THE BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE:

**Our Children Deserve Your Vote**

Rarely do voters have an opportunity to affect wholesale change at the ballot box. But that’s what will take place on March 6 when four of the seven Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education seats are up for election.

The contrast between incumbent and challenger, status quo versus innovation is stark. The L.A. Area Chamber encourages voters to make a strong statement for change that promises better opportunities for our children to attend safe schools, receive a first-class education, and be rigorously prepared for college and beyond.

Serving as a school board member in a district with more than 700,000 students and 90,000 employees requires special credentials. Besides a passion for helping children develop to their potential, the job demands great intellect, business acumen and the courage to challenge the status quo.

The Chamber’s Political Action Committee recently solicited responses from each of the candidates for school board and voted to endorse the following new faces. Each offers high intellect, excellent experience, courage to challenge the status quo and a pledge to engage the business community and the City of Los Angeles in making the education of our youth the highest priority in our community. They are:

**Johnathan Williams** in District 1, which includes South L.A. Williams’ experience includes being the co-founder of The Accelerated Charter School and a member of the California State Board of Education. Williams is a strong supporter of the 95-5 concept, which would ensure that 95 percent of public education resources are focused in the classroom and not on administration.

**Tamir Galatzan** in District 3, which is primarily the Central and West San Fernando Valley. Galatzan is a seasoned neighborhood prosecutor in the City Attorney’s Van Nuys Los Angeles Police Department station. Most of the crimes she deals with are committed by individuals with a common trait—LAUSD dropouts. Galatzan has a very personal investment in the future of LAUSD—her two young children. With her oldest child entering kindergarten this fall, she will be the only school board member with a child in the school district. The Chamber believes Galatzan will shake up the bureaucratic status quo.

**Valle Flores Aguilar** in District 5, which stretches from Los Feliz and Eagle Rock to cities in Southeast L.A. County. A widely respected community leader, Aguilar serves as the executive director of the L.A. County’s Children’s Planning Council. She is a strong supporter of the Chamber’s call for transforming all high schools into charter schools. Aguilar serves as the executive director of the L.A. County’s Children’s Planning Council. She is a strong supporter of the Chamber’s call for transforming all high schools into charter schools. Aguilar serves as the executive director of the L.A. County’s Children’s Planning Council. She is a strong supporter of the Chamber’s call for transforming all high schools into charter schools.

**Richard Vladovic** in District 7, which covers Watts to the Harbor area. Vladovic is an experienced educator and administrator and understands the need to reform the entire system. As a former LAUSD Local Superintendent, Vladovic has shown a passion for children and change, and has championed more authority and a louder voice for local schools and parents.

On March 6, the Chamber encourages you to vote for continued reform and real change in LAUSD. Our future depends on it.

And that’s The Business Perspective.

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**Our Children Deserve Your Vote (continued)**

by Gary Toebben, President & CEO, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

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