

GARY PRITCHARD

Community College Dean

Our schools need involved parents who understand what's best for our children. We need new leadership to ensure our tax dollars support safe, well-maintained schools that keep our communities strong and maximize property values. I'm ready to fight for local control of our schools on behalf of taxpayers and parents across Laguna Niguel.

I'm a Laguna Niguel homeowner, former school board president, college dean, and career educator, but I'm a father first -- with children in local schools. That means I want our schools to be the best in Orange County with a bright future available for every student.

I understand the concerns of parents, frustrated with the direction of our school board. As a homeowner who chose to raise my family right here in Laguna Niguel, I understand the strong link between good schools and property values and will protect taxpayers.

As a former school board president, I restored stability to the board and helped save our district millions, bringing educational innovation and excellence to our schools. I fought for taxpayers by supporting the elimination of assessments that reduced property taxes and insisted on accountability by establishing a Citizens' Oversight Commission and annual independent audit. The Orange County Business Council and Orange County Taxpayers Association have recognized Capistrano Unified in part for these successes.

Also during my tenure on the Capistrano Unified School Board, we created Capistrano's first Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) program to help provide innovative career paths for graduates.

I partnered with our business community and cities to enhance scholarship and educational opportunities for our children, including working with the cities of Aliso Viejo and Mission Viejo to secure necessary funds for the new science building at Aliso Niguel High School.

While parents are asked to donate school supplies, the district voted last year to give the superintendent a raise.

Enough is enough. It's time for change.

If elected again I will promote fiscal responsibility, stand up to Sacramento bureaucrats, and cut wasteful spending.

I'm invested in our community, but more importantly, I'm invested in our kids. That means my top priority will always be student safety. Our kids deserve to feel safe and secure at school and parents deserve the peace of mind of knowing their children are protected while on campus.

Kids first, always.

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