

Candidate Statement for Roy Burns

Hello everyone, my name is Roy Burns and I am running for Seat 4 of the Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees.

I was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley. I attended Cleveland High School, Los Angeles Pierce College, Cal State Northridge and eventually graduated from Irvine University College of Law with a Juris Doctorate degree.

After graduating from high school I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. I served three years in the military with one tour of duty in Viet Nam. After receiving an honorable discharge from the Marines I became a law enforcement officer and served in that position for 33 years.

Over the years I have been involved in many activities that have provided me with leadership experience.

I served as President of the Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriff's. I served as a member on the following boards, the California Peace Officers Commission on Race Relations, the California Attorney Generals Commission on SWAT, and the California Supreme Court Justices Commission on Courtroom Security.

I retired from the Sheriff's Department in 2006 and I currently teach at the junior college level, and have done so for the last 4 years. It is that position as a teacher that motivated me to seek this position with the Board of Trustees. Because of my tenure as a teacher I now better understand the arduous and challenging job of a teacher. My combined experience as a teacher and a student has lead me to the conclusion that change is necessary in the leadership of the Los Angeles Community College system.

It is no secret that our youth are the future of our country. Both Presidents Bill Clinton in his "Goal 2000" and President George Bush in his "No child Left Behind" approach recognized our significant educational problems. President Obama has stated that education will be a priority in his administration.

These presidents have acknowledged both problems within our educational system and to make education a priority. I believe that we, you and I, working together, can make a positive impact on our young people's education. My goals are to provide teachers with the tools they need to accomplish the job of educating. To establish the best possible environment for both teaching and learning, and to insure that each individual entering our community colleges walk out with an education, a diploma and the knowledge to succeed in life.

Over Twenty years ago the historical report "A Nation at Risk" clarified this countries quandary over a failing educational system. There is no doubt that the educational system in Los Angeles is in need of repair. Aristotle observed that "All who have mediated on the art of governing mankind have been convinced that the fate of an empire depends on the education of it's youth". If you believe as I do that the education in the Los Angeles community College district can improve, that you young people deserve better education and that the fate do our country depends on the education of our youth, then please vote for me, Roy Burns.

THE END