



Dear CDP Children's Caucus!

With last week's introduction of how we hope to **organize as a caucus** through focused, working committees, here then is an introduction of the Caucus' officers, and how we will organize this together (NorCal Vice Chair, Matthew Hilliard, mattyhilliard@gmail.com, has been in the field with end-of-schoolyear business; we'll hear from him next edition of the newsletter).

In reverse order of longevity with our Caucus:

A note from our Treasurer, Tiffany Sickler;

tiffanysickler@hotmail.com

I am honored to have been elected to the position of Treasurer for the CDP Children's Caucus. This incredible opportunity reaffirms my unwavering dedication to advocating for the welfare and well-being of children. With over 25 years of experience in the fields of foster care and children's mental health, and as a proud foster and adoptive parent myself, I am humbled to bring my expertise and passion to this representative group. It is with a great sense of responsibility that I step into this role, ready to contribute towards positive change and equitable opportunities for children in our communities.

A note from our Chair, Sara Roos; chair.cademcc@gmail.com

I'm excited to be picking up the leadership-baton from Ann for this next session. Fortunately she's right here with us still, where together with Matthew, Aba and Tiffany we're all working together as a tight team. I am looking forward to activating functional subgroups designed to focus on what we can do from among such a broad array of issues, and then set about doing it. I serve on my southern-California DCC's legislative action committee (Los Angeles Cty), with a particular interest in education issues. And recently I have started to actively engage the assault on our schoolboards and the vulnerable down-ballot "political space" these reflect. Politicizing our children's daily educational experience in this way is simply intolerable.

A note from our Secretary Aba Ngissah; abaparkside118@gmail.com

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for electing me as Secretary for our CDP Children's Caucus. With my extensive background as a classroom teacher, union leader, and elected member of the California Teachers Association's State Council, I am deeply committed to ensuring that children remain at the forefront of our collective efforts.

We are well aware that politics permeates every aspect of our educational system, ranging from classroom dynamics to the formulation of district policies, board elections, the selection of district and site leaders, as well as the overall health and well-being of our students. Additionally, it greatly influences the kind of education and career opportunities our children pursue.

Given these critical implications, I am truly honored to have been entrusted



with this responsibility and eagerly anticipate collaborating with each and every one of you. Together, we can make a significant difference in the lives of our children.

Thank you once again for this opportunity.

A note from our SoCal Vice Chair, Ann Crosbie;

socal.cademcc@gmail.com

It has been my honor to have recently served as CDP Children's Caucus Chair, and now to serve as SoCal Vice Chair. Serving in this more limited capacity will provide me with the flexibility I need while working as a campaign consultant helping good people to get elected to CA School Boards and Community College Boards. Our education system is under attack and it is incumbent upon all of us to protect our children from the right-wing ideologues who threaten to stunt their healthy growth and development.

And now it's your turn: We Need You!

We are forming working committees around **your interests**. These groups will focus on a specific children's Issue around which we can actually accomplish something. Each committee will articulate an effective agenda (vision/mission; plan of something to achieve) internal to the group itself and its focus. We hope to be up and running with at least some of these groups in time to hear your plans during August's Eboard meeting in Visalia (August 18-20, 2023).

We also need volunteers for three "housekeeping" teams.

1. **Communications.** Are you good at social media? Can you help us push out awareness of the CDP Children's Caucus work and goals? Please volunteer your services to chair.cademcc@gmail.com.
2. **Zoom/IT.** Are you a zoom maven? We would love to avail ourselves of your expertise running hybrid meetings. The CDP Children's Caucus will always meet for our annual convention, but also at Eboard meetings 2-3 times per year. Not everyone will attend these meetings; sometimes they are distant. But perhaps you live near one or are planning to be there, and could help us out as a "ZeeJay"? Please volunteer your services to chair.cademcc@gmail.com.
3. **Bylaws review.** All CDP caucus bylaws were standardized this summer. Under revitalized OneVoice constraints and quieter circumstances, it will be good to review ours for specificity to Children's Caucus needs. Perhaps you are a lawyer or bylaws expert, willing to consider engaging this limited effort? Please volunteer your services to chair.cademcc@gmail.com.

Click [HERE](#) to tell us the committees which speak to your passion for getting things done. **ENGAGE WITH US!**

Our Party, Our Platform

Another important opportunity to make your voice heard is in shaping the Party's platform. All delegates, caucus members and indeed self-identified Democrats may provide testimony to shape our Party Platform, which will be voted on at the endorsement convention in Sacramento this November. The [Platform Committee](#) uses the previous Platform as a base in crafting the new Platform; [here](#) is a link to the 2022 Platform. Testimony is heard in a series of five zoom meetings this summer (register [here](#)), with the last held in-person at the Eboard meeting in Visalia this August. Six groups of planks are scheduled for these meetings, where you may present your verbal testimony to the Committee. But it is also necessary to submit written testimony via this form [HERE](#) – which is mandatory for your reasoning to be considered.

Planks regarding (i) Education, (ii) Children, (iii) Culture and the Arts, and (iv) Women are scheduled for Sunday, August 6, 2023, at 11:00 AM via zoom (register [here](#)). While there are many planks that concern our members (all issues are children's issues!), these may be most explicitly the Children's Caucus' prerogative. If you would like to draft testimony from the Children's Caucus as a collective entity (you are free to submit your own testimony personally), please volunteer your services to

chair.cademcc@gmail.com – **asap!**

A note on membership and inclusion

You needn't be a delegate to the CDP to belong to the CDP Children's Caucus! Membership is open to all California Democrats, interested in supporting children's issues. It is a good way to engage the state Party, without being a voting delegate to it. Dues are collected annually [here](#); hardship waivers are available through chair.cademcc@gmail.com. If you no longer wish to receive news from the Children's Caucus, please accept our apologies for troubling you, and simply unsubscribe through the link below.



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