

#HOODDIGEST VOTA VATO 2017

LOCAS Y LOCOS EDITION

On March 7 get out and vote. Don't make excuses about you being too busy or feeling like your vote doesn't matter. Don't be a *pendeja* or *pendejo*... that's *pendejx* for people in Boyle Heights. You're entitled to a 2-hour lunch break. That's 30 extra minutes than what you already take- *no te ahagas*.

So, go vote, take advantage of your 2-hour break, then walk proudly back into your job- like the *descarados* that you are, knowing that your "I voted" sticker will give you a pass.

EL CONDADO

MEASURE H: YES. L.A. is in desperate need of support for its homeless population. This measure will raise revenue to provide services like mental health and drug treatment.

L.A. MAYOR

L.A. is a wonderful city with a lot of problems. Many are complex and difficult to solve. There is a deep divide between the rich and those who work for the rich. Politics often gets in the way of progress. For any problems to be solved, you have to fight.... and fight... and fight. That's why the city needs a Mayor who's willing to stand up for what is right. Even when he knows he'll get his ass beat.... he refuses to back down because, hell, that's what a leader does!

Eric Garcetti, however, is that *vato* that stands around while others fight... then congratulates them, takes pictures with them, and says, "Man, we did it. We put up a good fight."

He's the one that should've been fighting in the first place, but didn't, cause he didn't want to get detention. He's the guy that should've jumped in when you were outnumbered, but was too scared to get his shirt dirty. He's the guy that jumps in the selfie.... but only if you win!

For someone who promised to get "back to basics", he took L.A. back to basic. It's easier to list all the shit he hasn't fought for. Anything that's been done in this city these past four years was accomplished because others had the *huevos* to fight. I can't wait for Eric to run for higher office so he can make room for someone with a backbone to be our Mayor.

MITCHELL SCHWARTZ has progressive ideas and sounds like he's down to fight for us. The chances of him winning are highly unlikely, but fuck it, 'tis the season to root for the underdog.

BIG BAD LOS ANGELES

MEASURE M: YES. M stands for Marijuana. As in, who is gonna grow and sell you that loud? More importantly, the City is looking to get paid from the marijuana sales. Measure M will give the City the authority to determine where dispensaries will be allowed to operate and how much in taxes you're about to pay for every tree you burn.

MEASURE N: NO. This is now irrelevant. The people who put this on the ballot already dropped it and joined Measure M. They're the people who are gonna sell you that *yerba buena*.

MEASURE P: YES. This is a proposed amendment to allow leases for permits and agreements of LA's Harbor Department from the current 50 years to a new maximum 66 years. The state recently changed its laws and this would align the City's to match the state's. That's about all that there is to this one.

MEASURE S: NO. S stands for shit... as in the human kind- and not like when rappers brag about being "da shit". This measure is the tantrum of the wealthy President of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. He's mad that the view from his office window will be blocked by a building that's being constructed next to his... so, his solution is to stop almost ALL construction in the City of L.A. in a time period when affordable housing is scarce. I call this *Reverendas Puterias!*

L.A. CITY COUNCIL

DISTRICT 1: GIL CEDILLO spent his time in Sacramento fighting to get *paisas* driver's licenses. Now that he's in City Council, Gil is making sure that bicycle riders don't block traffic for all the *trocas* that are rolling down North Broadway. I'm not really sure what else Gil does. But, if you do, you can determine whether to vote for him or not. All I know is gentrification is coming at you hard and developers seem to be running District 1.

DISTRICT 5: VALE. I doubt any of you live in this District. If you do, you'll be all right. Pick the guy that you feel will please your desires the most.

DISTRICT 7: GOOD LUCK. There are 20 candidates running here. I know two of them and I wouldn't vote for either. So, this one is on y'all. I'll see you in May when this goes to a run off.

DISTRICT 9: TIN-MARIN. If you want a Mexican Council Member, vote Jorge Nuño. If want a Salvi Council Woman, vote Adriana Cabrera. If you want a lot of the same bullshit leadership that CD 9 has had for the past sixteen years, vote Curren Price. I'm still waiting for a permanent solution to the homeless encampments and illegal dumping along the 110 Freeway. All I know is Expo Park is looking real nice, but Broadway and Slauson ain't seeing no fucking revitalization.

I'm not convinced that the two *raza* candidates have a plan to help these issues.... the other one has enough experience to stay getting elected *y nada mas*.

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*Races where a candidate is running unopposed are not listed.

DISTRICT 11: MIKE BONIN. He's pushed for \$15 minimum wage and has been one of the strongest advocates for homeless people.

DISTRICT 13: JESSICA SALANS is super left. Maybe too left for the comfortable communities in the "new" 13th District. This district was one of the first to see gentrification systematically push out poor Latinos from Echo Park and other surrounding neighborhoods. It's a long shot for Jessica in this race against Eric Jr., but hell, we can't complain about our City's conditions if we don't elect more progressive candidates.

DISTRICT 15: THE DEVIL YOU KNOW. Three white dudes vying to represent San Pedro. They can tell you they give a fuck about Watts and Wilmington, but I believe that as much I trust drinking lemonade made with Flint tap water. Good luck.

LA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Community Colleges have become the lifeline for students who are self-motivated and determined to pursue a higher education. Many people, like me, have benefitted from the opportunities that these colleges afford us. Now, with the College Promise initiative, new facilities, and some fire under their asses, the Board of Trustees need to quit bullshitting and act like a goddamn governing body. Stop treating this board like a stepping-stone to higher office and focus on getting students to transfer out of the Community College maze in less than 7 years.

SEAT 2: STEVEN VERES. He can use his political connects in Sacramento and get students through.

SEAT 4: DALLAS DENISE FOWLER has an impressive track record and promising platform. Equally impressive is her list of supporters, albeit some friends, foes and lames. Nonetheless, the LACCD needs to be shaken up and Dallas appears to want to get that done.

SEAT 6: DR. GABRIEL BUELNA, PH.D. It feels good to see these letters before and after a Latino's name. Not that those titles make you smart or progressive... cause lord knows I've met plenty of *burros* who happen to have advanced degrees. But I digress. Dr. Buelna sounds like he has a plan- and if he and Dallas work together, maybe we can get the Community Colleges to stop being half portal to prestigious 4-year schools, half continuation schools for grown ups.

EL L.A.U.S.D.

DISTRICT 2: MÓNICA GARCÍA is the only veteran school board member who fights for poor children of color to have a shot at a quality education. I'm not talking about free books and basketball leagues. I mean A-G, Pilot Schools, Wellness Centers, fuck-kicking-students-out-of-class-cause-your-middle-class-ass-can't-handle-hood-kids School Climate Bills of Rights type policies. All the

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other veteran board members say they care about children of color. But, like the teacher's union, their racist actions speak louder than their liberal words.

DISTRICT 4: NICK MELVOIN. LAUSD needs fighters on the school board. Some tough choices are gonna have to be made regarding the District's budget woes and imminent insolvency. Someone who isn't gonna kick around that bullshit that charter schools are the reason why LAUSD is not properly serving students of color or giving special ed kids what they deserve or creaming nerds. LAUSD has never properly served those student populations. And creaming has long been going on – what the fuck do you think magnet schools do? I know because I went to magnets my entire school life. And charters ain't perfect, but I can name at least a dozen of them that are serving tough to educate populations: namely Black and Brown hood-ass kids... and they're doing a phenomenal job. That ain't creaming, that's just giving kids a proper education and treating them like apt pupils, instead of mini-predators. Here's to a new era of leadership.

DISTRICT 6: KELLY GONEZ is smart and polished, and she will light a match under the ass of BD 6 and LAUSD. She's the youngest person running for school board, but one of the most knowledgeable and solution-driven. Kids in the East San Fernando Valley deserve a school board member who is gonna push for more reform opportunities to come to that part of the District.

Enjoy your two-hour lunch break!