

Elect Mark Airgood for OEA Secretary

Build the Independent Civil Rights and Labor Movement to Stop Trump's Attacks on Immigrants, Unions, Democracy, and Equality!



This is not a routine election. The challenge of building and leading a new mass, anti-racist, anti-sexist, pro-immigrant civil rights movement is before us like never before. To defend public education, we must build this new independent civil rights and labor movement. I am committed to doing that. Donald Trump has used the presidential election in the U.S. to build a movement based on racism, anti-immigrant scapegoating, sexism and fear, modeled on the semi-fascist ultra-right wing immigrant bashing parties of Europe, like the Le Pen National Front in France and Nigel Farage's Brexit Party in Britain. The neo-liberal policies of the Democratic Party have not only failed to stop him, but have laid the groundwork for this. The attacks led by the Democrats over the past 10 years on public education, the record deportations under the Obama Administration, the continued program of austerity in social programs – these have paved the road for Trump's racist and misogynist movement. Trump and his movement can be defeated, but only by a new mass movement committed to the principles of democracy, equality, diversity, and openness. Only such a movement can defeat Trump, his racist, anti-immigrant movement, and his billionaire backers who are determined to undermine those principles in order to carry out draconian attacks on immigrants, organized labor, and all oppressed communities.

Building a new mass democratic movement is the greatest and most urgent challenge of our times. The OEA can play a leading role. We must make a fight for a strong contract that protects our members and students. We must demand that the Oakland City Council reaffirm its position that Oakland is a Sanctuary City and the School Board declares Oakland schools as sanctuary schools. We must oppose all deportations and ensure that our members and union are prepared to defend any student or family threatened with deportation. We must oppose all racist and sexist attacks by Trump and his reactionary Cabinet, including building a wall and militarization of the border with Mexico. We must defeat all anti-union attacks. We must rise to the challenge and elect leaders who are pledged to fight Trump and his attacks. I am such a leader. We must continue the fight to defend our students with disabilities and defend special education programs. Antwan Wilson and the OUSD Administration have systematically violated the caps on special education class sizes and compensation for all teachers when IEP meeting fall outside the school day. Their moves toward "inclusion" have been the disaster we knew they would be. We must defeat these attacks. We must redouble our fight against charters. The privatizers – GO Public Schools, Broad, Bloomberg – are pouring millions of dollars into Oakland to push charter schools and privatize the schools – and Wilson is their man.

We need an OEA leadership that is prepared to organize mass actions, not only of teachers but of students, parents and community members, to build a civil rights movement that unites the fight against Trump and his racist program with the fight to stop the attack on public education and win a strong contract that defends and expands the gains the OEA has made. There can be no victory against Trump without a mass movement. Trump himself understood that a movement has the power to overcome tall odds and win. We must answer his racist, sexist, anti-union movement with a proud, fighting movement to defend immigrants, democracy, equality, and public education! Our movement will have far more power than the reactionary Trump forces if we build it! We must be our own leaders. I am a veteran special education teacher and a leader in the fight to defend special education, public education, our members and students. I am committed to leading a mass fight to defeat Trump. Vote Mark Airgood.

Elect Tania Kappner as CTA State Council Delegate
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