

My name is Matt Savage, and I am proudly running for one of the three at-large seats for Santa Clara County CEMA members. I have been a CEMA member for three years, during which I have served as CEMA's delegate to the South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council. I have also served on the Political Action Committee, where we interview candidates for elected office and make recommendations for which candidates to support. I am also a regular participant in CEMA Countywide and HHS site meetings.

Prior to my time as a CEMA member, I was a board aide for County Supervisor Simitian for four years, where I covered labor relations and regularly worked with CEMA members and leadership, as well as other County unions and private sector unions, to ensure a fair hearing for grievances and to work for a fair contract for union members. During my time as a board aide, I developed a great working relationship with all the current members of the Board of Supervisors, their staff, and with County leadership, relationships that will serve me well in this new role. I also served a similar role for County Supervisor Arenas when she was on the San Jose City Council.

Before I was with the County, I worked for five years at UFCW 5, the grocery workers union. During my time there, I helped with grievances, participated in the contract negotiation process, organized workers at Walmart and other retailers, and served as the political coordinator for Santa Clara County. I have a deep understanding of how unions work, and how they interact with employers and other stakeholders, which will be essential for this new role.

This is a critical moment for CEMA, and it is vital that we negotiate a fair contract for our members. It is also essential that our voices are heard during future layoffs and bumping, and that changes to this process are considered as we negotiate a new contract.

I hope that my wealth of knowledge and experience, as well as my commitment to social justice and workers' rights, will win your support as one of your at-large representatives for Santa Clara County CEMA members. Please reach out to me if you have any questions, and thank you for exercising your right to choose your union leadership.