



## United Way's Young Civic Leaders Candidate Questionnaire

### *School Budget*

1. How can you commit to support students to understand their school budget and what opportunities will you create for their participation in decision-making?
- I am holding Town Hall Meetings about the budget with teachers, parents, students, community members, classified and administrative individuals right now.
  - In the future, I plan to organize a SELA and NELA student advisory groups to meet with me around budget and many other issues.

### *College Readiness*

2. We feel as though there are some schools that get additional preparation for entering college and university. How do you plan on ensuring comprehensive supports for programs that uphold a college-going culture at all school sites and not just some?
- I have been working with some of the after-school programs that are doing excellent college preparation/application work. I would like to find a way to fund this type of program at each of the district's high schools, beginning with those with the lowest college application percentages.

### *Quality Staff*

3. How will you work to make sure that student voice is included in the hiring process and evaluation of an educator?
- When I was a student at UC Berkeley, many years ago, we in SLATE began the student evaluation of professors. But if we discuss such a proposal, teachers and students must work together to figure out how it could work. Unfortunately people can hold grudges and others can be grateful for their grade. If we were to do it at all, it would have to be done in a non-punitive fashion. In the meantime, I urge every teacher to do what I did the 17 years I was a classroom teacher—as the final page of your final exam, have a form that helps students evaluate you as a teacher. Then tear that page off, and don't read it until after you turn in students' grade.

### *Mental Health*

4. How will you ensure that students receive mental health supports and in doing so, which mental health themes will be most important to you?
- Unfortunately, schools are so terribly underfunded in this rich, rich state, I cannot ensure that students receive mental health. I am working with L A County Supervisor Hilda Solis. She is working to place 9 PSWs in my Board District this year. We are discussing how the County and LAUSD can work together to ensure that all students receive timely and appropriate socio-emotional support. Trauma is too much a part of the lives of too many of our students.