



Here Comes The Endorsing Convention!

Our Party convention starts this week:

Tomorrow
– **JoinUS!** –
Monday,
February 16,
2026; 7pm
for our remote,
caucus
membership
meeting via
Zoom in
association with
the CDP's
Spring
Convention in
San Francisco.

AGENDA here

JOIN US !

...for TWO meetings in association with the
California Democratic Party's
Endorsing Convention in San Francisco
February 16 & 20-22, 2026

Resourcing Education: Perspectives on Academic Freedom, University to UTK

- Post-secondary • **Dr. Sheldon Gen;** *Assoc. Dean of Faculty Affairs, Professor of Public Administration, SFSU*
- Secondary • **Dr. Theresa Montaño;** *Professor of Chicana/o Studies, CSU-Northridge*
- Primary • **Ms. Zeena Pliska;** *Children's Book Author, Transitional Kindergarten Teacher, LAUSD*
- **Dr. Aleta Rose;** *Elementary School Principal, LAUSD*

Remote:

Regular, membership meeting
Agenda: tinyurl.com/SFAGda
Zoom: tinyurl.com/SFCademCC

Monday, February 16, 2026
7:00 pm - 8:30+ pm

*Social gathering of the
Children's Caucus
membership, and the
advocate-candidates
who would present to
us their winning ideas*

In-person:
Campaigning-Social
Friday, February 20, 2026
7:30 pm - 9:15 pm
Moscone Center
San Francisco



Academic Freedom In Jeopardy

Our membership meeting will focus on the subject of **academic freedom**, which, as Michael Ignatieff explains in **this*** essay, "has

become a defining issue in the geostrategic competition between liberal democracies and their authoritarian challengers. ... It is also at the center of the authoritarian populist challenge to liberal democracy in free societies."

With our world-class CA educational system threatened by MAGA and the executive in DC, we will examine what academic freedom actually means and looks like and how it manifests itself in its constituent levels – the Academy, High School and early elementary education. Please **JoinUS!** in hearing how academic freedom is experienced by these experts in their fields:

- **Dr. Sheldon Gen**; Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs, Professor of Public Administration, San Francisco State University [Post-secondary]
- **Dr. Theresa Montaña**; Professor of Chicana/o Studies, California State University - Northridge [Secondary]
- **Ms. Zeena Pliska**; Children's Book Author, Transitional Kindergarten Teacher, LAUSD [Primary]
- **Dr. Aleta Rose**; Elementary School Principal, LAUSD [Primary]

Among our listener-audience will be some (those available) State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) candidates. After the close of the meeting, they are invited to remark briefly on the presentation, and what it means in the context of the CA Department of Education.

Following this discussion we have invited federal candidates to introduce themselves. So many candidates wish to introduce their campaign to the caucus that we will use this post-meeting time to accommodate everyone. See the schedule of who will appear at this Monday night Zoom meeting, and who at our in person meeting **here**.

<https://direct.mit.edu/daed/article/153/2/194/121270/The-Geopolitics-of-Academic-Freedom-Universities>

At the end of the week, **JoinUS! Friday evening, February 20, 2026; 7:30pm - 9:15pm** for our in person **Campaigning-Social** to hear schoolboard, local, statewide and legislative candidates, introduce their campaign guided by questions expressly directed through the lens of **CADEM Children's Caucus issues**. Room assignments yet to be announced, at the **Moscone Center in San Francisco**.

[Monday caucus meeting agenda](#)

[Monday Zoom registration link](#)

[Candidate Signup Form ~ Friday's in person Campaigning-Social](#)

What We've Been Up To; Why We're Here

We had quite a year in 2025! Eleven virtual meetings including a statewide Superintendent of Public Instruction candidate forum, two in-person socials and phone banks; one **resolution**, one **press release** and lots of Party organizing ~ door-to-door for Prop 50, and voter-to-voter around schools, schoolboard candidates, child welfare and immigration, plus many other issues of importance to children and their advocates.

Find 2025's
programs
archived
here:

CademC
C
youtube
channel

CADEM Children's Caucus 2025 Meetings

Membership business meetings -

- o May Convention (Anaheim):
 - *Energize And Organize* (virtual); Soapbox Social (in person):
- o August Executive Board (virtual):
 - *Looking Around For Insight* (remote)
- o November Executive Board (Monterey):
 - *Federal Impacts on Policy and the Political Impacts for CA's Families and Children* (virtual); Joint five-caucus networking Social (in person)

Focused programs (virtual) -

- o Conversations with PLEOS
 - *Asm. Al Muratsuchi*, Asm Education Committee Chair
- o Special Topics
 - *From Cradle To Career: The Importance of Career Technical Education*
 - *Food Insecurity: the BigBadUgly During Holiday Season*

Party business -

- *Forum, State Superintendent of Public Instruction candidates*
- *Legislative Study Groups* (June, July; virtual)
- *Platform discussion*, with committee co-chair Ingalsbee
- *CalKids Network meeting* (virtual) and organizing (on-going)

Programs archived at: youtube.com/@cdpchildrenscaucus
cademchildrenscaucus.org

... and all
sixteen
2025
newsletters
here:

CademC
C
website

So *please*: consider renewing your CADEM Children's Caucus membership today. Dues are annual; no one is turned away for lack of funds! Our membership pin-drive approximately matched in number sponsor-members last year with our waived- or reduced-dues membership. And a cadre of extra-special generous mentors, patrons and lifetime members, keep the information flowing, the soapbox strong, popcorn popping and Zoom electrons flowing! Our contingent of over 350 members in 2025 appreciates the give and take; our membership more than doubled last year!

**Remit CademCC membership
dues**

**Request
membership dues
waiver**

Membership pins (\$25 contribution offsetting dues waivers) will be available for pickup at the February Endorsing Convention;

Your Voice; Ways To Join In With CademCC

KidNetwork Organizing



CademCC has been supporting the work of kid-centered political Clubs throughout the state's 58 counties. We need to know when and how children's spaces are politicized the better to protect and support our kids mutually.

JoinUS! on **Friday, 2/20/26 @ 9:15 pm**, after our *Campaigning-Social* in San Francisco for an in person meetup of the CademCC KidNetwork.

Hobnob with compatriots already part of this network and those interested in getting more involved, whether by organizing in your own area or joining up with others. For more details, please email our network coordinator ***Genice Jacobs*** or ***chair.cademcc@gmail.com***.

CademCC Platform

The CDP Platform is updated every other year. The CADEM ***Platform Committee's*** draft will be considered for ratification at February's Endorsing Convention. The draft 2026 Platform is ***[here](#)*** and the current, 2024 Platform is ***[here](#)***.

Down Ballot Candidate Training

Hold The Date! ~ **Sunday, March 15, 2-4pm**

Please ***JoinUS!*** in March for expert down ballot, non partisan (including school board) training with CademCC Chair Emerita and DemEd Alliance President, ***[Ann Crosbie](#)***.

Review the Children's Caucus SSPI Forum

Find the forum video on our youtube page, [here](#).



And our advance discussion with the caucus about [the State Superintendent of Public Instruction \(SSPI\) post](#) queued up [here](#).

Legislative Cabinet

CademCC convenes regularly to study legislation around children's issues, whether in consideration locally, statewide, or federally. Stay tuned for meetings topically-centered or with specific legislators sharing their kid-centric legislative packages with our membership.

As a constituent entity of the California Democratic Party, CademCC may recommend a position to the CADEM Legislative Committee, but will not advocate independently from the state central committee. Our membership is comprised of individuals who engage and advocate on behalf of children vocationally and avocationally.

Your Children's Caucus

...is healthy and growing! Our steering committee meets monthly and all members are welcome to bring your own ideas ~ email the chair for details [here](#). We'll conduct special meetings and **Conversations** with our elected officials and Party leaders all year long. **JoinUS** on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [youtube](#), [Linktr.ee](#), via [newsletter](#), [email](#) and [website](#), or however you might prefer and wish to help us as we continue to forward information, resources and support around children's issues.

CademCC Executive

Board:

Sara Roos, Chair

Communications:

- Ann Crosbie, Nelson Tam

Elections Chair:

- Koreen Cea

Operations Team:

- Liz Kane, James Moffat, Ahmanise Sanati

Matthew Hilliard, NoCal
ViceChair
Wade Kyle, SoCal ViceChair
Tiffany Sickler, Treasurer
Aba Ngissah, Secretary

- Programming:**
- Sam Davis, Vinita Verma
- Statewide Networking:**
- Genice Jacobs

Your dues support caucus infrastructure and communications, and membership dues for those in need. Our pin-membership drive has been a great success; please **be in touch if we still owe you yours**, or if you'd like to learn how to obtain one (chair.cademcc@gmail.com).

A shout-out in gratitude to those who have contributed beyond the standard level in 2026:

Benefactor

👤 Lanier Coles

👤 Renay Grace
Rodriguez

👤 Keri Then
👤 Clint Weirick

Mentor

👤 Sabrina Bazzo

👤 Koreen Hamer-Cea

👤 Genice Jacobs
👤 Michael Lee-
Chang

Patron

👤 Artie Blanco

👤 Ann Bowler

👤 Jeri Bromley

👤 Lindsay Carlson

👤 Allyson Damikolas

👤 Chris Espinoza

👤 Caneisha Fortner

👤 Brian Guerrero

👤 Bonnie Hamilton

👤 Eileen Hatrick

👤 Nichelle Henderson

👤 Elizabeth Kane

👤 Diana Love

👤 Samuel Penrod

👤 Aleta Rose

👤 Angela Scott

👤 John Smith

👤 Sybil Smith

👤 Erin Spivey

👤 Analisa Swan

CademCC's current membership numbers 154, including 27 reduced and waived-dues members. Your contribution at a higher than "regular" level helps sustain membership for all. Last year's members hailed from all but 8 assembly districts: {36, 43, 45, 47, 48, 53, 54, 58}. Help us to extend our reach to the far corners of all California this year!

To join the Children's Caucus for 2026, click [here](#) to pay membership dues (press on the fifth "+" down), or [here](#) to request waiver of membership dues.

Dues paid after October 2025 are grandfathered for 2026.

Thank you all for renewing your CademCC membership right now!

Standard Dues
(\$15/annum)

**Update Your Caucus
Membership ~**

Pre-registered
Democrat (Youth;
\$5/annum)

Patron-level Dues
(\$25/annum)

Dues support our hybrid programming costs - media and communications subscriptions, conference meeting facilities

Benefactor-level Dues
(Lifetime; \$500)

Mentor-level Dues
(\$50/annum)

Request of Dues Waiver

CademCC Statement On ICE Incursions

The raids throughout California – from Elementary School graduations, children’s CIF finals, grocery stores, growing fields and immigration courts – unveil an agenda of terror, intimidation, and menace. America’s democracy morphs into totalitarianism before the eyes of our children.

CHIRLA - 213.353.1333
Los Angeles - 888.624.4752
Boyle Heights (L.A.) - 323.805.1049
San Bernardino/Riverside - 909.361.4588
ORALE (Long Beach) - 562.276.0267
Orange County - 714.881.1558
Sta Barbara/Ventura/SLO - 805.870.8855
Central Valley - 559.206.0151
Kern County - 661.432.2230
San Francisco - 415.200.1548
Contra Costa - 925.900.5151
Alameda - 510.241.4011
Sacramento - 916.382.0256
Immigrant Defenders - 213.833.8283
GI Rights hotline - 877.447.4487

If you see ICE/HSI, call your Rapid Response Network to alert and protect your community

CADEM CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

Follow your Rapid Response Network on social media for information, training, e.g.: @chirla_org, @ocrrn, @rrn_kern

The Children’s Caucus of the Democratic Party of California condemn the attacks upon our communities. **We call for** calm and control by our elected, bi-cameral leaders, who must halt the overreach of our executive branch. Please feel free to share these phone numbers for reporting immigration citations or requesting community assistance.

Pass It On ...

Immigrant and civil rights are very much on the minds of our members, working closely with children and families at risk.



Here is a “red card” of information for you to keep on hand, with printer’s instructions, from the **Immigrant Legal Resource Center**.

More Caucus links

- Socials:
 - 🐾 [Locate our growing WEBSITE here](#)
 - 🐾 [Find CDP Children's Caucus on Facebook here](#)
 - 🐾 [Follow us on Instagram @childrenscaucus here](#)
 - 🐾 [Watch our youtube channel @cdpchildrenscaucus here](#)
 - 🐾 [Gaze @cdpchildrenscaucus.bsky.socials here](#)

👉 Peruse CademCC's Linktr.ee @cademchildrenscaucus [here](#)

- Engagement:
 - 👉 Download missed newsletters [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)
 - 👉 Prioritize a working committee [here](#)
 - 👉 Signup for the email listserv with fellow caucus members [here](#)
 - ...then communicate directly with the membership via [email](#)
- Caucus business:
 - 👉 Review the 2024 Annual Children's Caucus Report [here](#)
 - 👉 View 2024's recertified Bylaws [here](#)
 - 👉 Submit this year's caucus dues [here](#); (request dues waiver [here](#))

A note on membership and inclusion

* You needn't be an elected or appointed delegate to the CDP to belong to the CDP Children's Caucus! We require only your interest in supporting children's issues. *



CDP caucus membership is accessible to all California Democrats. And meeting attendance does not require Convention or Eboard Meeting registration. It is a good way to engage the state Party, without being a voting delegate to it. Dues are collected annually [here](#); request a hardship waiver [here](#). Direct questions to: 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 automated link below.



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CADEM Children's Caucus | 1830 9th St | Sacramento, CA 95811 US

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