



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Media Contact:

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Meet the Candidates for State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Online, public, nonpartisan Forum is sponsored by the Contemporary Policy Institute and co-hosted by the American Association of University Women of CA

Anaheim, CA - The State of California spends more than a third of its estimated \$248.3 billion General Fund Budget on K-12 education. The state Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) is an important, high-profile elected position responsible for leading the California Department of Education (CDE) and overseeing public education for more than 6 million K-12 students.

In the upcoming June Primary Election, Californians will be voting for a new superintendent. The top two vote-getters will advance to the General Election in November. To help voters with this critical decision, CPI and co-host AAUW California are presenting a free, open to the public, online candidate forum. All of the declared candidates have been invited to share their views on Saturday, April 25, 2026 from 9 am - 10:30am. As of press time, six of 10 candidates are confirmed to participate: Richard Barrera, Nichelle M. Henderson, Frank Lara, Gus Mattammal, Al Muratsuchi and Anthony Rendon.

Pre-registration is required at <https://www.mobilize.us/cpihub/event/924105/>.

“Educating our young people is the most important thing the State of California does,” says Forum Moderator Andy Thorburn, CPI President. “I want to thank AAUW California for co-hosting this forum and for their ongoing dedication to getting voters as much information as possible.”

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SPONSORED BY



ONLINE FORUM

WITH COHOST



MEET THE CANDIDATES!

CA SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Join the Contemporary Policy Institute and the American Association of University Women, California, for an online, nonpartisan candidate forum. Moderator: CPI President Andy Thorburn.

CONFIRMED
CANDIDATES



Richard Barrera



Nichelle M. Henderson



Frank Lara



Gus Mattammal



Al Muratsuchi



Anthony Rendon

SATURDAY, APRIL 25
2026 AT 9 AM

LINK: [HTTPS://WWW.MOBILIZE.
US/CPIHUB/EVENT/924105/](https://www.mobilize.us/cpihub/event/924105/)

INVITED
CANDIDATES



Wendy Castañeda-Leal



Ainye Long



Josh Newman



Sonja Shaw

About CPI

<https://www.contemporarypolicyinstitute.org/>

For decades, CPI Founder Andy Thorburn was in the business of selling insurance outside the United States. As the business became successful, leadership decided to give back to the communities served. A private foundation was started and when the business was eventually sold, the new owner opted out of the nonprofit sector, but Andy didn't. He spun off CPI and began focusing on U.S. issues. Its guiding principle is expressed by the motto, "Fact-driven. Issue based."

About AAUW California

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/>

AAUW California facilitates California branches in meeting the vision and mission of AAUW by providing programs, education, and resources to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.