2026–2028 General Election Candidate Statements

The AFSCME Local 2620 Elections Committee is pleased to provide the membership with the written statements submitted by candidates for the 2026 - 2028 General Election.

Candidates were given the opportunity to submit one written statement of no more than 200 words for distribution to the membership prior to voting. Submission of a candidate statement was optional. Candidates who did not submit a statement by the established deadline are identified accordingly in this document.

The statements that follow are being provided so members may learn more about the candidates seeking elected office and make informed decisions when casting their ballots.

The Elections Committee does not endorse any candidate or slate.

Electronic voting will open on **Friday, October 30, 2026**, and close on **Friday, November 20, 2026**.

We encourage all eligible dues-paying members to participate and exercise their right to vote. Thank you to every candidate who has stepped forward to serve AFSCME Local 2620 and to every member who takes part in our union's democratic process.

Election Assistance

For election-related questions, please contact the Elections Committee at **electionscommittee@afscmelocal2620.org**.

For assistance with electronic voting, to request a paper ballot, or for technical assistance, contact **help+afscme2620@yeselections.com**.

To update your contact information to ensure you receive an electronic ballot from YES Elections, contact **lisa.trujillo@ca.afscme57.org**.

In Unity,

Elections Committee
AFSCME Local 2620
electionscommittee@afscmelocal2620.org

PRESIDENT CANDIDATE



Carl L. Miller, JD, LCSW

President, AFSCME Local 2620

Carl Miller is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, labor advocate, and current President of AFSCME Local 2620. A frontline CDCR employee and former Chief Steward, Carl brings firsthand experience, legal education, and a commitment to protecting workers' rights. Since becoming President in March 2026, he has focused on membership growth, legislative advocacy, financial accountability, and strengthening union representation.

Carl is committed to working with **every classification**, listening to their concerns, and taking concerted action on their behalf. His leadership philosophy is simple: **Put members first, build unity, and fight for the workers who serve California every day.**

Our union is strongest when every classification has a voice and every member has a seat at the table. Join Carl and the United for 2620 team as we continue building a stronger, more united, and more accountable union. Together, we work. Together, we fight. Together, we win.

Learn more and get involved: www.unitedfor2620.com

PRESIDENT CANDIDATE



Maria Rodriguez, M.S

Qualified Rehabilitation Professional/

Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

My name is Maria Rodriguez, and I'm running for President and Council 57 Delegate with 2620 United. I serve as Vocational Rehabilitation Occupational Chair and have served two terms representing 14 DOR districts encompassing 87 offices statewide. I participated in negotiations in 2023 and 2025, helped secure an 11.9% wage increase for 550 counselors, and negotiated Side Letter 6 to create opportunities to address recruitment and incentives.

I am proud that DOR membership grew from 50% to 67.9% during my leadership, with several offices reaching 100% active membership. But numbers only matter when members feel heard, supported, included, and connected to their union.

That is the union I intend to build.

As President, I will prepare us now for 2028 negotiations, fight for fair wages and better benefits, grow membership to 80%, and work toward union representation at every worksite. I will invest in members' education, develop leaders, and demand accountability at every level.

I am ready to lead with courage, purpose, and conviction. I will listen, I will organize, and I will fight for every member.

If you are ready for a stronger, more united union that delivers results, I ask for your vote today. Visit **2620United.com** to learn more.

NORTHERN VP CANDIDATE



Darrell Lakey, Ph.D

I’m running for AFSCME Local 2620 NVP with the important goals of working with the Executive Board to improve pay for members, ensure the safest possible working conditions, and to hold management of our respective agencies accountable. I bring 15 years of combined Union experience working in Federal/state government positions, filing grievances, negotiating with management, and filing whistleblower complaints that ended up on the POTUS’s desk. After joining Local 2620, it quickly became clear the morale within our Union was shockingly low. This is critical as negotiating a strong contract with the state requires unity. Management and the state are our enemy, not our fellow members. The candidates you elect today will represent you at the bargaining table with the state in 2028. I commit to work together with any Union member to fight for our collective rights and aggressively enforce our contract. Together, we can restore our bargaining power, increase our membership, and regain the respect we deserve. Let’s make management afraid of the Union again.

NORTHERN VP CANDIDATE



Barbara Perry, LCSW

Candidate for Chief Steward – AFSCME Local 2620, Northern Vice President

Barbara Perry is a dedicated member with eight years of experience advocating for her colleagues' rights, well-being, fairness, transparency, and respect in the workplace. Barbara has served as steward for four years; representing members in grievance procedures and ensuring the fair application of bargaining contracts.

She currently serves as the AFSCME Chief Steward at Napa State Hospital, organizing and motivating both new and existing members for the Northern Vice President role. Barbara has served several union committees, including the Membership Committee, Event Committee, and Next Wave Committee, and has participated in multiple Lobby Days to support workers’ rights and professional equity.

Barbara believes strong leadership starts with listening, advocating, and taking actions. As Northern Vice President, she will work to ensure fair contract enforcement, open communication, and a safe, respectful workplace for all.

SOUTHERN VP CANDIDATE

Charlotte Deering, Ph.D - NO BIO

SOUTHERN VP CANDIDATE



Taniya Rose Winston, LCSW

I am running for Southern Vice President of AFSCME Local 2620 because I believe members deserve a union that is active, responsive, and accountable. Since being elected Region VI Chief Steward in December 2025, I have helped revitalize our region through monthly meetings, increased member engagement, and the development of a strong Member Action Team (MAT), making support more readily available at each site and facility. By supporting and empowering Region VI MAT, we have expanded participation and strengthened Region VI. I want to bring that same energy and commitment across the Southern regions. My priorities include increasing member involvement through meetings, committees, and steward recruitment; ensuring grievances, complaints, and concerns receive timely attention and follow-through; and promoting an Executive Board that works together to serve members without allowing internal conflicts to interfere with that responsibility.

Every member should feel heard, supported, and connected to their union. I am proud of the progress we have made in Region VI and want to help other regions build that same momentum. I would appreciate your vote for Southern Vice President.

SECRETARY CANDIDATE



Rene’ Eller

I am running for AFSCME Local 2620 Secretary. I feel it is very important to keep accurate minutes of all union meetings. I know with my attention to details, I can easily provide you this record keeping. I promise to upload meeting minutes to our Local 2620 website within days of minutes approval.

My classification is that of a Recreation Therapist at Pleasant Valley State Prison in Coalinga. Different roles I have held during my AFSCME Local 2620 membership.

1. Stewart
2. New Members Orientation to educate new hires on the importance of Union Membership and enroll new Union Members.
3. Joint Labor Management Committee
4. Policy Committee
5. Election Committee
6. Contract Committee
7. Trustee for two terms

I hope to represent you as Local 2620 Secretary. Please vote for Rene' Eller.

SECRETARY CANDIDATE



Roshawnda Johnson

I am Roshawnda Johnson, and I am asking for your vote for AFSCME Local 2620 Secretary.

As a SATF Union Steward and Chair of the CDCR Steward Council, I work to bring member concerns forward, strengthen communication, and connect stewards across facilities. My experience in clinical social work and healthcare administration has reinforced the importance of accurate documentation, organization, confidentiality, and consistent follow-through.

As Secretary, I will prioritize accurate meeting minutes, organized records, timely correspondence, and clear documentation of decisions and action items. Members deserve to understand what their union is doing and how they can participate.

I believe every classification, department, and region deserves a voice. I will work collaboratively with our leadership and membership to strengthen participation, preserve our institutional knowledge, and support accountability throughout our Local.

My commitment is simple: listen carefully, document accurately, communicate clearly, and follow through. I am ready to bring that commitment to the office of Secretary.

Connected. Accountable. Moving Forward.

Please vote Roshawnda Johnson for AFSCME Local 2620 Secretary.

SECRETARY CANDIDATE



Michelle Lam

My name is Michelle Lam, and I work for the Department of Rehabilitation in the San Jose branch. I have served the state for 3 years and have been an AFSCME member since my first day. I first got involved by helping my Occupational Chair host office meetings, and that experience, along with Lobby Days, showed me how important it is for us to advocate for each other.

As Region 5 Chief Steward (Bay Area), I have focused on rebuilding connection and strengthening representation. I helped organize the DOR Golden Gate District, represented the Northern region at meet-and-confer tables, and restored in-person meetings after several years of inactivity. Visiting worksites and hearing members' concerns has shaped how I approach problem- solving and advocacy. I also serve on the Communications Committee, supporting outreach across our union.

I am running for Secretary because our union deserves clear, accurate, and timely documentation. Before joining the state, I worked in Document Control at Genentech, where I learned the importance of precise records and organized systems. With my technical skills, attention to detail, and experience on the

Executive Board, I am ready to meet the demands of this position and serve our membership effectively.

SECRETARY CANDIDATE



Khristine Warch

Greetings, My Union Brothers and Sisters,

I am running for Secretary of AFSCME Local 2620 for the 2026–2028 term. Thank you for trusting me to serve this past term. As your Secretary, I have diligently provided clear, accurate minutes at every Executive Board meeting to keep our members informed and ensure transparency.

With your support, I will continue serving our members with accountability, dedication, and a commitment to keeping you informed.

Our Union's strength depends on an active, informed, and united membership. By encouraging participation, promoting training opportunities, and strengthening involvement, we can build a stronger voice at the bargaining table. Every member deserves representation that protects their rights, respects their dignity, and advocates for fair and safe working conditions.

As Secretary, I will work to strengthen solidarity, increase member engagement, and ensure every member's voice matters. Together, we can build a stronger, more active Union focused on meeting the needs of those we represent.

Your vote supports a stronger, united, and member-focused AFSCME Local 2620!

For more information, visit the Executive Officer Candidates Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/3434608996741873

TREASURER CANDIDATE



Daniel Lastinger

It has been my privilege to serve as Treasurer of AFSCME Local 2620. During my tenure, I have worked to modernize financial operations, strengthen accountability, and ensure union resources remain easily accessible to the leaders who represent you.

My accomplishments include streamlining reimbursements, expanding electronic payment options, reducing administrative expenses, and ensuring travel reimbursements were available, directly to attendees, at major statewide events, including our Convention in San Diego and at our 50th Anniversary Celebration in San Jose. These improvements have made our union more efficient, transparent, and responsive.

But there is more work to be done.

If reelected, I will continue prioritizing financial transparency, responsible spending, operational efficiency, and long-term

financial growth. My first initiative will be transitioning from traditional credit cards to a corporate charge card system with enhanced spending controls to reduce the risk of financial misuse and wasteful spending.

Above all, I believe effective leadership requires collaboration, mutual respect, and putting our membership first. Our members deserve leadership focused on solving problems, not creating divisions.

It is time to put internal conflicts aside and return our focus to serving our membership.

TRUSTEES CANDIDATE

Yok Choi- BIO BELOW

TRUSTEES CANDIDATE



Jose "Gabe" Rios

My name is Jose "Gabe" Rios, QRP in El Monte office. I am running for union trustee representative because I am dedicated to being a true advocate for every single member. Built on a foundation of integrity and loyalty, my mission is to champion true equality and inclusion in our workplace, ensuring that colleagues receive the full support, accessibility, and respect they deserve.

Through genuine teamwork, we can accomplish far more together than we ever could alone. As an empathetic and caring colleague equipped with great listening skills, I am here to understand your real concerns and take action on them. Being tri-lingual, I am proud to connect across diverse backgrounds to ensure everyone’s voice is heard, valued, and amplified.

Let's build a fairer, stronger workplace together. Vote for dedicated, inclusive leadership.

TRUSTEES CANDIDATE

Erin Sicard- NO BIO

COUNCIL 57 DELEGATE CANDIDATE



Yok Choi

I am seeking your vote as Delegate to Council 57 for Local2620.

For over a decade, I have served as Treasurer, Trustee, Chief Steward, and Psychology Occupational Chair at the local and Delegate at the Council, advocating for members' rights, fair wages, and responsible union governance. Through my various terms of office, my commitment to financial accountability is demonstrated by actions, not empty promises. As Trustee of the local, I exposed financial irregularities and wrongdoing within Local2620, helping uncover misconduct that ultimately resulted in criminal convictions of former union officers. As a delegate at Council 57 and part of a newly- formed audit committee, I challenged financial mismanagement, operating deficits, and years without independent audits at the Council. I spearheaded efforts calling for an independent audit of Council finances that exposed various violations and breaches.

I believe elected officers and Council employees must be accountable to members, not shield one another from scrutiny. Union dues belong to members.

As your Delegate, I will continue demanding transparency, fiscal responsibility, and leadership that puts members' interests first.

Accountability is not just a campaign promise—it is what I have consistently worked on.

COUNCIL 57 DELEGATE CANDIDATE



Rene’ Eller

My name is Rene' Eller and I running for Council 57 Delegate. My wishes are to represent Local 2026 members in Council 57. I am hopefully hoping to help local 2026 and Council 57 to stream line members' contact lists to make them more accurate. I will work to regain a business agent position that was lost. I also want to make sure council 57 does not charge local 2620 a larger member fee as they continue to represent local 2026.

My classification is that of a Recreation Therapist at Pleasant Valley State Prison in Coalinga. Different roles I have held during my AFSCME Local 2620 membership.

1. Stewart
2. New Members Orientation to educate new hires on the importance of Union Membership and enroll new Union Members.
3. Joint Labor Management Committee
4. Policy Committee
5. Election Committee
6. Contract Committee
7. Trustee for two terms

I hope to represent you as a Council 57 Delegate. Please vote for Rene' Eller

COUNCIL 57 DELEGATE CANDIDATE



Elena Gonzalez-Soto

I am seeking to serve as an AFSCME Council 57 Delegate because members deserve representation and an active voice in decisions affecting our union.

I would approach this role with preparation, accountability, and a willingness to listen. I would work to understand council issues, participate in discussions and decisions, and ensure members' concerns and perspectives are represented. Effective representation requires collaboration, continuous learning, and consistent engagement.

During my state service, I was elected Vice President of my chapter in the Association of California State Supervisors. Although my tenure was brief, the experience introduced me to chapter leadership and reinforced the importance of representing members' interests and fulfilling elected responsibilities.

I currently serve on a civil service board, reviewing disciplinary matters, employment practices, and job classifications. I am also taking paralegal courses to strengthen my ability to evaluate policy and legislative issues that

affect our members. Combined with my union training, these experiences have prepared me to contribute thoughtfully at council meetings and conventions.

I would be honored to earn your vote and represent our collective interests with integrity, accountability, and commitment.

COUNCIL 57 DELEGATE CANDIDATE

Eric Hernandez – BIO BELOW

COUNCIL 57 DELEGATE CANDIDATE

Darrell Lakey - BIO ABOVE

COUNCIL 57 DELEGATES

Maria Rodriguez – BIO ABOVE

COUNCIL 57 DELEGATE CANDIDATE

Sonia Ruiz - BIO BELOW

COUNCIL 57 DELEGATE CANDIDATE

Christine Warch- BIO ABOVE

COUNCIL 57 DELEGATE CANDIDATE

Taniya Rose Winston - BIO ABOVE

ATASCADERO STATE HOSPITAL CHIEF FACILITY STEWARD CANDIDATE

Vacant

COALINGA STATE HOSPITAL CHIEF FACILITY STEWARD CANDIDATE

Richard Sorentino - NO BIO

NAPA STATE HOSPITAL CHIEF FACILITY STEWARD CANDIDATE

Vacant

METROPOLITAN STATE HOSPITAL CHIEF FACILITY STEWARD CANDIDATE

Tanya Olive Valentino - NO BIO

PATTON STATE HOSPITAL CHIEF FACILITY STEWARD CANDIDATE

Darrel Chrabascz - NO BIO

PORTERVILLE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER CHIEF STEWARD CANDIDATE



Leo Cantu

My name is Leo Cantu. I'm a Behavior Specialist at Porterville Developmental Center. I'm the nominee for Chief Steward of PDC. I've been a member for over 20 years. I know the importance of having strong leadership and a collective voice. I plan to be transparent, honest and open to the people I work with. Together we can assure our local is strong and united.

CHAPLAINS OCCUPATIONAL CHAIR CANDIDATE



Cesar Beltran

My name is Cesar Beltran. I am a Protestant Chaplain at Calipatria State Prison, in state service since 2018. I am asking for your vote for Chaplain/NASL Occupational Chair.

We belong to a professional bargaining unit, yet chaplains/NASL’s are rarely treated as professionals. I've made the long drives to remote prisons. I've watched chapels go without services while positions sat empty for years, and I've seen pay that never meaningfully moves up.

Our contract already includes benefits for other classifications in our unit, but never reach chaplains/NASL’s. Mental health staff receive extra pay because their jobs are hard to fill. We face the same challenges. The state funds what it prioritizes, and I will fight to make us a top priority.

At the bargaining table, I will push to extend existing language to Chaplains/NASL's and add language that recognizes our work with a path to move up, pay parity with federal prison chaplains, cost-of-living raises, help with commuting costs, and protected time and travel for our faith endorsements.

I can't do this alone. I will ask each of you what is working, what isn't, and what you need, then report back transparently.

I'd be honored to have your vote.

CHAPLAIN OCCUPATIONAL CHAIR CANDIDATE



Xochilt Martinez

NASL

YOUR VOICE. YOUR TRUST. MY COMMITMENT TO SERVE.

Chaplains and NASL,

I ask for your vote to continue serving as the Chaplains and Native American Spiritual Leaders Occupational Chair. Leadership is more than a title; it means listening, being accountable, and standing up for the members we represent. Through contract negotiations, committee service, union conferences, and virtual and in-person meetings, I have gained valuable experience and insight into the challenges facing our membership. I believe every member deserves to be heard, respected, and represented with compassion, integrity, and fairness. I will remain accessible, listen to your concerns, follow through on commitments, and advocate for you and the union's interests. As we face future challenges, we need leadership grounded in experience, respect, compassion, and accountability. I am committed to continuing this work and serving all members with dedication. Your vote matters! Please support my continued service as the Chaplains and Native American Spiritual Leaders Occupational Chair. Together, let's strengthen communication, respect every member's voice, and face future challenges with unity and dedication. Thank you for your trust and support. Vote for me!

DIETICIANS/NUTRITIONISTS OCCUPATIONAL CHAIR CANDIDATE



Angela Dawson

Experience. Integrity. Representation.

My union journey began 13 years ago when I signed my membership card. Since then, I have served as a Steward, DNOC, negotiations team member, and committee member. In 2019, when Dietitians/Nutritionists lacked representation on the Executive Board and at the negotiations table, I stepped up.

As a full-time Registered Dietitian, military wife, and mother of four, balancing union service with family and professional responsibilities has not always been easy. But advocating for members and strengthening our union has made every effort worthwhile. When we fight, WE WIN!

I bring integrity, dedication, teamwork, and collaboration. I have built relationships with occupational members and chairs while gaining experience advocating for pay equity, telework, workplace safety, recruitment, and retention.

Accomplishments

- Dietitian/Nutritionist Reclassification (2021): Helped reclassify Dietitians/Nutritionists from Custodial Services to Allied & Medical Health Services through the JLMC.
- Continuing Education Allowance: Helped secure annual CEU allowance payments instead of reimbursement.
- Wage increases: Helped secure increases for DNOC members and bring experience to negotiations with the HEC, CNC, and PHNC.

I am running to build on this progress, strengthen occupational representation, and ensure Dietitians/Nutritionists have a meaningful voice in decisions affecting our profession, working conditions, and future.

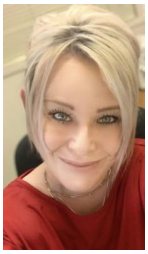
DIETICIANS/NUTRITIONISTS OCCUPATIONAL CHAIR CANDIDATE



Budi Maharaj

What a privilege it is to be part of a centuries-long fight for working class equity through AFSCME. As the Dietitian/Nutritionist Occupational Chair in AFSCME Local 2620 for nearly a year, I have fought to protect workers in their finances, wellness, and dignity. In 2028, I hope to have the opportunity to negotiate for more competitive salaries for dietitians and nutritionists. To do so, I have built strong connections so that my bargaining unit is steadfast in 2028. Work/life balance is essential to employee wellness. I've collected anecdotes on the impacts of denied telework requests and forced in-office policies on work/life balance of our coworkers to negotiate for improved working conditions. Many experienced, intelligent dietitians and nutritionists leave state jobs because they are offered indignifying salaries when attempting to transfer from years-long service as contracted employees to permanent employees. The removal of these workers negatively impacts them, their families, and the health of our communities. If you want to see dietitians and nutritionists living in financial security, wellness, and dignity, please consider voting for me, Budi Maharaj, as your Dietitian/Nutritionist Occupational Chair.

INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR OCCUPATIONAL CHAIR CANDIDATE



Amy Navarro

My name is Amy Navarro, and I am running for Individual Program Coordinator, Occupational Chair.

I have 23 years of state service and 21 years as an Individual Program Coordinator (IPC) at Porterville Developmental Center. I have been an AFSCME member for many years and have served at the bargaining table, representing my fellow IPCs.

Participating at the bargaining table helped me better understand our contract and contribute to the team by developing stronger language. During negotiations, I gained an understanding of the process and identified the importance of membership involvement. Throughout California, only two facilities employ IPCs, Porterville Developmental Center and Canyon Springs,which is why it is important to have an Occupational Chair committed to serving this classification. I am

qualified to serve as Occupational Chair because I have met most of my fellow IPCs at both facilities. I am familiar with the needs in each institution, and I am well-rounded in my role as an IPC. I have participated in Joint Labor Management Meetings, worked with the Bargaining Team, and taken part in other union activities that have prepared me to lead Local 2620.

LICENSING PROGRAM ANALYST OCCUPATIONAL CHAIR CANDIDATE



Elena Gonzalez-Soto

I am seeking to serve as the Licensing Program Analyst (LPA) Occupational Chair to advocate for fair, equitable, and meaningful representation of our profession.

With over two years of experience as an LPA and prior supervisory experience in state service, I bring an understanding of both employee and management perspectives. This background has strengthened my understanding of workplace practices, accountability, and the importance of balanced decision-making.

I currently serve on a civil service board, where I participate in reviewing disciplinary matters, employment practices, and job classifications. I have also completed AFSCME union representative training, reflecting my commitment to member advocacy and fair workplace practices.

As the LPA Occupational Chair, I would strive to be an active, accessible voice for LPAs by listening to member concerns, communicating those concerns effectively, and contributing to meaningful discussions about workplace conditions. I recognize the ongoing challenges surrounding caseloads, workload expectations, and the demands of our profession. While meaningful improvements require collaboration, I am committed to supporting efforts that

promote sustainable workloads, fair treatment, and a stronger professional environment for LPAs.

I welcome the opportunity to bring my experience, perspective, and dedication to this position and work collaboratively to advance the interests of our members.

LICENSING PROGRAM ANALYST OCCUPATIONAL CHAIR CANDIDATE



Stephanie Vega-Gonzalez

My name is Stephanie Vega-Gonzalez, and I am a Child Care Licensing Program Analyst (LPA) at the Fresno North Regional Office. I am running for LPA Occupational Chair because I believe it is time for unity, stronger representation, and meaningful change for LPAs across California.

As an active union member, I have attended meetings, educated myself on our bargaining contract, and worked to better understand the challenges and concerns affecting our profession. I also created California LPA Advocates, an Instagram platform designed to connect LPAs statewide, share information, encourage participation, and strengthen our sense of community.

My goals are simple. Increase union membership, build our collective voice, and strengthen our unity. I believe every LPA deserves to feel informed, supported, valued, and heard, regardless of their regional office.

Change does not happen through one person alone. It happens when individuals come together with a shared purpose and a willingness to participate. Every wave of change begins with one droplet willing to take the first step. I am ready to be that droplet, but together, we can become a powerful wave.

I respectfully ask for your support and vote as we work toward a stronger, united future for all California LPAs.

PHARMACIST OCCUPATIONAL CHAIR CANDIDATE



Michael Font

After graduating from Loma Linda University school of Pharmacy in 2008, I transitioned up to Northern California where I have been a practicing pharmacist for over 18 years mostly in the specialty of compounding and long- term care pharmacy and now with CDCR since 2019. During my experience, I developed clinical and compounding skills; worked as a staff pharmacist within pharmacy operations and served in various leadership roles functioning as a Pharmacist in Charge (PIC) for over 3 years. I have always carried a strong passion for the profession of pharmacy and will continue in that capacity within the CDCR framework to fight for higher pharmacist pay and clinical positions/ compensation.

PHYSICAL MEDICINE OCCUPATIONAL CHAIR CANDIDATE

Giovanna Casillas - NO BIO

PHYSICAL MEDICINE OCCUPATIONAL CHAIR CANDIDATE



Hassan Juma-Ramadhan

Semper prorsum, numquam retrorsum.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT OCCUPATIONAL CHAIR CANDIDATE

Armenta Tiggs-Brown - NO BIO

REHABILITATION/RECREATION THERAPIST OCCUPATIONAL CHAIR CANDIDATE

Jean Flores

I am running for the position of RTOC. I have been a CTRS for over 20 years and joined state service in 2018. I became a steward at RJ Donovan in 2020. A few years ago, I became more involved in the union by joining various committees. Over the past three years, I have served as a member of the Organizing Committee, Elections Committee, and Nextwave Committee. I have also co-chaired on the Convention Committee and chaired the Events Committee, which involved both the Lobby Days and 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Being a part of these committees has taught me the importance of communication, organization, and understanding of the Union policies and procedures to better serve the unique needs of our members.

If I am elected as RTOC, my goal will be to amplify our unity to show management that we are a cohesive team as we head to the negotiating table. I hope to hear from each facility about their most important points for change and work to make it happen.

Thank you for your consideration

REHABILITATION/RECREATION THERAPIST OCCUPATIONAL CHAIR CANDIDATE



Jeremy Manuel

Hello. My name is Jeremy Manuel. I am honored to be one of your nominees for Rehabilitation/Recreation Therapist Occupational Chair, and I'm ready to turn our shared experiences into powerful advocacy.

Having served in PSU, MHCB, and EOP since 2015, my clinical qualifications are forged daily in high-acuity environments. I witnessed firsthand the profound impact of our treatment teams and the immense frontline challenges we face daily. Over the years, I learned when management refuses to listen, we must build a collective voice they cannot ignore. I am running to ensure our classifications are respected, our workloads are manageable, and our safety remains our absolute priority across CDCR, CCHCS, DSH, and PIP.

True leadership is about service, accountability, and collective action. My background as a campus leader at SJSU and as a Steward taught me how to organize, listen, and lead from the ground up. I bring proven administrative grit to the union table—not to make grand promises, but to fight fiercely for what matters to you. I am committed to confronting workplace inequities, ending staffing abuse violations, and fighting for the pay and core benefits we have earned. Let's move forward together. When we fight, we win!

REHABILITATION/RECREATION THERAPIST OCCUPATIONAL CHAIR CANDIDATE



Kristin Osborn

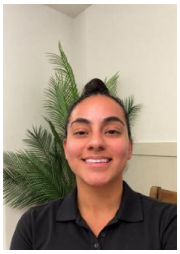
As your candidate for Recreational Therapy Occupational Chair, I am committed to advancing a stronger, more equitable, and sustainable future for recreational therapists. Our profession deserves competitive wages that reflect our education, expertise, and essential contributions to patient and community well-being. I will also advocate for increased state contribution towards medical benefits, cost of living adjustments, longevity pay, maternity/baby bonding benefits, and policies that support work-life balance.

I will work to expand telework opportunities where appropriate, creating greater flexibility while maintaining quality services. I will also promote clear pathways for RT specialist and RT management positions, ensuring professionals can grow into leadership roles without leaving the field.

Our profession must have a stronger presence in healthcare. I will support the development of medical recreational therapy positions and advocate for recognition of RTs as vital members of interdisciplinary treatment teams. Additionally, I will encourage program development, internship expansion, and stronger partnerships between academic programs, clinical sites, and communities.

Finally, I will champion realistic staffing expectations and balanced workloads. Recreational therapists cannot consistently provide exceptional care while facing burnout, insufficient resources, and excessive demands. Together, we can build a profession that values its practitioners, supports innovation, develops future leaders, and improves access to meaningful therapeutic services.

REHABILITATION/RECREATION THERAPIST OCCUPATIONAL CHAIR CANDIDATE



Makayla Rodriguez

I am Makayla Rodriguez, and I am asking for your vote for AFSCME Local 2620 Rehabilitation/ Recreation Therapists Occupational Chair.

Rehabilitation and recreation therapists deserve a strong voice in decisions affecting our safety, professional responsibilities, staffing, and ability to provide meaningful treatment. Our work requires appropriate resources, suitable treatment spaces, and respect for the expertise we bring to our workplaces.

If elected, I will prioritize listening to members across facilities and departments, identifying shared concerns, and bringing those concerns forward to union leadership. I will advocate for safe working conditions, clear expectations, appropriate training, and duties that respect our professional scope.

I believe effective representation begins with accessibility and consistent communication. I will work to keep members informed, encourage participation, and collaborate with stewards and union leadership to pursue practical solutions.

My goal is to strengthen connections among our therapists so that concerns are heard, experiences are shared, and members have a meaningful role in shaping our priorities.

I am ready to listen, advocate, and follow through on behalf of our profession.

Please vote Makayla Rodriguez for Rehabilitation/Recreation Therapists Occupational Chair.

REHABILITATION/RECREATION THERAPIST OCCUPATIONAL CHAIR CANDIDATE



Anthony Treece

Dear AFSCME 2620 Members,

I am running for Rehabilitation Therapist Occupational Chair to bring practical experience and strong advocacy to our union leadership. As a Recreation Therapist who has worked at California Health Care Facility and San Quentin Rehabilitation Center, I have worked across every level of care in correctional mental health. I know firsthand our daily demands and the support we need.

My commitment to members is reflected in my work as a steward and my history of service on the Budget and Finance, Next Wave, and Convention committees. As contract negotiations begin, I will use this experience to push for fair pay increases that make up for years of inflation and fight for an increase to the cost-of-living adjustment for members in HCOL regions.

If elected, I will protect existing telework policies and expand flexible options where possible. I will advocate for reasonable patient-to-staff ratios and realistic group-hour expectations, while also pushing for stronger upward mobility so therapists can advance their careers.

Together, we can make our voice heard at the bargaining table. I would be honored to have your vote.

SOCIAL WORKER OCCUPATIONAL CHAIR CANDIDATE



Evalyn Beauchamp

AFSCME negotiated a contract in 2023 that left Social Workers far behind others. Subsequently, Social Workers ran away from the union, and the Social Work Occupational Chair left his position. We were in an uproar and remain concerned as we have not recovered from that fiasco.

I am Evalyn Beauchamp (MSW, USC). I've been with the State for 10 years and SWOC since 2025. I've worked tirelessly to elevate our standing following the 2023 contract.

I successfully lobbied in Sacramento to revise a Senate Bill exempting us from disclosing personal info to clients, I engaged the Receiver to advocate for Lead positions. Through statewide outreach, I've built an inclusive space uniting Social Workers, LMFTs, LPCCs, Behavior Specialist and Adoption Specialists.

I am running independently, not on a slate. I'm working for you, not to political allies. I will consistently question the Executive Board's decisions to safeguard our hard-earned dues and hold leadership accountable.

With the state's financial outlook improving, the 2028 negotiations are our opportunity to win compensation that reflects our clinical expertise.

I've proved I can protect our safety, push for career ladder growth, and fight for fiscal responsibility. Re-elect me - let's secure the fair contract we deserve.

SOCIAL WORKER OCCUPATIONAL CHAIR CANDIDATE



Eric Hernandez

I’m running for Social Work Occupational Chair and Council 57 Delegate with 2620 United.

I currently serve as Northern Vice President and Communications Committee Chair and previously served as your Social Work Occupational Chair. As a Clinical Social Worker, I understand the importance of having our professions represented by people who know our work and will fight for our priorities.

I served at the negotiating table in 2023 and 2025, and I’m ready to bring that experience back for 2028.

I will build active committees for Adoptions Specialists, Behavior Specialists, Clinical Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Clinical Counselors. I want members across departments to help shape our priorities long before bargaining begins. I believe strong representation means making room for every voice and ensuring every member feels included, valued, and part of the team.

By 2028, we should arrive organized, prepared, and united behind a clear agenda, not just beginning the conversation.

As a Council 57 Delegate, I will represent our Local and make sure our voice is heard at the Council level.

I’m proud to stand with Maria Rodriguez and 2620 United. Visit 2620United.com to learn more about our team.

I humbly ask for your vote.

SOCIAL WORKER OCCUPATIONAL CHAIR CANDIDATE

Aman Singh - NO BIO

STATE PSYCHOLOGISTS OCCUPATIONAL CHAIR CANDIDATE

Benjamin Hulk Hulkower - NO BIO

STATE PSYCHOLOGIST OCCUPATIONAL CHAIR CANDIDATE



Sonia Ruiz

I have served the State of California for over 20 years and currently work as a Senior Psychologist Specialist for CDCR/CCHCS at R.J. Donovan CF. My union involvement began in 2018, when I became a steward. I later served as Southern Vice President for three months before stepping up as President. As President, I helped negotiate the 2023-2025 contract; as State Psychologist Occupational Chair (SPOC), I negotiated our current 2025-2028 contract with the State. As I have done previously as SPOC, I will reach out to psychologists across all state departments and units to understand their varied duties and challenges. If elected SPOC for the 2026-2028 term, I will represent all state psychologists at the bargaining table and support their interests as they navigate daily workplace challenges. I hope to work with Maria Rodriguez as President and her slate to build a unified Executive Board committed to all members and to fighting for fair wages, safe worksites, and protections for our civil service jobs. I am also committed to integrity, transparency, and fiscal responsibility. Please email me at syruiz@yahoo.com with questions or comments. I look forward to serving all psychologists as your SPOC.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION OCCUPATIONAL CHAIR CANDIDATE



Sheena Adolphus

As a Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor with the California Department of Rehabilitation, I understand that our ability to serve consumers effectively is directly influenced by the conditions under which we work.

I believe workplace challenges cannot be addressed in isolation. Staffing shortages, excessive caseloads, inconsistent communication, and unclear expectations create pressures that affect employee morale, professional judgment, and service delivery. These are not simply individual concerns. They reflect organizational conditions that require collective attention and accountability.

As Occupational Chair, my priority would be strengthening communication between members and union leadership, advocating for equitable workloads and reasonable working conditions, and ensuring that the concerns of vocational rehabilitation professionals are represented in decisions that affect our work.

Effective representation requires more than responding to problems after they occur. It requires recognizing patterns, addressing systemic barriers, and creating opportunities for members to participate meaningfully in shaping their workplace.

My commitment is to transparent leadership, collective advocacy, and a workplace where employees have the resources, respect, and professional autonomy necessary to do their jobs well.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION OCCUPATIONAL CHAIR CANDIDATE



Miranda Ontko

With 25 years experience and nearly 11 years as a nationally certified vocational counselor, my vision is to advocate for all, not just my brothers and sisters in AFSCME, but all people that AFSCME serves in California. I am running for occupation chair because we are experiencing an unprecedented attack on our rights and as an avid hiker I am not afraid of a challenge or attacking uncharted territory. You have the right to remain silent or use your voice to be heard. Participation is the key to harmony. Anything you share will be heard with empathy, compassion, and confidentiality. I will make time to meet with you. Please come share the TEA with me and talk about Transparency, Enforcement, and Accountability. I look forward to meeting you all and hope to be your new Occupational Chair in 2026.

REGION I CHIEF STEWARD (REDWOOD EMPIRE) CANDIDATE

Sherry Gibbons - NO BIO

REGION II CHIEF STEWARD (SHASTA) CANDIDATE

Vacant

REGION III CHIEF STEWARD (SACRAMENTO/STOCKTON) CANDIDATE

Juan Del Toro - NO BIO

REGION IV CHIEF STEWARD (VACAVILLE AREA) CANDIDATE

Vacant

REGION V CHIEF STEWARD (BAY AREA) CANDIDATE

Vacant

REGION VI CHIEF STEWARD (CENTRAL VALLEY) CANDIDATE

Christina Moreno - NO BIO

REGION VII CHIEF STEWARD (CENTRAL COAST) CANDIDATE



Elizabeth Hill-Nishimura

Strong Members. United Voices. One Region 7.

I am running for Chief Regional Steward because every member deserves to be heard, respected, and represented, regardless of their department or worksite.

I have worked for the California Department of Rehabilitation since 2019 and currently serve out of the Thousand Oaks office. I was born and raised in California. I hold a master of social work degree from the University of Nevada Las Vegas, a bachelors degree from the University of San Francisco, serve as a union steward, and am a founding member of the Green Hats. I also served on the DOR Reasonable Accommodation meet-and-confer table.

My commitment extends to ALL Region 7 members, including those working in state hospitals, correctional facilities, and other state departments in our beautiful central coast.

I want members to know they can contact me when workplace treatment is unfair, contractual rights are violated, or management fails them. My priorities include establishing a Member Action Team, improving communication across worksites, and increasing union membership to strengthen our collective bargaining power.

Union leadership should be accessible, responsive, and accountable. No member should feel they must face workplace challenges alone.

REGION VIII CHIEF STEWARD (LA COUNTY) CANDIDATE

Marwa Amer

My name is Marwa Amer, and I am running for Region VIII Chief Steward representing Los Angeles County.

As a vocational counselor with the Department of Rehabilitation, I see firsthand how workplace policies and support systems affect employees' ability to succeed and feel valued. My background in Marriage and Family Therapy has strengthened my ability to listen, navigate conflict, and advocate for individuals who feel unheard.

I am running because I want to help my coworkers resolve contractual issues, protect our workplace rights, and strengthen our union. Every member deserves strong representation from someone who understands the challenges we face and is committed to ensuring every voice is heard and respected.

My priorities are to strengthen communication and support for members throughout Region VIII, provide clear information about contractual rights, and ensure members know where to turn when workplace concerns arise. I also want to build a stronger network of trained, confident stewards who can effectively address workplace issues, assist with grievances, and support members consistently.

I am committed to working collaboratively with our stewards and Executive Board to promote accountability, member engagement, and meaningful representation.

I respectfully ask for your vote. Visit 2620United.com to learn more.

REGION VIII CHIEF STEWARD (LA COUNTY) CANDIDATE



Miriam Escovar

“Your voice deserves a seat at the table.”

I am running for Chief Steward, Region 8, because I have seen firsthand what happens when workers face injustice without someone in their corner. My heart is with those who experience mistreatment and oppression. As your Chief Steward, I will listen, stand up for you, protect contract rights, promote fairness, and strengthen communication so no member feels they are fighting alone.

I am a seasoned counselor with eight years at the California Department of Rehabilitation. I hold an M.A. in Education from Point Loma Nazarene University and a B.A. in Human Services from CSU Fullerton. Previously, I worked at Pasadena City College as an adjunct counselor, assistant professor, and as admissions specialist, where I participated in labor negotiations with my former union.

As a union steward and secretary serving on the Green Hats Committee, I advocate for members facing disability discrimination and denied accommodations, helping secure meaningful wins. Through PAC-1, I also meet with union-friendly legislators to support bills benefiting working families.

Fun fact: I performed at the Hollywood Bowl and Pasadena Civic Auditorium with my former gospel choir, directed by Linda McCrary, a former backup singer for Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Madonna, and Chaka Khan.

REGION IX CHIEF STEWARD (ORANGE/IE) CANDIDATE



Sally Heredia

Sally Heredia is a dedicated AFSCME Local 2620 union member, steward, and advocate with a strong commitment to protecting and representing her fellow state employees.

Sally has served the California Department of Rehabilitation for more than 18 years as a Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. Her professional career has centered on advocacy, problem-solving, conflict resolution, and helping people understand and exercise their rights.

Within AFSCME Local 2620, Sally has served as a **Region 9 Chief Steward, Executive Board member, and RA/ADA, Civil Rights & FEHA advocate**. She has represented members in workplace matters, assisted with reasonable accommodation issues, addressed workplace concerns, and worked to ensure members understand their contractual and workplace rights.

Sally believes effective union representation begins with **listening to members, knowing the facts, understanding the contract, and being willing to stand up for what is RIGHT!**

As a candidate for Region 9 Chief Steward, Sally is committed to **strong representation, accessibility, accountability, and respect for every member.**

Experienced. Committed. Ready to Serve.

REGION X CHIEF STEWARD (SAN DIEGO/ IMPERIAL) CANDIDATE

Ivan Leal - NO BIO

REGION XI CHIEF STEWARD (STOCKTON) CANDIDATE

Yarlin Ochoa - NO BIO