



San Gabriel Valley Examiner

Since 1997 • Published in GLENDORA, California
A Weekly Adjudicated Publication Serving all of Los Angeles County

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Volume XXV, Issue No. 42

STRIVING FOR JOURNALISTIC EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL NEWS

October 13 - 19, 2022

Word On The Street Is Change

By Lois M. Shade
Former Mayor of Glendora

This 2022 election has brought people out in droves ready for the election saying they've had enough, are fed up and are ready for a change in leadership. We have recommendations for those changes in our local elections

When Critical Race Theory was legislated into school curriculums, followed by the Statewide Health framework requiring kindergartners through third grade to be queried about their preferred sex and pronoun, and allowed them to select a new name, not the one given to them by their parents, parents became distressed and then angry.

SOS or Save Our Schools, is a Glendora group who stepped up, organized a search for new school board candidates willing to stand up to the state agenda, and is supporting Gary Clifford, grandparent and former mayor, and Shaunna Elias, a working mother with two children. Their endorsements are not riddled with union support and well-known politicians, but aver-

age citizens - parents, grandparents and certified and retired teachers who are strongly opposed to this state curriculum. **SGV Examiner Endorses - Clifford, District 1 and Elias, District 2.**



Gary Clifford

Candidate for Azusa School Board, District 3, and just as upset as those in Glendora, is **Sandra Benavides** who has been involved in the Azusa community for 25 years. She knows the City of Azusa, has the education, with degrees and certificates along with the reputation for serving low-income, high-risk, and vulnerable populations in Azusa. Sandra has the Azusa City Council support for Azusa School Board, District 3 as well as the **SGV Examiner's Endorsement.**



Shaunna Elias

Simon Wright, a small business owner and District 4 resident of Covina Valley Unified School District, is one of the disconcerted parents, and with three children in that district, felt he needed to be one of those ready to stand up and run for that school board seat. Simon said, "I became very concerned about our district and whether



Sandra Benavides

it was preparing our kids with skills for life. The last couple years has really put stress on the school system, especially our children, our families and our community." We agree whole-heartedly and **SGV Endorses Simon Wright's election to CVUSD District 4 seat.**



Simon Wright

Wright acknowledges the same problems in the education system Benavides, Elias and Clifford have all said are problems in their districts starting with communication, transparency and most of all listening to the parents. All four of these school board candidates should be supported and elected to their school boards.

City of West Covina is struggling hard with financial problems. New candidates running for City Council, District 4, and

City Treasurer could provide new insight and more stability and consensus-building to maintain well-grounded programs and eliminate others.

Ollie Cantos, an attorney, running for City Council, District 4, has served in the White House under both Republican and Democrat presidents in the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of Education and is well aware of government operations and budgets and is used to working across the political aisles, coming to consensus and committed to getting things done. He would not have survived four presidents of different political parties and their staff without that ability to establish working relationships.

Cantos, blind since birth, has constantly moved forward and has helped create opportunities for others by serving for 32 years on the board of RespectAbility, a multi-million-dollar, non-partisan, cross-disability national organization seeking to fight stigmas and advance opportunities for our country's 61 million Americans with disabil-



Ollie Cantos

ities.

Ollie Cantos would be a new voice on the West Covina City Council and with his experiences, knowledge and understanding of how a government organization should operate to be effective and best serve the taxpayer, Cantos is the right choice. **SGV Examiner Endorses**



Sue Augino

es the election of Ollie Cantos to District 4, West Covina City Council.

Sue Augino is not your average community activist, but a watchdog who calls it out like she sees it. She was a strong voice who organized a community group to protest the number of homeless on the streets and in the parks of West Covina to remedy what could be done at the city level. While the problem was not eradicated, it made agencies aware and responsible and forced a response to hazardous conditions.

West Covina City Treasurer has no vote on any boards or commissions, but does have access to the financial records and is able to keep the Council and taxpayers aware of the financial decisions and conditions that are dragging the City of West Covina down. West Covina's financial condition is dire and needs a strong, reliable treasurer's voice. **SGV Examiner Endorses Sue Augino for West Covina City Treasurer.**