

**STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MODESTO CITY SCHOOLS DISTRICT**

STEVE COLLINS

Age: 70

Occupation: School Board Member

Education and Qualifications:

Modesto Schools must meet the needs of all our children. For over forty years I have been a leader and problem solver in education. I bring people together to face mutual problems and achieve shared goals.

When you expect the best results and support those who seek those results, you get them. As a college teacher I learned that when you expect excellence from students they respond with excellence. That positive student/teacher relationship is the foundation of all learning. We should encourage, relish and reward students and teachers who do their best.

I am committed to high academic quality. I am equally committed to quality vocational education. Job readiness must be a critical goal of public education. A skilled workforce is crucial to the economic future of our community.

My wife, Linda, our daughter, Alison and I were educated by Modesto teachers in Modesto schools. Modesto public education opened the doors to our futures. I believe I have the skills and knowledge to continue my work as a Board member to assure that doors open for all Modesto children. I ask for your vote to achieve that goal.

If you have questions or concerns, call me at 529-6325.

**STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR
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NANCY CLINE

Age: 56

Occupation: Incumbent

Education and Qualifications:

I am looking forward to serving another term on the Modesto City Schools Board of Education. I pledge to continue working with parents and citizens to make wise decisions affecting the education of our students.

Although finances have occupied the spotlight lately, other issues affecting our community, our schools, and our children are just as important.

My goals are to:

- Increase the graduation rate by providing more vocational and career tech opportunities for students while maintaining high academic standards.
- Choose age appropriate books and videos.
- Promote greater parental involvement and ensure that parents maintain their rights in all areas of their children's lives while attending Modesto City Schools.
- Continue encouraging student's civic responsibility.
- Emphasize early proficiency by English language learners.
- Maintain fiscal responsibility.

I want to continue making decisions that reflect the strong moral values of our community; decisions that reflect who I am. I believe the above priorities are the reasons you elected me to the Board; I pledge to honor these goals.

Your vote will enable me to continue this work with perseverance and integrity.

Your questions are welcome. Call me at 578-0102

**STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR
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SUE ZWAHLEN

Age: 55

Occupation: Registered Nurse

Education and Qualifications:

My name is Sue Zwahlen and I am a candidate for the Modesto City Schools Board of Trustees.

I was born and raised in Modesto and graduated from Davis High School in 1972. I am married with six children, each of whom has been educated in Modesto City Schools. My youngest child is currently enrolled in high school. I have been employed as a Registered Nurse for 34 years and have served as a parent volunteer in Modesto City Schools for 27 years. I am currently the Vice President of the Board of Directors of Inter-Faith Ministries.

My primary desire in pursuing this office is to give back to a community that has done so much for me and my family.

I plan to serve by promoting:

- Safe schools that foster effective student learning;
- Policies that spend taxpayer dollars as close to the classroom as possible;
- Accountability of the district to students and parents; and
- Application of the 9 Modesto City Schools character traits to students and adults.

I would be honored to receive your vote.

**STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR
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SOLANGE G. ALTMAN

Age: 53

Occupation: Businesswoman/Attorney

Education and Qualifications:

Putting students first will be my guiding principle if elected to the Board of Education.

As a board member I will be independent-minded, question financial decisions, insist on high academic standards, demand safe schools, and work closely with parents and the community.

I am qualified to serve because of my legal and business experience, community involvement, and as a parent of two Modesto High graduates.

As an attorney in private practice I have resolved complicated cases and faced the challenges of running a small business. As manager of a Portuguese family farm, I have negotiated contracts and handled financial matters.

I have shown my commitment to our youth and community by serving as a school board member, Fremont Open Plan Parent Advisory Group president, Roosevelt Jr. High site council representative, Modesto International Baccalaureate Boosters president, Youth Court mentor, Mock Trial coach, and as member of the Modesto Charter Review Committee and Modesto Rotary.

I know what students need to succeed. During these difficult economic times I will work hard to ensure your tax dollars are spent wisely to give them the best education possible.

I would appreciate your vote. Feel free to contact me at solangealtman@sbcglobal.net or 577-8758.

**STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR
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BELINDA ROLICHECK
Occupation: Incumbent

Age: 48

Education and Qualifications:

I have lived, worked and raised my children in Modesto for 19 years. It has been my honor to serve on the school board for Modesto City Schools for the past 4 years. I would like to continue to serve for another term and work toward the goal of quality educational opportunities for every child in the district. My priorities will continue to be to improve academic opportunity and success for all students in a safe and nurturing environment. I will continue to serve with integrity and keep the needs of students at the forefront of my decisions.

At a time when financial support for education is dwindling, I will work with teachers, parents and administrators to see that all children in our district receive the best education we can provide. I respectfully ask for your vote and support and thank you for your consideration.

**STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR
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RUBÉN A. VILLALOBOS
Occupation: Business Owner/Attorney

Age: 35

Education and Qualifications:

I am a product of Modesto City Schools. I am the son and grandson of MCS teachers, and was taught by quality teachers at Sonoma, Franklin, Fremont Open Plan, Mark Twain, Modesto High, and MJC. After graduating from UC Berkeley and Davis Law School, I returned home to practice law. As a volunteer high school coach for the last decade, I've seen how strong teachers and schools empower our students. As a lawyer in Juvenile Court and a Board Member for the Children's Crisis Center, I've also seen how gangs and methamphetamine destroy our families, children, and schools. Our children must have a safe environment in which to learn.

As a business owner in these difficult times, I've learned to make tough choices while maintaining high standards. Given the economic conditions in the state and nation, we are challenged to continue to provide a quality education to all students. As families experience increased financial hardship, students will be in need of even greater support.

Strong teachers helped me to achieve my life goals. I welcome the opportunity to help the next generation of students to achieve theirs. I want to hear your input, questions and concerns at ruben.villalobos@gmail.com.

**STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR
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JOSH VANDER VEEN
Occupation: Customer Service Associate

Age: 24

Education and Qualifications:

Education is the key to success. While growing up in Modesto, I was taught that a good education will open the door to a better quality of life.

I recently graduated with a degree in Communications from CSU Sacramento. This has given me a fresh view on how to improve the education system for children in the Modesto City School District. It is our responsibility as a community to save programs that foster a well rounded education, such as art, music, and sports. As a School Board Member it will be my goal to present new ideas and new opportunities for the community to rally around our public schools.

Through my position on the Stanislaus County Free Library Board I have seen that community involvement can create a real change in the lives of individuals. Community involvement will be essential in compensating for the district's budget dilemma. With your support I hope to be able to give a new and unique voice to the Board of Education.

Josh Vander Veen

**STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR
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JIM STANDART
Occupation: Retired Business Manager

Age: 62

Education and Qualifications:

My name is Jim Standart, and I am a candidate for the Modesto City Schools Board of Trustees.

I have a B.A. in Political Science from CSU, Chico, and I have experience with the democratic process from my years working in the political system. I have strong ties to this community having lived in Modesto for over 40 years. My daughter is a successful product of Modesto City Schools, and I want students to receive the same high quality education she did.

I believe in the public education system and all that it has to offer our children. I believe that parents, teachers, and administrators must work together to ensure our children receive the best education possible.

Although we are in the midst of tough economic times, cuts should be as far away from the classroom as possible. I see a lack of leadership with the current make-up of the Board. Instead of being pro-active, the board has become reactive. The Board needs to reassert itself in its policy-making responsibilities. Students need to be our first priority.

A vote for me is a vote for much-needed change.

**STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR
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CINDY MARKS

Age: 47

Occupation: School Board Incumbent

Education and Qualifications:

Academic excellence must drive our school board decisions. I am committed to improving student test scores by making sure that district funds are used effectively to strengthen quality instruction.

I will continue to encourage parent participation. Students whose parents are actively involved perform better academically. I remain committed to ensuring that parents are informed about school activities and materials.

My experience mentoring at-risk youth and gang members for twelve years has equipped me to understand what is needed to give youth a positive vision for their future. My commitment to education has resulted in my serving on a variety of boards, including:

- California School Boards Association
- Youth Action Commission of Stanislaus County
- City Ministry Network
- Cities, Counties and Schools Task Force for State Fiscal Reform
- Community Dropout Prevention Summit

As a result of my community involvement, I have been honored to receive awards from the Hispanic Leadership Council and the Christian Public Servants.

I respectfully request your support on Election Day. A vote for me is a vote for safe, wholesome schools that will produce our next generation of responsible, productive citizens and community leaders.

Questions? Please feel free to contact me at 524-8617 or cindymarks@yahoo.com