

I'm Graciela "Grace" Ortiz and I'm running for LAUSD Board District 5. I am on the November ballot and I am eager to serve you and your children in this capacity.

I am a proud product of LAUSD schools, I've experienced firsthand the transformative power of education. I'm a daughter of immigrant parents, the youngest of four and the first in my family to go to college. I was raised by a single mother who instilled in me the values of hard work and dedication to our community.

After graduating high school, I earned my bachelor's degree in Sociology at UCLA. I obtained a master's degree in social work, at Cal State Long Beach where I now teach second year Masters Students. Currently, I'm a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and I'm in the final stages of completing my Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership. My academic journey has equipped me with the knowledge and skills needed to address the challenges facing our educational system.

I have worked for LAUSD since 2006 when I became a Pupil Services and Attendance Counselor. Over the years, I have worked in various communities, including many of the Board District 5 communities, providing counseling services and removing every possible barrier that impedes our children from attending school. I am now a Regional Administrative Coordinator, for Pupil Services.

In addition, I served on the Huntington Park City Council for nine years to include two years as Mayor. I helped stabilize our city with a balanced budget, implemented policies for Project Labor Agreements, and expanded services for our residents, including rent relief, first-time homebuyer programs, expanded parks programs, implemented Free WIFI in our city and created a summer tutoring program for the children in our community.

My top priorities as a school board member are:

Having Fully Funded Schools: We need adequate staffing levels, including campus aides, special education assistants, bus drivers, and teachers. I've seen first hand the need to expand our mental health and counseling services at every school in our district to provide our students the emotional support they need to be academically successful.

Reducing Class Sizes and Quality Enrichment Programs: Smaller class sizes and after-school programs that offer enrichment opportunities are critical to providing equitable and high-quality education.

Safety: Safety is paramount for student success and a positive work environment. I will work to establish comprehensive safety plans for every school, with ample supervision and fully funded building and grounds crews.

I am the Union Candidate as I am endorsed by Education Workers, SEIU 99 LA County Federation of Labor, SEIU 2015, AALA, Teamster 572 and Joint Council, SEIU 121RN, Buildings and Trades and over 30 state and local elected officials.

Together, we can create a brighter future for our children and strengthen our community through education.

On November 5th, vote for the Union candidate Graciela "Grace" Ortiz!