



California Welfare Fraud Investigators Association

Election Candidates 2025



Election Process:

Every Calendar Year, the California Welfare Fraud Investigator's Association will accept nominations for upcoming open board positions. Board positions are filled for three year terms and are offset to insure we have experienced board members in place at all times.

An electronic announcement was released in September this year requesting names of all those interested in running for pending vacant positions. Candidates listed below are those who have expressed interest and are running for those positions. Vacant positions this year include:

- Zone II
- Zone III
- Zone V
- Director at Large
- DHCS Director at Large

The Secretary for CWFIA along with the elections committee will send out an electronic ballot to all members. Members will be given 10 days to vote for their respective candidates. The votes are tallied electronically and reviewed by the elections committee. Once all votes are counted, a new board of directors will be announced and will begin serving the association on January 1, 2025.

Below is a list of candidates for the 2025 term.



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CANDIDATE FOR ZONE II DIRECTOR

Gilbert Flores:

With over 20 years of law enforcement experience, and the last six years dedicated to serving as a fraud investigator for San Bernardino County Human Services, I am committed to enhancing our community through effective leadership and collaboration.

As a candidate for CWFIA board, my primary goal is to expand our membership and provide valuable training opportunities across the state. I believe in fostering partnerships with outside law enforcement agencies to strengthen our collective efforts and share knowledge that benefits our communities.

My extensive experience includes serving on various community boards, where I have effectively reported to state and local officials, advocating for policies and initiatives that promote public safety and trust. Additionally, I am proud to serve as the president of two nonprofit organizations, where I have developed skills in leadership, fundraising, and community engagement.

I am eager to bring my experience and passion for public service to this role, and I look forward to the opportunity to work together to build a stronger, more collaborative future for our association and law enforcement community.

Thank you for your support.

CANDIDATE FOR ZONE III DIRECTOR

Kandi Griffith:

I have been employed by San Joaquin County since January 1989. My first position was as a receptionist in the applications lobby for Human Services. Three years later, I went on to work as a dispatcher for the Sheriffs Office, followed by a three-year position for the County Treasurer and Tax Collector. In November 1998, I was hired as an Eligibility Worker for San Joaquin County where I worked for 13 years in the Intake Division. In



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2011, I obtained my goal of being hired as a Welfare Fraud Investigator in a non-sworn position, now classified as Welfare Fraud Specialist. I have been a CWFIA member since 2012 and an instructor for the 2022 and 2023 CWFIA Conference.

In April 2022, I was honored to be appointed as your Zone III Director. During my time as a Zone Director, I have been thrilled to meet new people and serve on some amazing committees. My biggest passion has been in serving on the CWFIA Conference Curriculum Committee. It has been exciting to work with my fellow members in creating a great course of classes for the membership. My goal is to continue to work with our members to move our Association in a direction to benefit all, both in the sworn and non-sworn positions. I would be deeply honored to continue to serve as your Zone III Director. Thank you for your consideration. Kandi Griffith

CANDIDATES FOR ZONE V DIRECTOR

Sevak Zorabian

My name is Sevak Zorabian. I have been working at Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services for more than 10 years. I started as an Eligibility Worker II, then I applied and got promoted to Welfare Fraud Investigator, where I have been working since 2016.

I have been involved in various tasks and assignments throughout my career in LA County DPSS as an Eligibility Worker and Welfare Fraud Investigator and successfully completed them.

My first introduction with California Welfare Fraud Investigators Association (CWFIA) in 2018, as an attendee of 2018 Annual CWFIA Conference at South Lake Tahoe. After working as a Welfare Fraud Investigator and gaining decent amount of experience, with the desire to bring my support and knowledge to the organization such as CWFIA, I got more interested in CWFIA after attending CWFIA's 2022 Annual Conference in South Lake Tahoe and became a Zone V Director in April 2023, proudly representing Los Angeles County. I have my active participation during CWFIA's 2023 Annual Conference in Margaritaville Resort, Palm Springs, CA. I continued my duties throughout planning of upcoming 2024 CWFIA's Conference by helping the organization in various tasks. Thus, I believe that with my experience, knowledge and dedication, I can contribute towards CWFIA's better future as a Zone V Director for another term.



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I would like to thank the CWFIA's Executive Staff and all members for giving me this opportunity to serve and be part of this big organization.

Fabian Heredia:

My name is Fabian Heredia. I am a Welfare Fraud Investigator in Los Angeles County. I have been an active County Employee since July 2016. I started my career with Los Angeles County as a Veteran Intern assisting Eligibility Workers in several program units such as; Medi-cal approved and intake for CalWORKS and CalFresh. After several months as a Veteran Intern, I was promoted to Eligibility Worker 1 where I served the public as an Intake worker for Cal Works. In 2019 I applied, tested, interviewed, and then promoted as a Welfare Fraud Investigator Trainee. I attended the Specialized Investigators Basic Academy at Golden West College where I graduated and was elected as Class President. As class president I was allowed the opportunity to lead a class of 32 investigators from various agencies and counties.

Currently, I am assigned as a lead investigator to a specialized unit that is comprised of two active investigators and one supervisor. The unit's primary mission is to validate all Los Angeles County household composition referrals at intake by conducting field interviews before assigning them for a complete investigation.

Prior to being employed with The County of Los Angeles, I served in The United States Marine Corps as a Military Police officer from 1999 through 2003. I also served as a Detention Officer at a local police department from 2006 through 2014. My time in the Military and as a Detention officer allowed me the opportunity to learn from and be exposed to a large diverse group of leaders.

My educational background includes two associate degrees (criminal justice, computer network engineering) and a bachelor's degree (criminal justice/Management). In 2020, I was inducted into the nation's largest accredited leadership honor society, The National Society of Leadership and Success. Through their ongoing leadership programs, it has allowed me to achieve personal growth, career success, and empowered me to have a positive impact in my community. I have also completed and was certified as a polygraph examiner by the Marston Polygraph Academy where I attended several courses in interrogation and credibility assessment skills.

I enjoy serving my community and have been a member of Long Beach C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Team), Team Rubicon Disaster Relief and Have helped train all new Welfare Fraud Investigator Trainees prior to attending the Academy.



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With the skills and experience that I have gained through my education and the department, I was hoping for an opportunity to grow as an individual and contribute to our association. I am hardworking, driven, committed, punctual and professional. I communicate well with my colleagues, and I hope that I get an opportunity to demonstrate the skills and knowledge that is expected as a zone director.

CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTOR AT LARGE

The Director at Large position is expected to be vacant for the 2025 term. If you are employed by DHCS and interested in joining the CWFIA Board of Directors please send an email of interest to our Business Manager, Nic Cifelli, at businessmanager@cwfia.org.

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