivas](#)

Student-led police-free schools event February 26

- This is a major historic event led by LAUSD students. There will be workshops, performances, food, swag and more. Register at bit.ly/Feb26DefundLASPD.

Saturday, February 26

11:00 AM to 2:30 PM

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

3651 So. Vermont Ave. (near the Expo/Vermont Station)

[Event flyer](#)

UTLA calendar

Feb. 16-18: All-member vote on Beyond Recovery Platform

Feb. 23: Secondary Committee meeting