



## Hey Children's Caucusers!

The Anaheim Convention will be upon us soon; here's what's coming for the CADEM Children's Caucus.

JoinUS virtually, on [Zoom](#), for the regular Children's Caucus meeting in association with our Anaheim Convention, **Tuesday, 5/27/25 at 7pm**. That's the Tuesday prior to the Convention.

Tentative agenda is [here](#).


Meeting registration/Zoom link

**Energize and Organize**

**Recognizing, and Fighting For... Those Who Fight For Us**


**JoinUS on Zoom!**

for our regular Caucus meeting, in association with the Anaheim, California Democratic Party Convention

**CADEM CHILDREN'S CAUCUS**

Tuesday, May 27, 2025 @ 7:00pm

Zoom registration: [tinyurl.com/Anaheim25](https://tinyurl.com/Anaheim25)  
[CADEMChildrensCaucus.org](https://CADEMChildrensCaucus.org)





Then join us at the Anaheim Convention for a SoapBox Social!

**in-person on Saturday, 5/31/25,  
Meeting room 264 ABC, at 7:30pm**

We'll gather to chat with Children's and Disabilities Caucus members, and listen over ice cream and popcorn to those with the urgency to get up on their soap box and tell us about it!

Hear from statewide candidates and fellow children's advocates. Share your news and your concerns; tell us what is working where you live, and what needs everyone's attention.

Sign up to speak  
here.

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## Caucus Elections

All CADEM's [caucuses](#), are open to all registered Democrats. As a CADEM Children's Caucus (CademCC) member, you may vote in our leadership elections *if your membership dues for CademCC were settled by 4/26/25*.

Please verify your voting membership status and your email of record, by locating the confirmation receipt/thank-you that was emailed to the address we have on record for you. That is where your ballot will be sent.

Ballots to elect CademCC leadership by acclamation (there are no contested races) will be emailed to the address on record of all eligible voting-members on Saturday night of the Convention, 5/31/25, between **7:30pm – 7:45pm**; balloting will close **at 8:15pm**.

To report a concern, missing confirmation email or request accommodations voting, please [email](#) Elections Chair Cea-Heier as soon as possible.

If you are in Anaheim, *JoinUS* in-person **on Saturday, 5/31/25 at 7:30pm, in meeting room 264 ABC** when balloting opens. Do bring your phone, laptop or other electronic device in order to vote there.

And if you cannot join us in-person, you still can vote via email from wherever you are.

Our elections team will be available to assist with any voting issues or complications whether you are voting in-person or via telephone, while we mingle in Anaheim and mull the words of fellow members and candidates over ice cream and popcorn, delivered *a capella* from an old-timey soap box (see above invitation).

Please [email](#) Elections Chair Cea-Heier with all concerns, requests for accommodations, or last-minute contact information about elections.

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## Who's Running?



*No offices are contested. Some candidates have submitted a statement of introduction.*

## Chair

Hi. My name is **Sara Roos**; I'm asking for your support to Chair CADEM's Children's Caucus for the 2025-27 term. I feel our caucus is providing important opportunity voicing issues and calling attention to threats that need to be heard: from MAGA storming the gates of our school boards, to seizing an incumbent's advantage through nonpartisan races at our kid's expense; to underfunding social services and the harm borne by our most vulnerable, by homeless and foster youth, from rural to urban communities.



Our caucus has been discussing children's issues, as they motivate our membership today. We are teachers and social service workers, schoolboard trustees and counselors, seeking to give voice to the children we serve every day. Through a series of (youtube) Conversations, we address protecting our children in their classrooms and libraries; homes and playgrounds, and under the care of professionals. We've heard from California's AG, SSPI, and Assembly Education Chair; from federal

candidates and former Insurance Commissioner; professors and social service professionals. We have centered programs around children's indigenous issues, life in the San Joaquin Valley, Project 2025, Career Technical Education, environmental justice and mental health.

We have a lot of protecting to do this coming term. Our goal is to grow a network of kid-centered Democratic Clubs in every county; further our Conversations with elected officials to further our ability to learn about and influence the policy that affects our kids. *JoinUS*, grow with us! Thank you for your vote of confidence chairing the CademCC.

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### **Southern ViceChair**

Hello fellow Democrats-

My name is **Wade Kyle**, I am a lifelong democrat and teacher having over 25 years of experience. During my tenure, I have taught general education, special education and international education programs. This experience with families has gifted me with a broad perspective on educational issues. It has been the driving force behind my desire to serve the community, especially when it comes to Educational issues impacting underrepresented communities.

I am dedicated to protecting public education as it is the foundation of a strong democracy. Over the next 2 years, I aim to leverage my skills and experiences to contribute to the Children's Caucus by bringing forth issues impacting families locally and at the state level. I will fight for funding of public education, for equity for underserved communities, and for labor protections for our working families.



### **Northern ViceChair**

Hi everyone, ayukii, ona ni genis hemkanga (I come to you representing our people) - my name is **Matthew Hilliard** (he/him/his) and I am running for re-election as the Northern California VC! I live in Siskiyou County, the ancestral lands of the Shasta, Wintu, and Pit River as well as our/my peoples the Karuk and Modoc I am a clinical social worker (MSW/LCSW) by training.



My work has focused on teen empowerment, mainly among indigenous youth. I also do mental health private practice compliance consulting and do DEI training for organizations. Additionally, I have extensive experience and freelance on campaigns, including roles such as Communications Staff and Organizing Director, including many digital campaigns. Most recently, I worked with Jon Tester for Senate in Montana on indigenous outreach. I am an executive board member from AD-1 and was a DNC delegate for Kamala last year.



Lastly, with education being the front line of the attack on the middle class; we need experience to identify how to counter these attacks and organize to fend off the attacks. I am local leader with UTLA and State representative for CTA. We are seeing such attacks on public education at every level. We need a statewide strategy to fend off this attack and fight back to protect our families. So I am running to be a Vice Chair of the Caucus, to help guide the caucus to protect our families.

In Solidarity  
**Wade Kyle**

It has been an absolute honor to lead the Children's Caucus with this team. My highlights have been the incredible honor/tribute to Delaine Eastin upon her passing as she was a champion of us and our children, meeting with 32 committees/clubs doing our "road show" to encourage school board candidates and my highest honor was creating the program for our December executive board meeting focusing on native youth.

### **Secretary**

My name is **Aba Ngissah**, and I am asking for your vote to be your secretary for the Children's Caucus.



As a teacher and passionate advocate for children, I understand the profound impact our actions have on their future. Our children are tomorrow's leaders, and what we do today can shape their lives for better or worse.

Serving as a member of the Children's Caucus has allowed me to expand my advocacy for creating a supportive and nurturing environment where every child can thrive. I fight for healthy beginnings for all babies by promoting access to prenatal care, nutrition, and early intervention services. I am

### **Treasurer**

As a clinical psychologist, foster and adoptive parent and director of a child welfare-focused organization, I remain dedicated to advancing the mission of the Children's Caucus. In my next term as treasurer, I plan to offer financial transparency and accountability, ensuring that our limited resources are strategically allocated to support programs that make a meaningful impact on children's well-being. I am committed to fostering partnerships that will empower the caucus to expand our reach. With a personal and professional understanding of the challenges facing children and families, I hope to guide financial decisions that align with long-term, impactful solutions.



**Tiffany Sickler, PhD**

committed to empowering parents, caregivers, and families—whether biological, adoptive, or foster—by providing essential resources, education, and community connections.

Advocating for foster youth is important to me, and I believe in providing the stability, quality mentorship, and emotional support they need to thrive. Access to high quality education for all students is close to my heart. I want to ensure that every child has the opportunity to flourish academically, regardless of their background. I believe that we must continue to work for safe, inclusive schools where children of all identities are celebrated, respected, and given the tools to become compassionate, engaged leaders of the future. Our children are our future and what we do today determines how the children of today will lead in the future.

My name is **Aba Ngissah** and I humbly ask for your vote so we can continue this vital work together.

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## **Communications**

As Children's Caucus Emerita, I am happy to see the continued interest in being part of the Leadership Team of the Children's Caucus. To make space for new voices, I am stepping back from my recent role as So Cal Vice Chair, but I hope to remain engaged with the Children's Caucus by continuing to help to



**Nelson Tam** is a documentary filmmaker and national organizer based in Oakland, who devotes tremendous energy to electing Democrats far and near. His talents are much appreciated in the Children's Caucus highlighting and elevating awareness of children's issues.



improve our outreach and communication, and by working with Democrats invested in the improved welfare of all children.

## Ann Crosbie

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### Operations

Looking forward to continuing to support the Children's Caucus Operations Team. As an educator I know my job will always be political as we fight for what children need in and out of the classroom. The fight is in front of us right now, and we all need to work together to fight back against policies that disenfranchise student's voice and their right to exist in their truest forms.



## Liz Kane

My name is **Ahmanise Sanati**, and I'm a social worker, activist and mother. I am currently a counselor in LAUSD, a clinical supervisor at a community mental health center, and a Lecturer at UCLA in the Social Welfare Department. As a social worker, I feel the code of ethics in my profession guides me, especially as it states, "Challenge social injustice". Among many things, it is what led me to be a cofounder of Westside Activists (local social justice organization), continue my efforts to establish a library system in the LA County jails, and serve as a Delegate/E-Board Member for CADEM.



For the last few years, I've had the privilege to work with the Children's Caucus. I continue to do this work because like Whitney Houston, "I believe the children are our future...". Simply put, I'm horrified at what is happening in the world and I want to do whatever possible to make this world better for our children. And so, I humbly ask for your vote to continue my work on the Operations Team with the Children's Caucus.

The Democratic Party has always stood for every child's right to grow up safe, healthy, and full of promise — no matter their zip code, background, or ability. But internal divisions have weakened our voice at a time when children are under attack from regressive, Trump-era policies. Now more than ever, we need bold, unifying leadership to defend and uplift our most vulnerable.



I'm **Genice Jacobs**, a newly elected ADEM Delegate for AD-18, stepping up to serve on the Children's Caucus Leadership Team with a commitment to action, not just rhetoric.

As founder of AbolitionistMom.org and OnPurposeCreative.com, I've partnered with public officials to launch anti-trafficking campaigns seen by over 20 million people, reshaping how we talk about child exploitation. I co-initiated SB1165 with California Against Slavery, making California the first state to require trafficking prevention education in schools. I also co-founded Oakland's Task Force on Commercially Sexually Exploited Children and have worked closely with youth advocates to support unhoused and at-risk youth.

As part of caucus leadership, I will build bridges, mobilize networks, and advocate fiercely for policies that protect California's children — and help restore the Democratic Party's leadership and our country's commitment to justice, safety, and opportunity

Hello fellow activists-greetings. As a 32 year veteran bilingual early childhood interventionist now providing mental health for neurodiverse and medically fragile toddlers, children and teens, I support the common good and wellbeing of every single child. My political activism focuses on fully funded full accessibility for all services needed for all students in our PreK thru 12 public schools. Our state needs our students to learn with full self determination, via affirming strength-based culturally respectful educational practices that prepares each learner with skillsets and global comprehension of our 21st Century global economy and job market. It is an honor to serve as Elections Officer to support our fair and democratic caucus elections process as a support service to foster the highest caliber of full community enfranchisement.



**Koreen Cea-Heier**



for all kids.

## Programming

**Vinita** (she/her) is a mother of two wonderful children. She has a master's degree in history and believes that by learning from the past, we can make better decisions for the future. She has served in PTAs for 19+ years at every level, from schools



**Sam Davis**

to the National PTA; she currently serves as Peralta District PTA President. Some of her most meaningful work includes resolution writing and mentoring, and legislative advocacy for children's health and wellness. She cares deeply for the environment and children everywhere and is an enthusiastic advocate.

**Vinita** has been recognized for her leadership and contributions in building strong flavored tobacco ordinances and vaping restrictions. She has developed and supported foundational policies that serve as models for similar policies nationwide. Her advocacy interests include preserving theaters and art programs at public schools, housing for families and children without permanent housing, LGBTQIA+ youth, diversity, equity, inclusion everywhere, cannabis regulations, food insecurities, full and fair funding of public schools, and menstrual equity.

As a member of the Children's Caucus steering committee, **Vinita** aims to increase awareness of the prevalence, signs, and impacts of food insecurity in children to mobilize policy and community efforts to address it across the state. She strives to continue improving diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts and advocating for equitable education, health, and wellness of all children.

Across California and the country, public education is under attack. From book bans to anti-LGBTQ+ policies to efforts to erase our history and silence teachers, far-right extremists are targeting our children's futures. Now more than ever, we need bold Democratic leadership to protect equity, inclusion, and truth in our schools.



**Tauna Rodarte**

I'm **James Moffat**, currently serving as President of the Chula Vista Democratic Club, an elected DNC Delegate for District 52, and ADEM Delegate for AD80. My roots in education and advocacy run deep—I chair the CVESD District Advisory Council, lead the Halecrest Elementary School Site Council, and serve on multiple school bond and oversight boards. I have worked in education either as an academic counselor, curriculum

designer, registrar, and now I am currently the Operations Manager at a high school serving students who are at-risk socially and academically.

From organizing grassroots campaigns to pushing back against harmful school board decisions, I've consistently shown up to protect students and support families. Let's continue building a movement that puts children first and stands up to extremism.

## Career Technical Education

### From Cradle To Career: Exploring the Importance of Career Technical Education in the Lives of Children

Did you miss this month's meeting?

Review the program on our youtube channel here!

**From Cradle to Career**

Join US on Zoom!

for an Exploration of Career Technical Education in the Lives of Children

- Why CTE is Essential in Children's Futures
- Exploring Career Pathways - Opportunities in Building Trades
- Bridging the Skills Gap
- Equity and Social Justice - Opportunities for All Children
- The Impact of CTE on Student Outcomes - A Panel Discussion

featuring

- Aba Ngissah - CTE Advisor, CADEM Secretary
- Kokayi Kwa Jitahidi - State Building Trades
- Rocio Sanchez - Educator

Panel specialists

CADEM CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

Saturday, May 3, 2025 @ 9:30am

Zoom registration: [tinyurl.com/CademCCCTE](https://tinyurl.com/CademCCCTE)  
[CADEMChildrensCaucus.org](https://CADEMChildrensCaucus.org)

## 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](#).

## Membership News

The Children’s Caucus loves our 2025 membership! Thank you for sharing of your experience and insight, for joining with us and collectively working as a group to raise consciousness and effectiveness around children's issues. Your dues support caucus infrastructure and communications, and membership dues for those in need. A shout-out in gratitude to those who have contributed beyond the standard level:

- Patron:

- Lisa Adhikari
- Tijuana Barnes
- Wendy Bloom
- Lindsay Carlson
- Michael Lee-Chang

- Mentor:

- Mike Bullock
- Havaughnia Hayes-White
- Brandee Marckmann
- Rima Nashashibi

- 👤 Angela Der
- 👤 Jennifer DeBrienza
- 👤 Alyce Eversole
- 👤 Bob Eversole
- 👤 Caneisha Fortner
- 👤 Carolyn Fowler
- 👤 James Gallagher
- 👤 Sue Hamill
- 👤 Bonnie Hamilton
- 👤 Koreen Cea-Heier
- 👤 Nichelle Henderson
- 👤 Genice Jacobs
- 👤 Joshua Konrad
- 👤 Andrew Lachman
- 👤 Darrel Menthe
- 👤 Ross Piro
- 👤 Aimee Powers
- 👤 Elisabeth Robledo
- 👤 Tauna Rodarte
- 👤 John Smith
- 👤 Analisa Swan
- 👤 Debra Vinson
- 👤 Kassandra Wilson
- 👤 Jeannine Wisnosky
- 👤 Renee Zeimer

- 👤 Tiffany Sickler

- Benefactor:
  - 👤 Renay Grace Rodriguez
  - 👤 Clint Weirick

To join the Children's Caucus for 2025, click [here](#) to pay membership dues (press on the fifth "+" down), or [here](#) to request waiver of membership dues.

Dues paid Q4, 2024, were grandfathered for 2025; *dues waivers must be resubmitted for and in each new calendar year.* The Children's Caucus current membership numbers 248.

Thank you all... please consider renewing your 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

## More Caucus links

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

- Watch our [youtube](#) channel @cdpchildrenscaucus [here](#)
- Engagement:
  - Download missed newsletters [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](#))

### **CademCC Executive Board:**

- Sara Roos, Chair
- Matthew Hilliard, NoCal VC
- Ann Crosbie, SoCal VC
- Tiffany Sickler, Treasurer
- Aba Ngissah, Secretary

### **Elections Chair:**

- Koreen Cea

### **Communications Team:**

- Liz Kane
- Ahmanise Sanati
- Nelson Tam

## **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](mailto: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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