

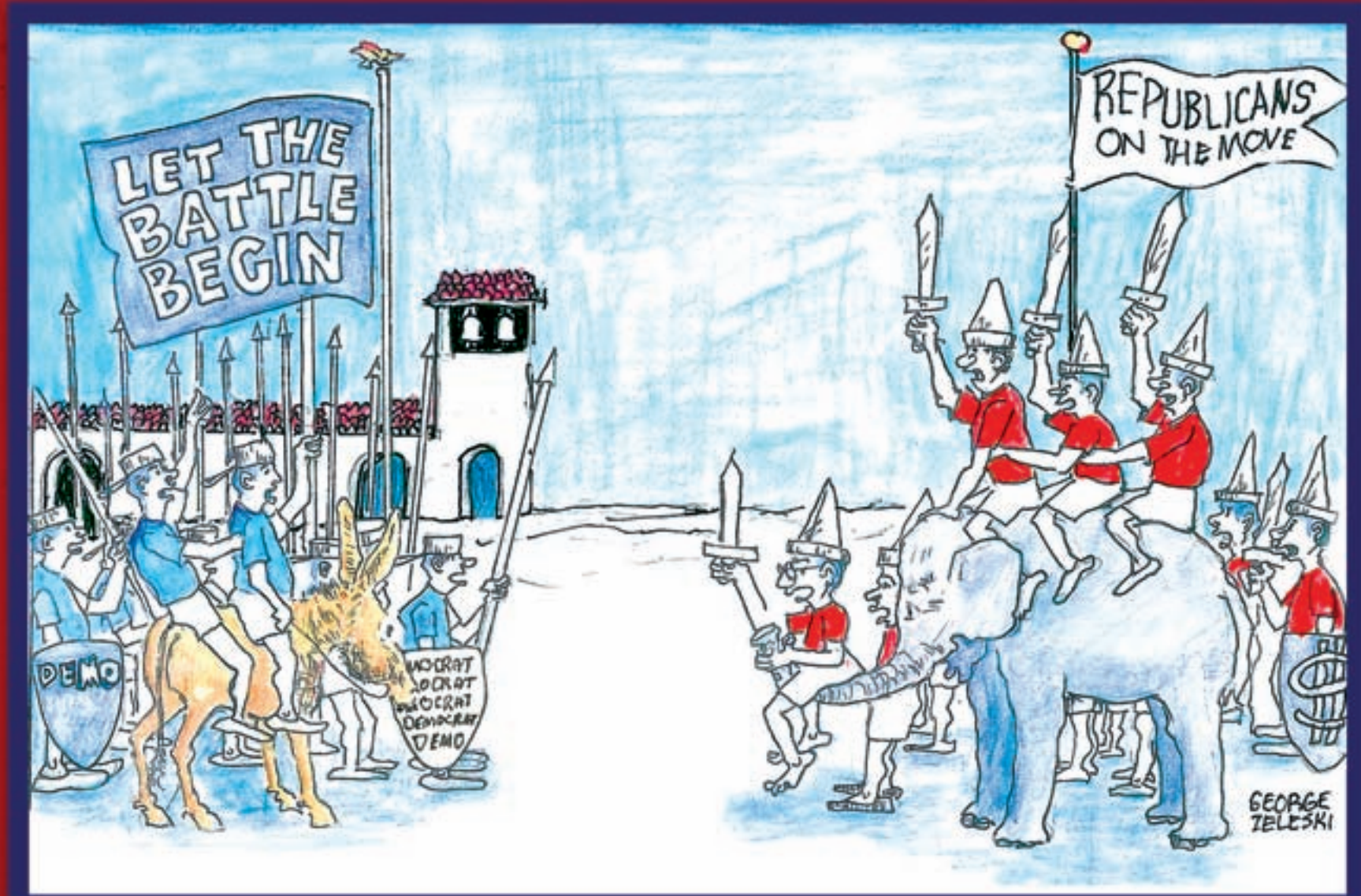


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# TIME TO CHOOSE



**INSIDE:** COUNCIL AND SCHOOL CANDIDATES SHARE THEIR VIEWS

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# The CUSD Election: Stay the Course or Sweeping Change?

Below are abbreviated versions of the nine candidates' original answers to the following questions that the *Dispatch* has asked and published since September. **1. CUSD achieves well academically, but seems mired in political disputes. What will move CUSD forward?** **2. If elected, how will you make decisions in office?** **3. Why should voters cast their ballot for you?**

<p><b>John Alpay</b>    <b>TRUSTEE AREA 3, SHORT TERM</b>  <b>San Clemente Commissioner/Businessman, <a href="http://www.johnalpay.com">www.johnalpay.com</a></b>                      CUSD has forgotten that its primary purpose is providing the best possible education for our children while responsibly managing taxpayer dollars. I will work to restore quality education and operate a fiscally sound school district. Due to Sacramento's never-ending incompetence, revenue to CUSD continues to decline. Raising taxes is simply not an option. As your next Trustee, I will work responsibly to cut spending by reducing expenses unrelated to the classroom, including decreasing the number of attorneys utilized by CUSD. In these difficult times we need integrity and honest leadership. I am seeking office independent of special interests. No one can accuse me of accepting support from the unions or any trial attorney organizations. I earned my law and business degrees from UCLA and my undergraduate degree from UC Berkeley. From there I became a corporate executive at international and Fortune 500 companies, responsible for multi-million dollar budgets. I also serve in the community on non-profit boards and as a San Clemente Commissioner. As a father of three children under six years, I want them to have the best education possible. Let's rebuild our district together. Vote John Alpay CUSD Board of Trustees, Area 3.</p>	<p><b>1:</b> CUSD's decline is directly the result of self dealing at its highest levels. Two years ago.. the Board [indicated] that it would hire in-house counsel and moved to fill the position. Once attorney Mike Winsten assumed office, he quashed the process and our taxpayer dollars started flowing to his fellow trial lawyers....The removal of deceptive and misleading figures and the elimination of self dealing from the Board are necessary to restore community trust and allow us to rebuild our once proud school district.</p>	<p><b>2:</b> We elect our public officials with the expectation that they will act in our best interests and in accordance with our wishes. Voters within CUSD are sick and tired of the politics of derision and division, and above all else want to restore the district's focus on quality education and living within our means. I will work to restore credibility and integrity to CUSD. My campaign is not beholden to any union or other special interests. This allows me the flexibility to make the decisions necessary to rebuild CUSD.</p>	<p><b>3:</b> As a father of three young children, I want them to have the best education possible. As a taxpayer, I want low taxes. And as a homeowner, I want quality schools to solidify my home valuation. CUSD is in turmoil and we need to revive a once proud institution. If all stakeholders work cooperatively in good faith, CUSD will not only survive in this environment, but thrive. Please join me; we can do this together.</p>
<p><b>Mike Winsten</b>    <b>TRUSTEE AREA 3, SHORT TERM</b>  <b>Attorney/Independent Businessman, <a href="http://www.cusdfacts.com">www.cusdfacts.com</a></b>                      You elected me by a landslide margin of victory 2 years ago to restore honesty, integrity and accountability to CUSD—and we've accomplished much. Bringing reform and positive change is difficult in a district which spends approximately 85% of its budget on salaries/benefits for public employees – most who are represented by powerful union leaders and special interests fighting to preserve an unsustainable financial status quo for themselves, instead of putting our children's education first. Despite continuous union opposition, I've successfully: Balanced the budget; Stopped deficit spending; Refused increased taxes; Slashed administration expenses; Promoted conservative fiscal policies; Fought to save teachers' jobs; Fought for smaller classes. This year, CUSD was the State's highest achieving large District! I earned my undergraduate degree from Cornell, law degree from USC, and MBA from UCI. As a business and real estate lawyer operating my own business, I'm a proven, results-oriented leader. My wife and I are proud parents of 4 children in CUSD schools and 1 in pre-school. As your Trustee, I discharge my duties with as much care for your family as my own. My job is not done. I'm working to bring positive change and accountability. Vote No Recall.</p>	<p><b>1:</b> Perhaps the real problem is the local media's systematic choice to give more headlines to the public policy debates and political drama going on in CUSD, than on the less sensational but positive stories of how well CUSD provides a free world class education. Obviously, political drama is what sells full page ads to the well funded union backed candidates and their affiliated Children's First slate during election season. The truth, however, is that the same public policy debates are also happening in other school districts, counties, cities and states across our country.</p>	<p><b>2:</b> There are times when elected officials should make choices based on what they perceive the majority of voters want and there are other times when the moral, financial or other context requires a decision to be made even if the choice is the opposite of perceived public opinion. But here is an important caveat: Focusing on the "majority of voters" leaves out the best interests of the children, none of whom vote, yet they are our most important constituency, and must always come first.</p>	<p><b>3:</b> Stop the Union Takeover of CUSD! Union leaders spent \$250,000 to remove me from office. This is the best endorsement of my independent, effective leadership during my two years on the school board, fighting for reform, favoring the individual rights of children, parents and taxpayers, against the "union leaders first" agenda favored by the largest special interests in our school district. Tell them No. Vote No Recall and No H. See my endorsements at <a href="http://www.CUSDReform.com">www.CUSDReform.com</a>.</p>
<p><b>Gary Pritchard</b>    <b>TRUSTEE AREA 5</b>  <b>Community College Professor, <a href="http://www.pritchardforcusd.com">www.pritchardforcusd.com</a></b>                      When it comes to education, I think like a dad. I want to know our children are learning in safe, well-maintained neighborhood schools with the support of first-rate teachers. CUSD needs true leadership from parents who understand what's best for our kids. I teach at Cerritos College, where I have served as department chair and in other leadership positions. I have successfully brought additional money into my college district and partnered with local high schools to promote career opportunities. I recognize that our schools are in crisis. I have the commitment and experience necessary to be part of the solution. As a CUSD trustee, I'll bring expertise in budgeting, music education, career education, and integrating our schools with colleges. I am a native Californian. My daughter attends a CUSD elementary school. My wife and I own a home in my trustee area. I'm a dad who wants local control and the removal of outside political forces from our schools. I have the educational and administrative experience to do this. I look forward to serving the families and taxpayers of CUSD. Let's rebuild our district together. Vote Gary Pritchard CUSD Board of Trustees, Area 5.</p>	<p><b>1:</b> The way forward is simple. We need to elect a new board of trustees who know something about public schools. We need leaders who are invested in student achievement. We need a school board who will listen to all stakeholders when making crucial decisions regarding district finances. Trustees must be willing to listen to criticism. Quality public schools are a community effort. We all benefit from a successful CUSD. We must protect our excellent schools from politicians selling 'reform.'</p>	<p><b>2:</b> Elected officials need to make decisions based on facts, not on their personal agendas, fear of the electorate, or, worst of all, to save their withered political careers. Decision making for CUSD Trustees must always start from the basic question: What is in the best interest of our children? Everything else runs a distant second. The current board's failings rest not with Trustees reaching out to the wider community but rather Trustees reaching within their own sphere of influence to push an agenda outside of public education.</p>	<p><b>3:</b> I am a father of a CUSD student and firmly believe in the value of strong public schools. Recognizing that our schools are in crisis, I have the commitment, experience and skill set necessary to be part of the solution. As your next Trustee, I will bring expertise in budgeting, teaching, counseling, and integrating our schools with local colleges. I have made my home in South Orange County and understand the values of the community.</p>
<p><b>Paul Hebbard</b>    <b>TRUSTEE AREA 5</b>  <b>Certified Public Accountant, <a href="http://paulhebbard.com">http://paulhebbard.com</a></b>                      As the only independent voice running for CUSD Trustee, I want to appeal to your senses in bringing stability back into your school district. Instead of the fighting between the two main factions, I will seek to build bridges between all groups who are involved in CUSD, from the teachers and administrators to the parents who have lost faith in their educational system.                      I will also fight for our hard-earned tax dollars to be returned from Sacramento back to where the money is needed most, in the classrooms. We can ill afford to have our state spend money lavishly on special interest boondoggles, while at the same time letting our state educational system rot away.                      I urge you to consider an alternative and give me your consideration on November 2.</p>	<p><b>1:</b> Because a high majority of the families in CUSD put a great emphasis on education, the high achievements of its students will never drop to the levels of LAUSD or any other ungovernable district. But as Trustees, we need to equip the parents with the means to help their children succeed in their academic pursuits, including but not limited to effective teachers and clean facilities. In time, the achievements of our students will begin to push away the political headlines that have crippled CUSD for the past 4 years.</p>	<p><b>2:</b> I will make decisions based on both public opinion and my gut instincts. If I am absolutely certain that a decision will yield a favorable result, even though it is not the will of the majority of constituents, then I will carry through and go with my own feelings. If a decision needs to be made where I am uncertain of an outcome, I will gather input from the various involved parties, (parents, teachers, administrators, etc). Once I have listened to everyone's opinion, I will make my decision accordingly.</p>	<p><b>3:</b> If you look at all of the candidates' websites, I am the only one who has specific ideas to promote the progress of CUSD. They are: Working concessions for teachers, completing the construction of the athletic facilities at SJHHS, and begin soliciting private donations for the theatre at DHHS. Other candidates give general ideas, like becoming fiscally prudent and terminating unnecessary vendors. No incumbent nor challenger will approve any wasteful expenditures, and everybody wants to heal the district.</p>

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<p><b>Ken Lopez Maddox</b></p> 	<p><b>TRUSTEE AREA 5</b>  <b>Businessman/Tax Consultant, <a href="http://www.cusdfacts.com">www.cusdfacts.com</a></b>                      I am honored to serve on our school board. With your support, I will continue the reforms now underway. But I can't do it without you. I need your help to fight powerful special interests and public employee union leaders. As a former member of the California State Legislature, I served on the State Assembly's Education Committee - educating and protecting children is my top priority. While in the legislature, I authored California's Amber Alert system, the "Safe Surrender" bill to protect newborns, was co-author of legislation requiring class size reduction and led efforts to protect children from toxins on campus. As a 17-year police officer, I proudly served as a DARE officer in nearby schools - I am committed to making our schools safe and drug free. I have a Masters Degree in Management and was a Senior Fellow at the UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research. Despite fierce opposition, I have: Balanced the budget, Refused demands for a parcel tax, Slashed a bloated administration, Oversaw a top to bottom facilities assessment, and Held the line on wasteful spending. This year we were the State's highest achieving large District! Vote no on the recall.</p>	<p><b>1:</b> During my term, CUSD has exceeded expectations by every measurable definition of success. The teachers' union and their allies have placed a costly recall election on the ballot. Their definition of success is much different than that of the average taxpayer and parent. The Board of Trustees recently hired a new superintendent. He is putting into place an exceptional management team. We are a great district with outstanding teachers. But there is always room for improvement. Together we can attain even greater accomplishments.</p>	<p>I ask myself three basic questions. Is it legal? Is it moral? Is it good for the District? However, this begins with looking at the totality of the information available and then seeking a solution. There are those who believe being the most vocal on an issue equates to being a majority of the voters. Often this is not the case. One of the greatest leadership books ever written is the Book of Proverbs. King Solomon wrote it for his son who would someday be king. This is an excellent guide.</p>	<p>The union wants you to vote to recall me. They are upset over the district not having enough money to pay them more. Bottom line...the state is out of money. I chose to put the fiscal health of the district before their salaries. I put the students before their paychecks. I've been on the board for two years. No deficit spending and the highest API scores in the history of the district during that time.</p>
<p><b>Anna Bryson</b></p> 	<p><b>TRUSTEE AREA 4</b>  <b>Capistrano Unified School District Governing Board Member, <a href="http://www.annabryson.us">www.annabryson.us</a></b>                      You elected me four years ago to restore integrity, accountability, and conservative fiscal policy - and we've accomplished much: Balanced the budget; Stopped deficit spending; Refused to increase taxes; Reduced bloated administration; Posted checkbook, budget online; Fought to keep smaller class sizes; Repaired buildings and removed old portables; Promoted classroom discipline and parental rights. Currently, we are among the State's highest-achieving large Districts!                      Having been CEO of a software technology firm, I'm a careful steward of your tax dollars. I watch every penny to improve student learning - and promise voters to keep our District solvent. Salaries and benefits are 85% of our budget. Hit by the state's budget crisis, we reduced administrative salary expenses 10% last year - this year, we needed to reduce similarly the costs of our union contract. Sadly, union leaders refused to be a part of the solution. They called a union strike. This unnecessary strike deprived our children of three days of normal classes, disrupted lives, and needlessly destroyed goodwill - for no positive purpose. Nonetheless, my words throughout the strike sought to bring us all back together. With your vote, I will continue working tirelessly to guard against tax hikes and to advance student learning.</p>	<p>For many years, the perception—because of the indictment of Superintendent Fleming—was that the district had many problems, and at that time, the perception was accurate. The reform effort was initiated by parents who wanted transparency, higher education standards, and better facilities. The reform board has kept its word on all points, but the media commentary has not caught up with the reality. We have been the highest-performing large district in the state academically for 2 straight years, something not attained in the past.</p>	<p>I always keep in mind that the students are your children and the dollars are your money. I am a school-board trustee, and, as a trustee, I am morally and legally obligated to look out for the interests of students, parents, and taxpayers. Schools exist for the sake of students. I work for you. I cannot just impose some arbitrary opinion of my own. When there are challenges—like the threat of bankruptcy whether from past spending sprees, state budget crisis, or union wish-list—I speak out for and stand up for the voters.</p>	<p>Re-elect Bryson to stop the union power grab. State's highest-performing large district for past two years. Budget balanced; oldest portables removed; schools repaired; open bidding on all projects; no-nepotism policy; highly-regarded new superintendent. In future, I will concentrate on: living within our means; closing achievement gap for Latinos and the learning disabled; guarding against neglecting students in the middle of the pack; keeping class-sizes small; honoring high-performing students, teachers, principals.</p>
<p><b>Sam Alikhani</b></p> 	<p><b>TRUSTEE AREA 4</b>  <b>University Student, <a href="http://www.alikhaniforcusd.com">www.alikhaniforcusd.com</a></b>                      We need strong leadership to restore educational excellence and accountability in CUSD. I will jettison the partisan politics and reject outside interests that have plagued this district. I have been a lifelong resident and active participant in the district. I attended CUSD schools, and have seen the problems as well as the solutions, from both a student's and taxpayer's perspective. As site council president at a CUSD high school, I managed a large budget and worked with all stakeholders to create educational plans for students to learn and excel. I served as the student trustee to the CUSD board. I have successfully represented the taxpayers and the students' best interests at all times. I have advocated the importance of education to multiple state legislators in Sacramento to gain additional funding for our schools. I will work with local businesses, community colleges, and universities to create the best opportunity for our children. Partisan politics and special outside interests have no role in educating CUSD students. I will focus on education. I ask for your support so that together we can restore the integrity and reputation of CUSD. Let's rebuild our district together. Vote for Saam Alikhani, CUSD Board of Trustees.</p>	<p>Sadly, partisan politics has plagued CUSD for years, with the taxpayers and students paying the price. Our community has lost confidence and trust with the Trustees due to their violations of the Brown Act, as well as their unwillingness to listen to their constituency. The Board must engage in an open dialogue with the community. I am committed to bringing all stakeholders to the table to restore our District. We must regain the community's confidence through respect, accountability and accurate representation.</p>	<p>Elected officials must accurately represent and address the needs of the electorate, and not be beholden to special interests or focus exclusively on furthering their own political careers. Successful public officials most often act in a manner consistent with the desires of the vast majority of people. Yet to understand the intent of the electorate, a School Trustee must engage in transparency and open dialogue. The current Board of Trustees has closed off all lines of communication by blatantly disregarding those who have sought to work with them in good faith.</p>	<p>While serving on the CUSD Board, I advocated for fiscally conservative budget practices. I have consistently sought to cut costs outside the classroom in these economically challenging times by reducing unnecessary litigation related expenses. And above all else, taxpayers and students have been my top priority.</p>
<p><b>Martha McNicholas</b></p> 	<p><b>TRUSTEE AREA 6</b>  <b>Engineering Entrepreneur, <a href="http://www.mcnicholasforcusd.com">www.mcnicholasforcusd.com</a></b>                      In this budget crisis, it is critical that fiscal decisions made by Trustees be based on what is best for our children and their educational success. As a parent of a recent graduate and a high school student, I know the impact on students of the recent budget cuts. Local school boards are limited by Sacramento's complicated system of financing public education. As a Trustee, I will work to make sure CUSD's needs are communicated to our legislators, and will promote increased local control of education dollars and fiscal responsibility. Parent involvement in public education is essential not only to the individual student's success, but for our schools and communities to thrive. I am proud of my fifteen years of successful experience and service on and off campus. I will encourage on-going parent and community participation. I will bring the strengths of technical analysis and a logical approach to problem solving from my engineering education at Stanford University, and 35 years of experience as a real-world practicing engineer (engineering manager, project leader, quality assurance manager, designer, failure analyst, etc.) towards achieving excellence in CUSD. Let's rebuild our district together. Vote for Martha McNicholas, CUSD Board of Trustees.</p>	<p>Capturing headlines has more to do with partisan journalism than it does with noteworthy accomplishments - academic or otherwise. And it often involves a few noisy, law-suit happy people diverting attention, and resources, away from student achievement. In CUSD, the confidence of the community will be restored when the trustees demonstrate that they are willing to listen to, work with and respect their constituents - parents, students, teachers, employees and community members in the district.</p>	<p>Effective governance is much more complicated than just doing what the voters want. The responsibilities of the board include setting the long-term vision, direction and policies of the district, establishing an effective and efficient structure for the school district (superintendent and staff), ensuring accountability to the public, and acting as community leaders. The role of the board is to be responsive to the values, beliefs and priorities of its community, but it is also limited by funding provided by the state budget and is inextricably bound by the State Education Code.</p>	<p>I am a knowledgeable, involved parent and dedicated volunteer within CUSD schools and bring with me over fifteen years of experience in advocacy for quality public education. In addition, I am an engineer with real-world work experience and a logical approach to problem solving. As a Trustee I will make sure that decision making is transparent to all stakeholders and is focused on the best interests of our children and their educational achievement.</p>



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Judy at San Clemente Rainbow Sandals' ribbon cutting ceremony for \$1.5 million solar panel installation.

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- Record on Environment: little or no support
- Contributions from BP and other oil companies
- Contributions from Mobile Home Park owners
- Named in investment fraud/ponzi scheme lawsuit for \$40 million

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- Voted Against Funding for Border Security

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<p><b>Ellen Addonizio</b></p> 	<p><b>TRUSTEE AREA 6</b>  <b>Certified Public Accountant, Learn more: <a href="http://www.CUSDfacts.com">www.CUSDfacts.com</a></b>                      You elected me by a landslide margin of victory four years ago, to restore honesty, integrity and accountability to CUSD – and we've accomplished much. Bringing reform and improvements is a challenge in a district which spends approximately 85% of its budget on salaries/benefits for public employees– most of whom are represented by powerful union leaders fighting to preserve an unsustainable status quo. Despite union opposition, I've successfully: Balanced the budget; Refused to increase taxes; Reduced administration expenses; Reduced union contract expenses by 10.1%; Enacted strong anti-nepotism policies; Created a district-wide facilities assessment; Promoted conservative fiscal policies and family values. As an experienced certified public accountant, I commit to you my 26 years of auditing, investigative accounting and tax services experience. My expertise in long range capital and operational budgeting and cost accounting will allow me to ensure that scarce education dollars meant for our children actually reach them. With your vote, I will continue working tirelessly to bring positive change and accountability to CUSD.</p>	<p><b>1:</b> Bringing reform and positive change is especially difficult in a district which spends approximately 85% of its budget on salaries/benefits for public employees—most of whom are represented by powerful union leaders fighting to preserve an unsustainable status quo.                      We have successfully balanced the budget; stopped deficit spending; refused to increase taxes; reduced bloated administration; reduced union contract expenses by 10.1%...promoted conservative fiscal policies and family values; and fought to keep smaller class sizes.</p>	<p><b>2:</b> People are elected to public office on the basis that they reflect the values and core beliefs of their constituency. As such, within legal and financial constraints, decisions of the public servant should reflect the community values and priorities.</p>	<p><b>3:</b> Declined to answer.</p>
<p><b>Larry Christensen</b></p> 	<p><b>TRUSTEE AREA 7</b>  <b>Capistrano Unified School District, Governing Board Member, <a href="http://www.cusdfacts.com">www.cusdfacts.com</a></b>                      Four years ago I was fortunate to be elected to restore honesty, integrity and accountability to CUSD – a continuing mission that is achieving success. Bringing reform and positive change is especially difficult in a district which spends approximately 85% of its budget on salaries/benefits for public employees – most of whom are represented by powerful union leaders fighting to preserve an unsustainable status quo. Despite continuous union opposition, I've successfully: Balanced the budget and stopped deficit spending; Refused to increase taxes; Reduced bloated administration; Enacted strong anti-nepotism policies; Created a district-wide facilities assessment; Promoted conservative fiscal policies; Fought to save teachers' jobs to keep smaller class sizes. This year, student achievement in CUSD soared to its highest levels! Having owned an engineering firm as well as being blessed with a loving family, I am impassioned to complete a renovation of CUSD's facility department in order that the needed upgrades to classrooms can be provided for all of the communities' children. My job is not yet done. With your vote, I'll continue working tirelessly to bring positive change and accountability to CUSD.</p>	<p><b>1:</b> Though there are two very vocal factions amongst the constituents who have their children in CUSD schools, most of the populous simply desires that their children obtain the best that public education can give; politics be darned. Allow the reform trustees to complete their uphill battle against the well-healed special interest unions by keeping all of the existing trustees in office and by defeating Measure H. Protect the younger teachers from being fired and assure that whatever little funds are left will be directed to the classroom.</p>	<p><b>2:</b> Fortunately we still live in a republic where the power of government rests in the body of its citizens, yielded by their vote. People are tired of politicians who base decisions upon what will keep them in office, regardless of how that decision affects the constituents through the generations. An elected official does best by not being a politician, by not doing what he or she "feels" is best, but by what mandate is given for a platform by the majority of the citizens.</p>	<p><b>3:</b> Simply, I am not a politician. I only took this office because I saw improprieties that needed correction in our school district that were detrimental to the students. I do not kowtow to unions; that is why they have put up candidates to run against the existing board. I vote to keep our teachers from being fired and to keep our class sizes small. My work to fix CUSD is not yet done.</p>
<p><b>Lynn Hatton</b></p> 	<p><b>TRUSTEE AREA 7</b>  <b>Small Business Owner, <a href="http://www.hattonforcusd.com">www.hattonforcusd.com</a></b>                      We need to rebuild our district and restore our focus on our children and their educational future. I believe that we need people on our Board of Trustees who care about and have a vested interest in the students of our community. We need people who understand education and will not waste our precious CUSD resources on out of court settlements. We need people who will put first the best interests of our children. My entire life has been dedicated to education in California. My children attend middle school in our district, my husband teaches at Cal. State Fullerton, I have held parent leadership positions at our schools and my professional career entails supporting students, families, teachers and administrators to ensure success. With the right leadership and working with all stakeholders we can rebuild our district. If elected, I will be committed to: Ensuring success in college and career for all students Building mutually beneficial relationships with local universities and businesses Developing and retaining our best and brightest faculty Transparency in decision making Fiscal and systemic accountability Let's rebuild our district together. Vote Lynn Hatton, CUSD Board of Trustees, Area 7.</p>	<p><b>1:</b> Because of the strife we already have lost many talented site level leaders to outside districts. Too much is at stake and we must act now to effect positive change and restore the focus on our students. To rebuild the district and the confidence of our community, we must: Be visible at our school sites and community events; collaborate with all stakeholders; build partnerships with universities and businesses; invest in our strong teachers to constantly improve learning; create multiple options to college and career and be fiscally responsible and creative in finding new sources of money</p>	<p><b>2:</b> Ideally a person is elected because the voters believe the candidate will do a good job, based upon their background and values, representing their constituent's best interests. At the same time, to be an effective leader, one must continually seek input and engender collaboration. If an environment of trust, mutual respect, accountability and transparency is present, the decisions the elected officials make and the opinions of their stakeholders will, most often, be in lockstep.</p>	<p><b>3:</b> People should vote for me because:                      1. With two kids attending our schools, I have a vested interest in our district.                      2. I am a small business owner who understands the import of strong leadership and budgets.                      3. I currently work with schools, businesses and universities to ensure students are prepared for college and career.                      4. I am endorsed by highly regarded educational leaders.                      5. I will always put first the education of our students.</p>
<p><b>Gary V. Miller, TRUSTEE AREA 5, Retired Teacher</b></p>	<p>Declined to answer.</p>	<p>Declined to answer.</p>	<p>Declined to answer.</p>	

## CUSD Voters to Consider Measure H

Although Capistrano Unified School District trustees are elected to represent certain geographic areas, voters from throughout the seven cities and unincorporated areas that make up the sprawling school district.

That sometimes makes for unique results: In recent years, one trustee candidate was rejected by the geographic area he represented, but ushered into office by voters elsewhere. Likewise, a recent candidate won in San Juan Capistrano—the area she would have represented—but lost elsewhere and did not gain office.

Whether to allow only voters in each of the seven geographic areas to only cast a vote for the single trustee that would represent them has been discussed—and debated—for years,

but voters on November 2 will decide whether to make the change.

Proponents argue the change is necessary because of the 195-square-mile district is too large to allow candidates to run cost-effective campaigns. The high cost, proponents of Measure H say, all but requires candidates to join forces in slates and turn to special-interests for money to finance the effort.

Opponents, meanwhile, argue that voters would be giving up six of their votes, and that students could end up attending school in an area served by one trustee, while living in an area served by another. Further, they argue, the elect-by-area system could create selfish trustees, more concerned with events in their own area than what is best for the district at large.

See [www.ballotpedia.com](http://www.ballotpedia.com) and search for "Capistrano Measure H" for more details.

—Jonathan Volzke

# CUSD – School Board – Voting Guide

## VOTE YES ON MEASURE H

**Save Millions of \$\$\$ in Election Costs!**

**Establish Local Control!**

**Eliminate the Influence of Outside Special Interests!**

## VOTE YES ON RECALL

**Stop Wasteful and Out of Control Spending!**

**Remove Ineffective Elected Officials!**

Vote for YOUR candidates for the CUSD Board of Trustees and their Commitment to the Community



**John Alpay**  
Trustee Area 3

**Saam Alikhani**  
Trustee Area 4

**Gary Pritchard**  
Trustee Area 5

**Martha McNicholas**  
Trustee Area 6

**Lynn Hatton**  
Trustee Area 7

### OUR COMMITMENT TO THE CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY

We, the Capistrano Unified School District Board of Trustees candidates, are committed to restoring leadership within the District. Coming from various professional and political backgrounds, we vow to serve the District community as your non-partisan elected Board of Trustees.

## Recall ★ Remove ★ Recover



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# At a Glance: Nine Seek Three Seats on Capistrano City Council

Below are the ballot statements and excerpts of candidates' feelings on key issues. See their full answers at The Capistrano Insider blog, [www.thecapistranodispatch.com](http://www.thecapistranodispatch.com)

<p><b>Derek Reeve</b></p> 	<p><b>Constitutional Attorney/Historian, <a href="http://site.derekreeve.us">http://site.derekreeve.us</a></b></p> <p>Help restore leadership and transparency to the City Council. Working as a team, we can ensure public safety, mind the public purse, end secret dealings and make our City Government serve our residents. It's time for Conservative Common Sense! As a former Transportation Commissioner and community leader I shall bring leadership, experience, and fiscal responsibility to improve the quality of life in our city. I am dedicated to conserving the rural and historical character of our community. As a Councilman, I pledge: Mitigate Traffic, Reduce Development, Provide Clean Affordable Water, Revitalize Downtown, Conserve</p>	<p>Open Space, Respect Private Property Rights, including No Eminent Domain, Fiscal Responsibility, including No New Taxes or Fees, Mandate Rule of Law I oppose changing zoning ordinances to allow high density development. We can improve traffic without destroying our historic character. I shall work to keep our community safe, improve response times and identify illegal aliens arrested. San Juan Capistrano is unique. I shall fight to maintain the quality of life that is San Juan Capistrano. Constitutional scholar and professor of political science at Concordia University and Saddleback College. USC undergrad/law; Claremont Ph.D. candidate; attorney, small business owner.</p>
<p><b>Jim Reardon</b></p> 	<p><b>Technology Executive, <a href="http://www.votereardon.com">www.votereardon.com</a></b></p> <p>This election will determine future policy for our City, our water service, and local redevelopment. I promise to act from my conservative principles to restore trust and fiscal sanity to City government, stop runaway water fees, and halt wasteful spending that leads us further into debt.</p> <p>While our civic leaders warn of a financial crisis, millions of dollars have been spent on complex and secretive schemes unrelated to the City's actual mission. This waste is mortgag-</p>	<p>ing our future, piling-up mountains of debt which can only be repaid through future taxes.</p> <p>Public safety, affordable water, traffic relief, and preservation of heritage are my priorities. More than 20 years residing in the community, 30 years experience in private business and four years service as a volunteer Board member of a private school serving students with autism and Asperger's offer me guidance. Working openly as a team, we can preserve what we cherish, adjust to our changing circumstances, and leave San Juan Capistrano better place.</p> <p>I ask for your vote.</p>
<p><b>John Taylor</b></p> 	<p><b>Businessman, <a href="http://www.JohnTaylorforCityCouncil.com">www.JohnTaylorforCityCouncil.com</a></b></p> <p>I believe that we are on the crest of change in San Juan Capistrano. As a businessman, I believe that San Juan Capistrano must be business friendly. We need to revitalize our downtown to attract anchor tenants and our own citizens to improve our tax base and help struggling businesses. Development pressures are all around us, and we need to continue to work with other agencies to mitigate traffic problems and manage our open space. My family and I are very involved in our community. We have lived in Los Rios Historic District for 20 years, I served on the Review Committee and Marianne leads the historic district's</p>	<p>native plant gardening efforts. Our daughter attends Marco Forester Middle School, and our son graduated from Capistrano Valley and is now at USC. I taught agriculture in the Peace Corps, came home and graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology from UCI. I have been in the property management business for 25 years, specializing in commercial buildings. Navigating hurdles in the coming years will take team work, perseverance, commitment and leadership. I will wade through the rhetoric and steer a course for good government while maintaining respect for others.</p> <p>I ask for your vote.</p>
<p><b>Clint Worthington</b></p> 	<p><b>Locomotive Engineer, <a href="http://www.Voteworthington.com">www.Voteworthington.com</a></b></p> <p>I would like your vote for City Council. I have been a resident of San Juan Capistrano for 25 years and it is no secret that I firmly believe that Chevron must cleanup the gasoline that they leaked into our drinking water supply. You have witnessed our water bills quadruple the past six years. These water costs are out of control.</p> <p>I believe we must do what is necessary to protect the heritage and history here in San Juan Capistrano.</p> <p>I am a conservative who believes that we need to increase our police resources to stop</p>	<p>the gang and graffiti activity that are overtaking our City.</p> <p>I have been a successful banker for 26 years and chose six years ago to pursue my dream of becoming a locomotive engineer. In addition to this, I served San Juan Capistrano for 21 years as a volunteer firefighter. As a cyclist I set my goals and set a world record in ultra marathon cycling. This resulted in being featured on every major news program including Good Morning America and the front page of the Wall Street Journal.</p> <p>I respectfully ask for your support and thank those of you who cast your vote for me.</p>
<p><b>Larry Kramer</b></p> 	<p><b>Retired Naval Officer, <a href="http://www.larrykramerforcitycouncil2010.com">www.larrykramerforcitycouncil2010.com</a></b></p> <p>I understand leadership and decision making. As a Naval Officer, I commanded three nuclear submarines and a submarine base with an annual budget over \$50 million. I firmly believe our citizens want and need leadership that will listen, gather the facts, carefully weigh the consequences and make informed pragmatic decisions. I love our community and am actively involved in it. I am the Transportation Commission Chairman, an active member of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), the Open Space Planning Subcommittee Chairman, a Downtown Master Planning Committee member and Past-President</p>	<p>of San Juan Capistrano Rotary.</p> <p>My priorities: Ensure our city is on sound financial footing and operates with a balanced budget; Continue to preserve our open space and provide access and usefulness to all; Work hard to improve the flow of traffic through and around San Juan Capistrano; Prioritize our efforts to revitalize our downtown. Make changes that will bring businesses and people to the heart of our city; Preserve our unique rural and equestrian lifestyle. I will support the best interests of the people of San Juan Capistrano, make decisions based on proven facts, work to preserve our small town atmosphere and conduct myself with integrity and transparency. Please vote for me.</p>
<p><b>Jess Lopez*</b></p> 	<p><b>Retired Police Sergeant, <a href="http://www.JessServes.org">www.JessServes.org</a></b></p> <p>Lifelong public service experience in Public Safety and the Military. I have earned a MS, degree in Social Science from CSU, Fullerton and a BS degree in Public Administration from USC. I am a skilled multi-cultural communicator who can straddle the socio-economic levels in our City. Based on work history and faith based background my leadership demands I do the right thing. I strongly support Chief Dan Dwyer and OCSD Sheriff Sandra Hutchinson's law enforcement policies. I support the Border Patrol and all State and Federal law enforcement agencies working in our City. I am satisfied with our gang injunction, GRIP, Great</p>	<p>Opportunities, Sierra's Pantry, Boys and Girls Club and CREER Programs. I promise to serve, protect and preserve without personal advantage or special interest. I promise to preserve our Mobile Home Park rent control ordinance. I will not hold our ratepayers financially responsible for Chevrons groundwater contamination. There are three elephants in the room that I promise to address. First, City Council and City Managers poor decision making potentially costing taxpayers 6.7 million dollars in liability. Second, City Managers \$324,000.00 inappropriate public salary. Finally, investigate why is City Council affording a free pass and immense freedom to the developers of the La Novia Meadows project.</p>
<p><b>Victor Schneider*</b></p> 	<p><b>Geologist, <a href="http://www.jimschneider2010-sjccitycouncil.com">www.jimschneider2010-sjccitycouncil.com</a></b></p> <p>I am a Professional Geologist working to cleanup environmental hazards on a daily basis. I am also a college instructor of Geology and Oceanography. I understand and analyze vast data to reach rational conclusions. If elected, I will apply my skills and knowledge as a scientist to resolve our current and future City issues with great understanding. I am a licensed contractor able to scrutinize bids, contracts, budgets, and contractors. I read everything.</p> <p>If elected - I will serve all SJC residents as best I can. I will work to resolve our ground-</p>	<p>water contamination issue. I want to keep open space open, protect our budget, seek new business, and promote harmony to help unite this city. I will not make promises. I will not compromise or bend my philosophy to any political pressure to serve any interests other than city's best interests.</p> <p>If elected - I will work to correct/address recent various rate increases, poor legal representation, and City management (or lack thereof). My vision for an effective City Council is one where Council Members listen to the residents, share knowledge amongst each other, put aside differences, and work collaboratively to create City solutions. I request your vote.</p>
<p><b>Mark Nielsen</b></p> 	<p><b>Businessman/Councilman, <a href="http://www.electmarknielsen.com">www.electmarknielsen.com</a></b></p> <p>You elected me 4 years ago to preserve and enhance our open space, bring business sense and fiscal responsibility to our City, and make government more open to public input. We've made great strides, but the job is only half done.</p> <p>As president of multiple software companies, I've brought proven experience in turning around troubled businesses to address our City's structural deficit. We need a plan to improve our financial situation while preserving our historic, rural and equestrian character. I championed our first-ever 20 year strategic plan. Since my election, we cut spending \$3</p>	<p>million while increasing public safety spending 30%. I dig into details and demand balanced budgets with good returns on your tax dollars. I I</p> <p>I authored Measure X that requires a vote of the people before any open space can be rezoned by future city councils. Under my leadership, we acquired 241 acres of open space and submitted \$16 million of grants for enhancing open space. I support identifying arrested illegal aliens. Those in the country illegally can't commit crimes and return to our neighborhoods.</p> <p>I will continue to fight for our unique character and quality of life, while insuring San Juan Capistrano's future finances support this goal.</p>
<p><b>Londres Uso</b></p> 	<p><b>Councilman/Dentist, <a href="http://www.Uso4Council.com">www.Uso4Council.com</a></b></p> <p>Dear Neighbors, I am proud of the four years I have served. I have worked hard to make fair, balanced and honest decisions during my term and believe that the great majority have been right. I There are many projects that I have started that I would like to finish such as the Downtown Redevelopment Master Plan. It will require the momentum and leadership that I have brought to it. I believe that I have the sensitivity and knowledge of our town to balance our fiscal needs with our historic, equestrian and agrarian culture.</p> <p>As I did not seek or accept endorsements or donations from politicians, political parties</p>	<p>political organizations, Unions or individual developers with projects before the Council I have been able to / remain independent of outside influences. The only endorsement I seek is your vote. I intend to remain I true to this commitment during the election and the coming term, if re-elected. I have been clear on all issues and have never dodged tough questions as I believe that I should only be re-elected if most of you agree with most of my positions; what you see is what you get, no baloney.</p> <p>Dr. Londres Uso</p>

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for CONGRESS

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a Clear Choice...



Ken Calvert

Bill Hedrick

### KEY ISSUES

KEY ISSUES	Ken Calvert	Bill Hedrick
Supports the Obama/ Pelosi Jobless Stimulus	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>
Supports Government Run Health Care	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>
Supports Raising Your Taxes	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>
Supports Amnesty for Illegal Immigrants	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>
Supports a National Energy Tax	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>
Vote for Nancy Pelosi for Speaker	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>

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**At a Glance**  
(Continued)

	<b>Q1: The city is considering several developments that have generated discussion in the community. Do you support Distrito La Novia and the Continuing Life Communities proposals?</b>	<b>Q2: Transportation is always a big topic. Do you support the San Juan Creek Road extension to La Pata? Putting El Horno through to Rancho Viejo Road? The 241 toll road?</b>	<b>Q3: Should an elected official make a decision based on what the majority of the voters want, or what you feel is the best, even if it's opposite the public opinion?</b>	<b>Q4: What do you think of redevelopment and what should be done on the Lower Rosan?</b>
<p><b>Derek Reeve</b></p> 	<p>I do not support the Distrito La Novia/ Meadows plan as currently proposed. The property owner purchased the property knowing it was zoned residential, as were neighboring property owners. Regarding CLC, I will consider proposals that conserve SJC rural heritage, does not lead to double tracking, and does not have City financial involvement.</p>	<p>We must first prevent more traffic from being created by stopping the approval of new massive developments that place more traffic on our roads. If it becomes clear the toll road will be built, I will ensure the negative impact on SJC is mitigated. I oppose widening of Ortega. I oppose connecting El Horno to Rancho Viejo Road.</p>	<p>Not every issue however provides a clear direction from our residents. Rest assured that we mean what we say and say what we mean. We pledge to instill fiscally responsible policies; respect private property rights; make SJC a rule of law city; protect the historic character of SJC; prevent tax subsidies for development; and provide clean affordable water.</p>	<p>The Redevelopment Agency does not spur economic development. Incumbents have perverted the RDA into a self-dealing, semi-secret slush fund for developers. The RDA alters the free market system leading to abandoned car dealerships and vacant commercial buildings. Home Depot is the wrong development in the wrong place.</p>
<p><b>Jim Reardon</b></p> 	<p>I oppose further consideration of the DLN plan. The Continuing Life Communities project is different. It is mostly consistent with the General Plan. I oppose any City financial participation in the CLC development and invite CLC to submit their Development Application for fair and impartial consideration.</p>	<p>The San Juan Creek Road extension to La Pata has been bottled-up by members of the sitting City Council who live in the area. El Horno should not be opened to public traffic. Ortega Highway is already "four lanes" near I-5. The new freeway overpass renders this question moot—in town. Ortega Highway will connect directly to Del Obispo.</p>	<p>I have faith in the wisdom of the American public. As a member of your City Council, I will apply common sense, American values and ingenuity to solving problems and forming policy for our community. Restoration of civic trust, respect for the public, and respect of our laws are my highest priorities.</p>	<p>I am skeptical of City-funded redevelopment expenditures that pick winners and create losers in what should be a free marketplace. Our City has just committed \$5 million to bailout the owner of a failed auto dealership and induce a new dealer. Efforts by Home Depot to build on City-owned property would have required millions in publicly funded incentives.</p>
<p><b>John Taylor</b></p> 	<p>Distrito La Novia -Meadows: The reduced number of homes from 440 to 234 is a good idea and fair to the neighbors. The addition of a world class equestrian center would be outstanding and I would phase in the number of horses on the property. The CLC project is on private property and zoned for this use, a seniors housing development.</p>	<p>San Juan Creek Road to La Pata, I would oppose. El Horno Street to Rancho Viejo Road, in my opinion would offer little in the way of traffic mitigation. Ortega Highway needs to be widened to four lanes from La Pata to the Hunt Club Gate, where a traffic light should be installed.</p>	<p>The will of the people absolutely must be how our decisions are made. It is the foundation of our democracy. The trouble we get into is when a candidate says one thing to one group and just the opposite to another group.</p>	<p>Redevelopment is a tool to help local government make improvements using a tax advantage.[Used to reopen the movie theater and keep a Ford dealership in town.] The city is paying \$325,000 per year in interest only payments—on a debt of \$5.1 million. Home Depot will provide a 176-foot green belt buffer to the nearest residence.</p>
<p><b>Clint Worthington</b></p> 	<p>I do not support the Distrito La Novia. The City does have a General Plan that applies to all property owners. This project requires a change to the General Plan that is not agreeable to nearby homeowners. The CLC project is too dense for our rural town. I am unable to support this project as it is presented.</p>	<p>Let's get the projects completed that were designed to mitigate traffic. I would be opposed to any extension of El Horno to Rancho Viejo Road. I would be opposed to the widening of the Ortega Highway. I would however be in favor of extending La Pata to San Clemente.</p>	<p>The Kramer/Taylor Campaign raising over \$73,000 for a City Council position that pays \$300 a month raises the question; whose best interests are they representing? The need for additional revenue must be balanced with residents' concerns. Decisions that are not mandated by law to be held behind closed doors should be done in full public view.</p>	<p>If a new business is truly viable and profitable, the Redevelopment Agency would not need to support that business with taxpayer funding. That is it, plain and simple. Eight years ago the residents voted against a Home Depot on the Lower Rosan by an overwhelming majority and I agree with our resident's majority vote.</p>
<p><b>Larry Kramer</b></p> 	<p>The proposal to change the Master Plan and zoning to approve 94 homes and a stable on the Meadows area is a significant improvement although the number of horses should be reduced significantly. Mitigation of traffic impacts should all be completed before the first building permit is issued. CLC has my support.</p>	<p>Extending San Juan Creek Road to La Pata would cause detrimental changes to the road characteristics. I would not support it. The city is not planning a new office; extending El Horno is off the table. I fully support completion of 241-toll road to I-5. Widen Ortega Highway in a minimal way to 4 lanes.</p>	<p>The will of the voters is an important criterion for determining what an elected official should do. Voters choose someone they think best fits their thinking or philosophy - which includes someone they trust to gather the facts and come to an honest conclusion. The voter is part of the decision making process.</p>	<p>The Redevelopment Agency does not spur economic development. Incumbents have perverted the RDA into a self-dealing, semi-secret slush fund for developers. The RDA alters the free market system leading to abandoned car dealerships and vacant commercial buildings. Home Depot is the wrong development in the wrong place.</p>
<p><b>Jess Lopez</b></p> 	<p>I oppose the Distrito La Novia-Meadows project. I like the new CLC proposal at the cost of \$10 million. CLC gift of 113 free open space acres, continued use of soccer fields and keeping taxes to use downtown. Conceptual planning challenges will need the railroad crossing approval to complete the project.</p>	<p>I do not support the 241 toll road, San Juan Creek Road extension to La Pata nor the El Horno cutting through historical Mission Flats to Rancho Viejo road. I would support a La Pata to San Clemente extension. I do support the widening of Ortega through town. I also support a S/B Off Ramp at Stonehill and the 5 FWY/Ortega Off-On Ramp.</p>	<p>When elected. I will work to represent you. I will base my decisions on what the majority of voters want. I will use Advisory Votes and Referendums to insure your concerns are being represented i.e. La Novia Meadows, Home Depot and Mobile Home rent control. I believe that Expert Rule must give way to shared Governance.</p>	<p>I Strongly OPPOSE the Home Depot project. I will represent your concerns and demand a Public Advisory Vote - as was done 8 years ago where 75% Voted NO! I supported our Downtown redevelopment Plan. Until I saw our "Camino Real Playhouse" being Bulldozed to put up a parking lot? My Motto is to Preserve and Protect our Historical Town.</p>
<p><b>Victor Schneider</b></p> 	<p>I do not support the proposed Distrito La Novia project based on information provided within the Environmental Impact Report (EIR)... Although mitigation measures are presented, they are inadequate to protect the health &amp; welfare of adjacent residents Regarding the Continuing Life Communities proposal, I support the proposed project for our seniors.</p>	<p>I support the San Juan Creek Road extension. I support the El Horno extension; however, it seems it will come at a significant cost. As proposed, I do not support an extension of the 241 toll road. The existing plan need revision. Widening Ortega Highway through town is not a solution to mitigate traffic.</p>	<p>Elected officials represent the people. An elected official needs to listen to the will of people, their concerns, decipher through fiction, identify facts, and formulate a decision which best serves the people and the City...and reflect on the larger ramifications of their decisions. Sometimes, a decision goes against public opinion.</p>	<p>Redevelopment is inevitable and acceptable to bolster the economics of any City. However, developers and special interest groups cannot lead any redevelopment effort. City Council must redevelop downtown first! Use existing resources! Home Depot in Lower Rosan - I am not in favor.</p>
<p><b>Mark Nielsen</b></p> 	<p>On Distrito, a previous City Council approved 440 residences around the old landfill. I'd rather see a project generate ongoing revenues to the City and enhance the character and quality of our community. The CLC project will also generate millions of dollars of revenue to the City while preserving over 110 acres of open space, potentially at no cost to the City.</p>	<p>We need to divert traffic around our town. I've fought the extension of San Juan Creek Road for over a decade. El Horno should not become a thoroughfare to Rancho Viejo. The widening of Ortega, while a necessary evil [can be more sensitively designed.] Finally, the 241 would relieve significant traffic on Ortega.</p>	<p>You elect us to use our skills, knowledge and good sense to understand all aspects of issues; then make decisions we believe in the best interests of the City overall. While we must consider the input of all citizens, one cannot merely vote according to the most vocal public opinion...but to determine the best long-term result.</p>	<p>The Redevelopment Agency is extremely important. We get to keep 60% of the property tax from development in the Agency boundaries compared to only 10% in the rest of the City. Home Depot should not have redevelopment support and I still have major issues with it since the voters said no in a formal election.</p>
<p><b>Londres Uso</b></p> 	<p>I have been against CLC almost from the beginning. Because of my public objections...it is a much improved project but still not the ideal for that location. I am in favor of a modified version of the La Novia/ Meadows project with a reduced equestrian component that is phased in to insure the welfare of adjacent neighborhoods.</p>	<p>I would not support the extension of SJC Road any more than the extension of Las Ramblas. I would reluctantly agree to a temporary use of El Horno during the construction of the I-5 interchange but not on a permanent basis. Ortega should be widened but the existing 4 lanes should not be touched.</p>	<p>If it were possible to determine what the majority of the residents wanted on every issue you would not need elected officials. Elected officials are tasked with listening to public testimony with an open mind, studying the facts and making decisions based on the law, the facts, the welfare of their whole constituency.</p>	<p>Redevelopment agencies are a tool and like all tools can be of great service in the right hands or cause damage in the wrong hands. We vetted a dozen possible uses for the Lower Rosan on the Council, none of these worked for one reason or another. Home Depot works.</p>

# IT IS TIME FOR A CHANGE IN SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO!



**JOHN TAYLOR**



**LARRY KRAMER**

*We are on the crest of change in San Juan Capistrano, we need a fresh approach and new ideas. Less politics and more problem solving.*

- We need a new legal team – bad decision making and bad advice could cost our city \$10 million dollars - virtually depleting the city's emergency fund
- No increases in water and electricity rates without a full public hearing
- Revitalize our downtown and bring needed tax revenue and job opportunities to our city
- Make traffic mitigation a top priority – explore all options working with county and state officials
- Make open space more accessible and make it a priority – secure outside funding to improve trails, add picnic areas for the enjoyment of everyone, and develop and implement a plan that brings revenue to our city for the use of our open space
- Strongly support public safety as our top priority
- Improve city government – stop the petty squabbles and personal agendas

## **VOTE FOR:**



**John Taylor, Businessman**  
*San Juan Capistrano City Council*



**Larry Kramer, Retired Naval Officer**  
*San Juan Capistrano City Council*

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- to oppose double-tracking through our historic town

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