



SCV Teachers

The Santa Clarita Valley Teachers Association: Supporting Teachers and Education
Hart Castaic Newhall Saugus Sulphur Springs



SCV Teachers Endorse School Board Candidates

The Santa Clarita Valley Teachers Association has voted to endorse the incumbents in the November 6 school board race. With only two districts holding elections, all candidates for the William S. Hart Union High School District and Newhall School District have met with the teacher representatives and were interviewed.

Gloria Mercado-Fortine and Steve Sturgeon are the two Hart incumbents and Mike Shapiro and Suzan Solomon are the two Newhall incumbents who have secured the teacher vote. There are no candidates running against the incumbents in the Castaic Union School District, Saugus Union School District or Sulphur Springs School District. (Click on the image above to see the Teachers Association's campaign postcard supporting the candidates.)

"In making its decision, the Hart District Teachers Association's Executive Council considered the candidate interview committee's impression of the candidates, their histories in the community and district, and issues that the candidates have declared important to them," said Council President Leslie Littman. "The HDTA believes that their experience and their knowledge of the issues currently faced by the District makes them the best choice for this November."

Gloria Mercado-Fortine is a District Administrator for the Los Angeles Unified School District and a life-long resident of the Santa Clarita Valley. She is

currently serving her second four-year term on the Hart board. Mercado-Fortine volunteers time to numerous non-profit organizations and is on the Executive Board of the Sheriff's Anti-Gang Task Force and the Child and Family Center. She has been recognized with various awards for her volunteerism and dedication to providing innovative, quality education.

Steve Sturgeon has been on the Hart Governing Board since 1999 and has served as president in 2003/04. As president of a local high-tech firm, Sturgeon brings a high level of business acumen to the Hart District board. He serves on the school construction task force of the California School Boards Association and also volunteers his time to several local non-profit organizations including the SCV Child and Family Center and the SCV Theatre Group Advisory Board.



In the Newhall District, Association President Nancy Butler said she enjoyed meeting all the candidates running for two seats on the board, but the organization has decided to endorse the incumbents.

"After much deliberation and discussion we selected Shapiro and Solomon," Butler said. "We look forward to working with them as well as the rest of the board in making informed decisions that best represent our district."

Mike Shapiro will be completing his first full term as a member of the Newhall

board. He has been active in the fiscal oversight of the school modernization projects through Measure K funds and raises money for the Newhall Educator's Family Fund through a district-wide Fun Run aimed at restoring physical fitness in young children. Shapiro is an active volunteer in various community organizations including the AYSO, the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force and is past chairperson for the annual OLPB BBQ/Fiesta.

He and his wife have lived in Newhall for over 25 years and have two children in public schools.

Suzan Solomon has been working hard to be a fair and objective representative of the community on the school board. She has a working relationship with federal, state and local leaders including United States Congressman Howard P. "Buck" McKeon and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell. Solomon served as a delegate for the California School Boards Association and is immediate past president for the Los Angeles County Trustees Association. She has overseen the completion of three new schools and modernization of all existing schools while on the board. She promotes and supports staff development to provide teachers strategies and resources needed to achieve high student standards.

For more information, contact Terman at 661/255-3011 or log onto to www.scvteachers.com.