

## Election Impact on Mt. SAC

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Colleagues,

Although several close election outcomes are yet to be finalized, the impacts on Mt. SAC are becoming clearer. While I am not a political pundit by any means, the commentary below is mine and to be taken as just one perspective.

First, implications of President-elect Joe Biden's leadership on education. Both federal spending on education and changes in executive orders will likely benefit Mt. SAC. Based on public statements of the Biden team, these may include more education-friendly positions on 1) accreditation, 2) ability-to-benefit, 3) DACA and undocumented students, 4) Title IX, and 5) immigration.

President-elect Biden will be able to reinterpret and perhaps alter allocation of existing funding in a manner that is more helpful to Mt. SAC. A major example is the CARES Act although a bit late for much impact. Legislative action will be needed for more extensive changes in funding and statutory positions.

Such congressional action may continue to be challenging. Republicans will have gained ten or so seats in the House, now closer to party balance (219 D to 202 R with 14 undecided), and will most likely retain a majority in the Senate—assuming the predictions of the two Georgia Senator runoff elections have Republicans retaining at least one of the two seats.

With strong support from President-elect Biden and a more across-party-lines approach from him, opportunities may include 1) a modest federal economic bail out, 2) targeted federal support for education, 3) an increase in Pell Grant amounts, 4) federal subsidies for (free?) community colleges, and 5) targeted federal funding for the community college role in job recovery. Also a priority is direct economic recovery funds to state and local government. To the extent that state bailout funds are provided, California will be in a better position to provide reasonable state funding to community colleges.

California ballot propositions that would support community college funding and equity did not fare well with the electorate.

- **Proposition 15:** The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2020, better known as the "split roll initiative," failed to pass. This measure would have required commercial and industrial land and buildings, worth more than \$3 million, to be taxed based on how much they could be sold for (market value) instead of their

original purchase price. Mt. SAC stood to receive an estimated \$14 million per year.  
**YES: 48.3% NO: 51.7%**

- **Proposition 16:** This measure, designed to restore the right to use affirmative action in public employment, public education and public contracting, failed. The passage of Proposition 16 would have restored affirmative action by repealing Proposition 209 which voters passed in 1996. **YES: 43.9% NO: 56.1**

Our college is fortunate to have congressional representatives that strongly support education and Mt. SAC. Our congressional representatives Grace Napolitano (D-32<sup>nd</sup> District) and Norma Torres (D-35<sup>th</sup> District and a Mt. SAC alumna) won re-election. In a rematch between Young Kim and incumbent Gil Cisneros (D-39<sup>th</sup> District), totals indicate that Young Kim is leading 50.6% to 49.4%. Results are not yet final in this race.

The legislators in both the Senate and Assembly also support education and Mt. SAC.

For the third time, Josh Newman and incumbent Ling Ling Chang went head to head to represent the 29<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which covers the cities of Walnut, Diamond Bar, West Covina, Rowland Heights, and Industry. Election results as of today indicate that Mr. Newman, who won the seat in 2016 and was recalled two years later, has recaptured this senate seat **51.3% to 48.7%.**

Assemblywoman Blanca Rubio (D-48<sup>th</sup> District) retained her seat (she ran unopposed). Pomona-area Assemblyman Freddie Rodriguez (D-52<sup>nd</sup> District) also held onto his seat. Incumbent Philip Chen (R) beat out former Walnut Councilmember Andrew Rodriguez in the 55<sup>th</sup> District Assembly race **55.0% to 45.0%**

For Walnut City Council, residents re-elected Councilmembers Nancy Tragarz and Eric Ching, and elected educator Linda Freedman to fill the seat of Andrew Rodriguez, who ran for Assembly. Mrs. Freedman is a longtime educator in Walnut schools and is an adjunct professor at Cal Poly Pomona. She previously served as a Walnut Parks and Recreation Commissioner. Her priorities are economic development, community connections, and mental health. She plans to partner with Mt. SAC and the Walnut Valley Unified School District to prioritize and expand social and emotional learning efforts.