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Welcome to the fifth volume of our Association's Political Action Newsletter.

Each month 85¢ of your local dues and \$1.25 of your CTA state dues are allocated to political action. These funds are used for lobbying local and state representatives regarding issues concerning children, public education, and its employees. These many issues include the needs of children, retirement, allocation of public education funds, working conditions, wages, and benefits. Funds are also used to support both local and state candidates who favor efforts to protect and improve public education, as well as local and state ballot initiatives that would impact public education, its employees, and those they serve.

If you choose to not have this portion of your dues go to support these activities, all you need to do is contact the SBTA office at (909)881-6755. They will provide you with the necessary forms. This request needs to be made by October 31st.

CTA also has a \$20 dues assessment that is added to the CTA portion of your dues to go to CTA foundations and initiatives. This assessment does a \$5-\$15 split. The \$5 split goes to foundations that include FACT (Fund to Aid California Teachers), Institute for Teaching (IFT) and various scholarships. The \$15 split goes towards the initiative fund. If you want to change how your portion is allocated or to request a refund of part or all of the assessment, you need to go to [www.cta.org](http://www.cta.org) to make those requests.

Both this change and the shifting of political action funds can or must be done annually and prior to the deadline.

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SBTA is endorsing four candidates for school board for this coming November 8 elections:

- Sharon "Bobbie" Perong
- Margaret Hill
- Juan Lopez
- Lynda Savage

These four candidates strongly support classroom teachers and believe in more parent involvement in their children's education as well as more extensive parent-teacher partnerships. It is these partnerships that will permit our schools to prepare our children with the basic skills that are necessary for the 21st century. This means that students will be prepared for either a career or college. In addition, these candidates believe that teachers should have more control over the educational process.

SBTA is asking for your participation in the coming weeks to support these four candidates by phone banking, walking door to door in local neighborhoods, and requesting others to support them. School board elections have a great impact in the daily working lives of teachers. This one is especially important because state cuts in education require people who are very knowledgeable in educational issues and can keep those cuts removed as far away as possible from the classroom.