

**REQUIRES BOARD ACTION**

This complete, **ORIGINAL** Ballot must be **SIGNED** by the Superintendent or Board Clerk and returned in the enclosed envelope postmarked by the post office No later than **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2017**. Only ONE Ballot per Board. Be sure to mark your vote "X" in the box. *A PARTIAL, UNSIGNED, PHOTOCOPIED, OR LATE BALLOT WILL NOT BE VALID.*

OFFICIAL 2017 DELEGATE ASSEMBLY BALLOT  
SUBREGION 7-A  
(Contra Costa County)

Number of vacancies: 3 (Vote for no more than 3 candidates)

*Delegates will serve two-year terms beginning April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2019*

*\*denotes incumbent*

- Elizabeth (Liz) Bettis (Walnut Creek ESD)
- Craig Cheslog (Acalanes Un. HSD)
- Madeline Kronenberg (West Contra Costa USD)\*
- Yolanda C. Pena-Mendrek (Liberty Un. HSD)\*
- DeShawn Woolridge (Pittsburg USD)

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Provision for Write-in Candidate Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*School District*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Superintendent or Board Clerk*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Title*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*School District Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date of Board Action*

*See reverse side for list of all current Delegates in your Region.*

## 2017 Delegate Assembly Candidate Biographical Sketch Form

**DUE: Saturday, January 7, 2017**

Mail to: CSBA | Attn: Executive Office | 3251 Beacon Blvd., West Sacramento, CA 95691 | fax: (916) 371-3407 | or email: [nominations@csba.org](mailto:nominations@csba.org).

Please complete, sign and date this required one-page candidate biographical sketch form. An optional, one-page, single-sided, résumé may also be submitted; both will be copied exactly as received. Please do not state "see résumé" and please do not re-type this form. Any additional page(s) exceeding this one-page candidate form will **not** be accepted. It is the candidate's responsibility to confirm that all nomination materials have been received by the CSBA Executive Office. Late submissions will not be accepted. If you have any questions, please contact the Executive Office at (800) 266-3382.

Name: <u>Elizabeth Bettis (Liz)</u>	CSBA Region-subregion #: <u>7A</u>
District or COE Name: <u>Walnut Creek School District</u>	Years on board: <u>4</u>
Profession: <u>Community Volunteer</u> Contact Number: <u>925-287-0494</u>	E-mail: <u>lizbettis@me.com</u>
Are you a continuing Delegate? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, how long have you served as a Delegate? _____	

**Why are you interested in becoming a Delegate? Please describe the skills and experiences you would bring to the Delegate Assembly.**

Being a board member for the Walnut Creek School District is an honor and responsibility that I respect and learn from daily. Having just finished my first term as a trustee, I would like to take the next step to focus on learning and helping to shape the policies that affect our schools. Being a CSBA delegate, will allow me the opportunity to help strengthen the connections with our legislators that in turn will help our districts and the students that we serve. The connections that we make and the policies that are formed are integral to ensuring our students receive the best education they can to take them into the future as strong leaders of our community. As a member of CSBA, I have had the opportunity to learn from the best on how to become a better trustee. I have completed the Masters In Governance course, attended new board member and board president trainings as well as attended the Annual Education Conference for the last four years with our governance team. I also have had the opportunity to be the liaison for our board for the Contra Costa County CSBA group which works on local issues collaboratively with fellow board members in our surrounding area. Our board has had the opportunity to participate in governance workshops at our district with CSBA trainers who have helped us to become a stronger governance team. All of these learning opportunities have led me to this next step of seeking to become a CSBA delegate for region 7A.

**Please describe your activities and involvement on your local board, community, and/or CSBA.**

When my children began school, I dedicated my time to volunteering in the schools. Now 20 years later, I can proudly say that I have held numerous chair and leadership positions at the unit, council and district levels of the PTA, as well as volunteering countless hours in the classroom. Legislative advocacy is a big part of PTA and I have worked throughout the years advocating on behalf of our students. I am currently the Executive Vice President of the 32nd District PTA, which works with all of Contra Costa County. My PTA work brought me to becoming a board member in the Walnut Creek School District. During my first term as a board member, I have had the honor of being board president for two years. During my tenure, we successfully completed boundary changes for the first time in over 25 years as well as opened a new project based K-8 school. After our long time superintendent announced her retirement, we conducted a successful superintendent search and finally, we passed a \$60 million dollar bond. I also have had the opportunity to sit on various district committees such as strategic planning, special education, homework policy, LCAP and master planning, as well as participating in negotiations. The various roles I described above I believe will be valuable to help me be a well rounded delegate for CSBA.

**What do you see as the biggest challenge facing governing boards and how can CSBA help address it?**

In California, funding is always our very biggest challenge. Can you imagine what districts could do if appropriate funding were a given? We must always fight for stable and appropriate funding so that California can rise to be the number one state in education. Other areas of concern are Special Education, which continues to grow every year and be a drain on resources since the Federal Government has not followed through with their funding. We must be able to educate each and every student that comes through our door, no matter what their needs may be. Mental health is becoming a bigger issue every day at an earlier age and we must be able to help them achieve their full potential. We must also strive to remove the reserve cap so that local districts can govern as needed without our hands being tied. Finally, with our changing Federal Government landscape, we must be mindful and vigilant about charter school and voucher legislation which can have a huge impact on local districts. Having an organization such as CSBA advocating on our behalf is crucial to fighting these challenges. Thank you for your consideration of my application to the CSBA Delegate Assembly. There has been no greater honor than being a school board member and I hope I can further my work and passion for our schools as a CSBA delegate. Thank You!

Your signature indicates your consent to have your name placed on the ballot and to serve as a Delegate, if elected.

Signature: Elizabeth Bettis

Date: 1/5/17

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Name: <u>Craig Cheslog</u>	CSBA Region-subregion #: <u>7A</u>
District or COE Name: <u>Acalanes Union High School District</u>	Years on board: <u>0</u>
Profession: <u>VP CA Policy/Common Sense</u> Contact Number: <u>925-708-5845</u>	E-mail: <u>craig@cheslog.com</u>
Are you a continuing Delegate? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, how long have you served as a Delegate? _____	

**Why are you interested in becoming a Delegate? Please describe the skills and experiences you would bring to the Delegate Assembly.**

I am interested in becoming a delegate so I can use the skills I've learned as a children's advocate, senior staff member at the California Department of Education, and District Director to a member of the California State Legislature to play a part in helping the California School Boards Association successfully advocate for the policies that will support our state's students, teachers, staff, and communities.

I currently serve as Vice President for California Policy and Advocacy at Common Sense Kids Action, the advocacy arm of Common Sense Media. We fight for children's rights, take action to improve education policy, and provide parents with the resources they need to enrich their kids' lives. Previously, I served as Principal Advisor to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson. In this role, I helped manage the Superintendent's strategic programs, including the Blueprint for Great Schools and task forces to revitalize programs for the arts, science, technology, engineering, music, civics, and math.

**Please describe your activities and involvement on your local board, community, and/or CSBA.**

When a retirement created an open seat on the Acalanes Union High School District Board in 2016, I decided to run because I am a parent with one child in the district and another child who is two years away from enrolling. I wanted to bring my statewide education advocacy and policy experience home to serve my local community and our kids in order to ensure every child receives the high-quality education they deserve.

As then State Senator Tom Torlakson's District Director, I was an active participant in local education and early childhood policy meetings. I have presented about legislation at local and state PTA meetings. I have been active politically in our area supporting local school bond and parcel tax campaigns. I also have extensive campaign experience in Contra Costa and neighboring counties.

**What do you see as the biggest challenge facing governing boards and how can CSBA help address it?**

I believe in the power of a strong public education system to enrich lives and improve the economic and social opportunities available to all of us. Our schools have been asked to implement many changes over the past few years, including the Local Control Funding Formula, new statewide standards, and a new statewide accountability system. We have to work diligently to explain to parents and the community how these changes will help our students. While recent state budgets have helped restore many of the terrible cuts our schools faced during the great recession, we still have a long way to go before we are adequately funding our schools. Full implementation of the LCFF must not be the end of the funding conversation, especially given the increased pension costs our school districts face. CSBA has an incredible network of local elected officials who care about students and have strong connections to the community. I would like to play a part in helping CSBA move these vital conversations forward.

Your signature indicates your consent to have your name placed on the ballot and to serve as a Delegate, if elected.

Signature: Craig Cheslog

Digitally signed by Craig Cheslog  
Date: 2017.01.06 16:51:03 -08'00'

Date: 1/6/17

# CRAIG CHESLOG

3145 PLYMOUTH ROAD, LAFAYETTE, CA 94549

CRAIG@CHESLOG.COM

PHONE: 925-708-5845

## PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

### **Vice President for California Policy, Common Sense Kids Action, San Francisco, CA: January 2015-present**

- Member of senior staff management team
- Director of organization's advocacy platform and responsible for California-specific policy development, legislative campaign execution, and political strategy across Common Sense's policy areas
- Serve as organization spokesperson on California political and policy matters
- Manage San Francisco staff, including LILY interstate program senior director, policy associate, and events coordinator; manage Sacramento contract lobbyists and other consultant contracts
- Drove the creation and development of the Common Sense Legislative Ratings initiative launched in March 2016 that rates bills as "For Kids" or "Against Kids"
- Served as staff director of the Right Start Commission, a group of leading business, education, health, and early childhood experts. Was editor of Commission's April 2016 report about state of children 0-5 in California

### **Principal Advisor to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, California Department of Education, Sacramento, CA: December 2010-January 2015**

- Served as personal strategist, advisor to, and spokesperson for Superintendent Torlakson
- Responsible for managing all aspects of the Superintendent's Initiatives Office, including coordination and management of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction's day-to-day operations; management of all correspondence received by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction; management of the Superintendent's appointments to Commissions, Boards, and Task Forces; and administration of various awards programs designed to honor students, schools, teachers, and school employees
- Served as Superintendent Torlakson's liaison to major external stakeholders and organizations including the CREATE CA Arts Education coalition (including service as Leadership Team chair beginning in September 2014), California Interscholastic Federation Federated Council, California Volunteers Commission, California Broadband Council, Speaker's Commission on Labor Education, and the California Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning
- Coordinated Superintendent's Task Forces and the development of reports including the Transition Advisory Team, Schools of the Future Task Force, Arts Education Task Force, and Education Technology Task Force

### **District Director, Office of Assemblymember Tom Torlakson, Martinez, CA: December 2008-November 2010**

### **District Director, Office of State Senator Tom Torlakson, Concord, CA: May 2005-November 2008**

- Responsible for managing all aspects of the California Legislature's District Office operations
- Supervised and evaluated staff and volunteers; made district office hiring recommendations
- Acted as Member's representative in meetings, task forces, and as liaison with local elected officials
- Coordinated media relations in the district; managed internet outreach efforts
- Wrote and edited speeches, letters to constituents and agencies, press releases, position papers

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

### **Leadership Council Member, CREATE/CA, California's Statewide Arts Education Coalition**

- Served as founding Chair after reorganization as State Superintendent Tom Torlakson's representative
- Rejoined Leadership Council after election as an individual member in June 2015. Currently Chair-Elect

### **Seward Scholarship Award Chair, Samuel Eells Literary and Educational Foundation, April 2014-present**

- Responsible for publicizing scholarship and determining recipients from nationwide candidate pool
- Redesigned award process and created updated application scoring rubric

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Name: <u>Madeline Kronenberg</u>	CSBA Region-subregion #: <u>7A</u>
District or COE Name: <u>West Contra Costa Unified School District</u>	Years on board: <u>10</u>
Profession: <u>Retired Adult Education Teacher</u> Contact Number: <u>510-334-9646</u>	E-mail: <u>mkronen@aol.com</u>
Are you a continuing Delegate? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, how long have you served as a Delegate? <u>2 years</u>	

**Why are you interested in becoming a Delegate? Please describe the skills and experiences you would bring to the Delegate Assembly.**

I am interested in becoming a Delegate because I believe "policies matter" and that the CSBA Delegate Assembly is the most important venue to form and advocate for policies for our children. I have stood for children during my many years as a parent/advocate, my thirty years as an adult school teacher and my ten years on the school board. I have chaired, co-chaired and otherwise supported initiatives focused on increasing district resources (through both parcel taxes and bond measures) for the children in my community. In addition, I have collaborated with both county and state officeholders and groups to address finding integrated approaches to social problems faced by many of our children. I have worked with labor and industry groups to develop a coordinated approach to career training (from my background as a Career Tech instructor). I am collaborative, thoughtful and focused on all our children's needs.

**Please describe your activities and involvement on your local board, community, and/or CSBA.**

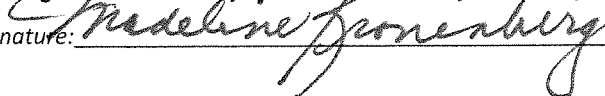
I have served on my local board (28,000 students) since 2006. I have been President (twice), Clerk (twice) and served on the following board sub-committees: Academic, Facilities, Safety and School Climate, Citizens Budget Advisory Committee, Ad Hoc Teacher Housing Committee, and as liaison to our Citizens Bond Oversight Committee and the Richmond Promise Steering Committee. In addition, I served on the Executive Board and as President of the Contra Costa County School Boards Association.

In our local community, I am a member of the El Cerrito Lions, a member of the West Contra Costa League of Women Voters (Executive Committee member), and President of the League of Women Voters - Bay Area Region.

**What do you see as the biggest challenge facing governing boards and how can CSBA help address it?**

I believe the biggest challenge facing governing boards today is the overall lack of resources available to educate ALL of California's children. I believe CSBA must double-down on its current approach regarding advocacy - both in the courts and at the ballot box. I see the passage of Prop 55 as a sign that California voters are open to supporting additional funding streams for education and I believe CSBA needs to partner with other stakeholders and lead in bringing the funding issue front and center to voters.

Your signature indicates your consent to have your name placed on the ballot and to serve as a Delegate, if elected.

Signature: 

Date: December 7, 2016

Madeline Kronenberg

811 Craft Avenue  
El Cerrito, CA 94530  
510-334-9646

Education: UC Berkeley -- Teaching Credential 1982

Career:

1965-1980 -- Administrative positions in the Federal government and private law firms  
1979-1985 -- Your Word Processing Center -- Sole Proprietor  
1980-2010 -- Instructor/Director of Legal Studies Program, Hayward Adult School

Awards:

2003 - State Excellence in Teaching Award, California Council for Adult Education

WCCUSD Offices Held -

PTA member and/or officer (1984-2007)  
School Site Council Member - Portola Middle School, El Cerrito High School  
Redistricting Committee Member (2002)  
Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Member (2004-2006)  
Measure J Co-Chair (2005)

Board Member - elected 2006 and 2010

Board Positions:

Board President

Board Clerk

Academic Subcommittee (member and/or chair)

Facilities Subcommittee (member and/or chair)

Technology Subcommittee (member and/or chair)

Safety Subcommittee (member and/or chair)

Youth Commission

College and Career Collaborative Liaison

Common Core Task Force Member

Ivy League Connection Scholarship Program - Co-Founder

Volunteer:

League of Women Voters West Contra Costa - Executive Board Member

League of Women Voters Bay Area -- Executive Board Member/President

For Richmond -- Education Committee Chair (2012-16)

El Cerrito Lions - Member

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Name: <u>Yolanda C. Pena-Mendrek</u>	CSBA Region-subregion #: <u>7A</u>
District or COE Name: <u>Liberty Union High School District</u>	Years on board: <u>8</u>
Profession: <u>Retired Educator</u> Contact Number: <u>925-634-2166 x2025</u>	E-mail: <u>ymendrek@aol.com</u>
Are you a continuing Delegate? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, how long have you served as a Delegate? <u>4</u> years	

**Why are you interested in becoming a Delegate? Please describe the skills and experiences you would bring to the Delegate Assembly.**

I would like to continue participating in creating/setting/recommending policies that affect schools in a positive manner. I am a retired teacher and retired school administrator. I believe that public education is a civil right and it provides a necessary service to our society. Also, I like to provide community service and to contribute to the well being of those around me.

I am a people's person and I can work with individuals from all walks of life. I am open minded and I learn from others and with others so that whatever I learn I can share with my board, my school community and the community at large.

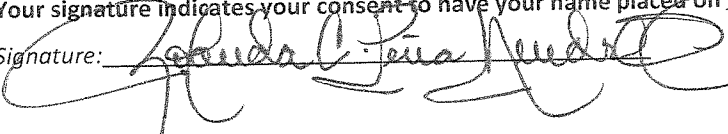
**Please describe your activities and involvement on your local board, community, and/or CSBA.**

1. Brentwood Inter-Agency, that include Superintends of Liberty and Brentwood School Districts, Community College representative, City Council members, City Manager, Police Chief, Fire Chief and other School Board Members. At these meetings, we discuss educational and local issues that have an impact on our student population.
2. Liberty and Freedom High School Liaison
3. Transportation Consortium - Alternative Member
4. CSBA Delegate from Region 7A
5. CCCSBA 1st. Vice President of Programs
6. Soroptimist International of the Delta
7. Red Cross Volunteer, member of the Disaster Action Team (DAT)

**What do you see as the biggest challenge facing governing boards and how can CSBA help address it?**

I believe that the biggest challenge is understanding the LCAP and its ramifications in our school districts. CSBA should continue working with Superintendents and Board Members, providing workshops. Changes shouldn't be made too often to allow all involved to get a grasp of what's in place before adding anything else.

Your signature indicates your consent to have your name placed on the ballot and to serve as a Delegate, if elected.

Signature:  Date: December 19, 2016

**Yolanda C. Peña-Mendrek, M.A.**  
745 Dainty Avenue - Brentwood, CA 94513 - 1201  
Home Phone 925-516-5765 - Cell 925-382-2869 - Primary/preferred  
E-mail: [ymendrek@aol.com](mailto:ymendrek@aol.com)

**OBJECTIVE:** Seeking a position where I can use my related experience in Education, Finance and Administration, and my strong organizational and people skills.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

I have spent several years in administration and gained valuable experience in the day to day operations of a school related not only to curriculum, but also learned the importance of managing school finances. I am respected among fellow employees because of my ability to follow up and to respond to their needs in a timely manner.

**EDUCATION:**

2007- 2008	Masters in Governance California School Board Association	Sacramento, CA
2002-2003	ACSA Personnel Academy	Dublin, CA
1994-2002	Chapman University, * Administrative Services Credential * CLAD Certification * Master Degree in Education - C & I * Single Subject Credential - Spanish	Concord, CA
1986-1990	University of Phoenix, * Bachelor's Science - Business Administration	San Ramon, CA
1984-1986	Diablo Valley College * Certificate of Achievement: Banking and Finance	Concord, CA

**EMPLOYMENT:**

<b>Antioch Unified School District</b>		<b>Antioch, CA</b>
2008- Present	Teacher World Languages: AP Spanish	
2013- 2014	WASC - Co-chair School Culture and Support Focus Group	
Fall - Spring 2010	Interim Vice Principal at DVHS	
Summer 2009	Summer School Co-Principal at AHS	
<b>Liberty Union High School District (LUHSD)</b>		<b>Brentwood, CA</b>
2005-2006	Assistant Principal at Heritage High School in charge of Small Learning Community "A" * Supervised and evaluated classified personnel * Evaluated Teacher's instructional practices * Facilitated CAHSEE testing * Coordinated the School Advisory Council * Managed Categorical Funds * Coordinated supervision for all school events	



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Name: <u>Delshawn Woolridge</u>	CSBA Region-subregion #: <u>7-A</u>
District or COE Name: <u>Pittsburg Unified School District</u>	Years on board: <u>2</u>
Profession: <u>Educator</u>	Contact Number: <u>510-878-0368</u> E-mail: <u>dwoolridge@pittsburg.k12.ca.us</u>
Are you a continuing Delegate? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, how long have you served as a Delegate? _____	

Why are you interested in becoming a Delegate? Please describe the skills and experiences you would bring to the Delegate Assembly.

School Board Members can affect the lives of students on a larger scale, when we work together. ~~we are stronger~~ We are stronger together than divided. I am interested in becoming a Delegate because I am interested in pursuing adequate & equitable educational & funding opportunities for our local Districts & COEs. I want to be able to advocate for the resources for our local Districts & COEs to be able to meet individual and collective challenges & mobilize our voices when necessary. I am committed to being a strong advocate for education and the values of education that we cherish, as well as being a representative of the needs of local Districts & COEs. I have an abundance of energy for service.

I am a teacher in a neighboring school district. I have been teaching in Special Education & general Education for four years. For my local School District, I am School Board President & I serve on the Curriculum & Budget Sub Committees. Recently, I served on the 3x2 committee with my school Board colleague & two City Council members. I am also serving on my county's School Boards Association as the Secretary.

What do you see as the biggest challenge facing governing boards and how can CSBA help address it?

There are many challenges competing for our districts attention & our attention as School/county Board members. I think the two biggest challenge with personnel, specially the Teacher shortage increasing in California and limited resources coming to our Districts & COEs. I think the best way for CSBA to help address the Teacher shortage is through advocating for policies that redefines what "high qualified" means. For the limited,

Your signature indicates your consent to have your name placed on the ballot and to serve as a Delegate, if elected.

Signature: D. Woolridge

Date: 1/2/17

CSBA could advocate & mobilize for additional funding for schools.