



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAJORITY OF THE LONG BEACH BOARD OF EDUCATION ENDORSES LENA GONZALEZ FOR STATE SENATE

LONG BEACH, CA - Long Beach City Councilwoman Lena Gonzalez announced today that the majority of the Board of Education of the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) - President Diana Craighead, Board Member Dr. Juan Benitez and Board Member Megan Kerr - have endorsed her race for State Senate. Councilwoman Gonzalez is running to replace Ricardo Lara, who resigned to serve as California Insurance Commissioner.

First appointed to the school board in April of 2012, Craighead was elected to a full-term in 2014 and re-elected on 2018. Craighead represents LBUSD's 5th District which includes the cities of Lakewood, Signal Hill and all or portion of the 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th Long Beach councilmanic districts.

Dr. Juan Benitez was elected in 2018. He represents LBUSD's 3rd District which includes all or portions of the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 6th Long Beach councilmanic districts. Additionally, Dr. Benitez serves as the Executive Director for the Center for Community Engagement and as an Associate Professor of History at California State University, Long Beach.

Board Member Megan Kerr was first elected to the school board in 2014 and re-elected in 2018. She represents LBUSD's 1st District which includes all or portions of the 7th, 8th and 9th councilmanic districts.

Gonzalez issued the following statement upon receiving the endorsements of Craighead, Benitez and Kerr:



"I am honored to have received the endorsements of Diana Craighead, Juan Benitez and Megan Kerr. These public servants give their all on behalf of the students and families they serve.

"It is sad that in the world's 5th largest economy, we are still ranked near the bottom in the nation in per pupil funding. I commit to Diana, Juan and Megan and to all the people of the 33rd State Senatorial District that will I work with my future colleagues in addressing this embarrassing situation. We can and we must do better for our future."

Craighead, Benitez and Kerr join the following who have previously announced their endorsements of Councilwoman Gonzalez's campaign:

Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara
Congressman Alan Lowenthal
Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn
Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis
Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia

Local Elected Officials

Long Beach Councilmember Jeannine Pearce
Long Beach Councilmember Rex Richardson
Long Beach Councilmember Roberto Uranga
Huntington Park Vice Mayor Karina Macias
Huntington Park Councilmember Manuel "Manny" Avila
Huntington Park Councilmember Graciela Ortiz
Huntington Park Councilmember Marilyn Sanabria
Paramount Mayor Diane J. Martinez
LBCCD Board President Sunny Zia
LBCCD Board Vice President Vivian Malauulu
LBCCD Trustee Uduak-Joe Ntuk

State Legislators

State Senator Scott Wiener
Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez

Organizations Representing Working Women and Men

International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 952
International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 13
International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 63



International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 94
Ironworkers Local 433
Painters & Allied Trades International Union District Council 36
Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16
United Association Local 250
United Food & Commercial Workers International Union Local 324
Unite-HERE Local 11

Other Organizations

CA Latino Legislative Caucus

A special election is being held to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Senator Ricardo Lara who has assumed the role of California's 6th elected Insurance Commissioner. Lara has endorsed Councilwoman Gonzalez to replace him in the California State Senate.

A primary election will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2019. If a run-off is needed, the run-off election will be held on Tuesday, June 4, 2019.

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Councilwoman Lena Gonzalez has served on the Long Beach City Council since 2014 representing Downtown Long Beach and surrounding communities. She has served as the Vice Chair of the city's State Legislative committee for the past five years, and chairs the Harbor and Tidelands Committee.

Councilwoman Gonzalez lives in Downtown Long Beach with her husband Adam and their three sons. She graduated with a B.A. in Political Science from Cal State Long Beach and an MBA from Loyola Marymount University. She currently is employed with Microsoft, focused on issues around digital inclusion and tech equity.

The 33rd District includes the cities of Bell, Bell Gardens, Cudahy, Huntington Park, Lakewood, Long Beach, Lynwood, Maywood, Paramount, Signal Hill, South Gate, Vernon, portions of the City of Los Angeles and the unincorporated communities of Florence and Walnut Park.

PAID FOR BY LENA GONZALEZ FOR SENATE 2019 - FPPC ID# 1415216

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