



CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
**CAPITAL SERVICE CENTER COUNCIL**

5959 Greenback Lane · Suite 500 · Citrus Heights · California · 95621-4757  
(916) 969-4700 · (916) 725-8883

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February 23, 1998

Gerald Klaas  
5109 Melvin Drive  
Carmichael, CA 95608

Dear Mr. Klaas:

Thank you for your interest in running for public office. The California Teachers Association is interested in your candidacy, and we extend an invitation to you to participate in the CTA/NEA endorsement/recommendation process, including an interview on March 4, 1998. The interview will be about forty-five minutes long. Please call me at (530) 622-0119 to schedule an interview time on that day.

Enclosed you will find two questionnaires. The first regards your personal background and campaign structure, and the second seeks your responses on educational issues.

Please complete both questionnaires and return them to the address on the letterhead. It will be necessary for our interview team to receive this information prior to the interview on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

In an effort to assure accuracy of our record of your responses, CTA will be videotaping the interview. The videotape will be used exclusively by CTA for internal use only. No copies or excerpts will be made available to any individual or organization.

Thank you for your time. We look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,

Dick Parsons  
PAC Chair

DP:cs

Enclosures



**CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

1. Name: GERALD KLAAS (please see <http://sacto.com/sen>)
2. Home Address: 5109 Melvin Drive
3. City: Carmichael St: CA Zip: 95608 Home Phone: 916-482-0212
4. Candidate for: AD \_\_\_\_\_ SD 06 CD \_\_\_\_\_
5. Current Occupation: Computer Programmer / Community College Instru
6. Party Affiliation: Libertarian

7. Educational background (list schools attended):

High School : Jesuit (Carmichael, CA)

College Degree: AA \_\_\_\_\_ BA X MA \_\_\_\_\_ Ph.D. \_\_\_\_\_

Degree(s) earned from: CSUS

Applied Math emphasis in Statistics

8. Military Service: Years \_\_\_\_\_ Service Branch \_\_\_\_\_

9. Other public service: BSA Assistant Scoutmaster 1995-1997  
List Group(s) SACRAMENTO Troop 123

10. List community organizations including religious groups of which you are a member:

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| a. _____ | d. _____ |
| b. _____ | e. _____ |
| c. _____ | f. _____ |



**CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
CTA/ASSOCIATION FOR BETTER CITIZENSHIP  
QUESTIONNAIRE**

**1998**

This questionnaire is for the exclusive use of CTA in determining a recommendation position.

**REVISED 12/12/97**

The California Teachers Association works for safe schools where students can get the basic skills to prepare for good jobs in the future. In our advocacy in Sacramento, CTA works to protect children's health and safety, prepare students for jobs of the future, strengthen America's public schools, and involve education employees in the critical decisions affecting programs and

## PART I CTA ISSUES PROGRAM

The following are position statements on some critical issues. For each issue, indicate whether you agree or disagree with the position. **Please attach additional pages if you want to elaborate on or explain your response.** Be sure each comment clearly indicates the question to which you are referring.

### Response Code:

Yes -- Would support this position.

No -- Would oppose this position.

### Protecting Children

*Please see  
http://sacto.com*

Do you support safe and drug-free schools, including resources for programs to enhance school safety, prevent substance abuse, and for drug treatment and rehabilitation.

Yes      [ ] No

2. Do you believe schools must be orderly and purposeful places where students and staff are free to learn and teach without the threat of physical or psychological harm.

Yes      [ ] No

3. Do you support funding to provide alternative placements for students at all grade levels who engage in violent acts and disruptive behavior. In addition, strengthen "zero tolerance" policies to deal with students who commit drug offenses or bring weapons to school.

[ ] Yes       No

4. Do you support safe and hazard-free schools, including standards and resources to help local schools abate asbestos, radon, lead in drinking water, and other hazardous substances while opposing attempts to undermine existing protections for the health and safety of children and education employees.

Yes                      [   ] No

5. Do you believe students enrolled in California public schools have diverse needs. Schools must provide all students - every child, every young person - with equal access to the curriculum and to all school-related activities.

[   ] Yes                       No

6. Do you believe that serious efforts to promote the "community school concept" should be initiated so that schools can serve as centers for the delivery of support services for family, child and community life. This would include social agencies on site, medical clinics, meal programs, and adult education classes. School facilities should also be made more available to community groups such as adult and student clubs, community theater, youth service organizations, adult and youth sports programs, etc.

yes

no

[   ] Yes                      [   ] No

7. Do you support standards of quality and funding for all eligible students for school meal programs and full funding for nutrition programs for all eligible low-income women, infants, and children.

[   ] Yes                       No

8. Will you work to secure provisions for the approval of school construction, technology, and rehabilitation bonds by a majority vote at the local level.

[   ] Yes                       No

9. Do you support a safe school environment that recognizes each student's right to be free from discrimination for any reason including but not limited to size, disability, gender, sexual orientation, religion or ethnicity.

Yes                      [   ] No

## Preparing Students for Jobs of the Future

1. Do you believe that a bold and comprehensive program to bring the advantages of technology into the classroom is fundamental to creating schools for the 21st century. At a minimum, all students must have access to equipment and other devices that will permit them to interact with, and learn from, computers, networks, and multimedia devices, as well as access to library media centers which are staffed by credentialed librarians and contain state-of-the-art equipment

Yes                      [   ] No

2. Do you support the integration of vocational and academic learning, including efforts to establish school-to-work programs. The purpose of these programs should be to develop students who are socially responsible and employable community members equipped to engage in lifelong learning. Opportunities must be provided for students to explore different careers.

Yes                      [   ] No

3. Do you believe school-to-work programs should be designed by teams which include teachers, counselors, representatives from district employee organizations, employers, private sector unions, business representatives, parents, and students. Decisions should be made by consensus.

[   ] Yes                       No

4. Do you support increased state funding to avoid increases in college fees.

[   ] Yes                       No

5. Do you support full funding for programs designed to enhance student achievement. Personnel at each site should be free from state imposed restraints to create programs to serve targeted student populations which they feel will be most effective for their circumstances.

[   ] Yes                       No

## Strengthening Public Education in California

1. Do you support the concept of negotiating a "master contract" for school districts which would outline basic terms and conditions of employment. Association leaders and administrators at each site would be authorized to negotiate individual site agreements tailored to their own circumstances. These agreements would be incorporated into the master contract for enforcement purposes.

Yes                      [   ] No

2. Do you believe that by the year 2001, all schools should be required to implement a site based shared decision making process which empowers teachers and parents with true authority. Should the decision making authority be equally divided. School districts and chapters should be free to bargain site based models and incorporate them into enforceable agreements. Locally negotiated site based shared decision making agreements should supersede State mandated models.

Yes                      [   ] No

3. Do you support the use of public funds exclusively for public schools and oppose tuition tax credits, vouchers or other direct or indirect mechanisms to channel public funds to private schools.

[   ] Yes                       No

4. Do you support Propositions 98/111, which provide formulas for generating basic revenues for K-12 and community college districts. Do you also support potential community based models for funding which will enhance local control over the scope and quality of educational services. In any case, school finance must be increased, simplified and made easily understandable by all stakeholders.

[   ] Yes                       No

5. Do you support fully funded K-12 class size reduction. Class size reduction funds should not be utilized for any other purpose, nor should districts be allowed to increase the size of other classes in order to implement these class size reductions.

Yes                      [   ] No

6. Do you believe teachers must know what skills they are expected to teach and what aspects of each subject area students are expected to master for each course or subject taught. Parents, school board members, classified personnel, administrators, and students are partners in the educational process and must also be held accountable for their roles in this effort.

Yes                      [   ] No

7. Do you believe these curriculum content and student performance standards must be measurable. The assessment of student progress toward meeting the standards must be individually reported to the parents of each student. Will you support reasonable measures to provide other incentives designed to encourage students to do well on standardized tests.

Yes                      [   ] No

### **Respecting the Rights of School Employees**

1. Do you support measures to maintain and protect the civil rights of all Americans, including children and education employees, and opposes any efforts to diminish federal policies that expand education or employment opportunities for women, minorities, or individual with disabilities.

Yes                      [   ] No

2. Do you believe in order for teachers to be meaningfully involved in all aspects of educational improvement, the scope of collective bargaining must be expanded. Will you work to add provisions to the Educational Employment Relations Act, which will require districts to negotiate matters relating to the method whereby teachers will be involved in the determination of curriculum and other professional issues.

[   ] Yes                      [   ] No

3. Do you support public school teacher rights to due process in their employment relationships.

[   ] Yes                      [   ] No

4. Do you support collectively-bargained pay schedules that will attract and retain skilled, qualified, and dedicated personnel.

[   ] Yes                      [   ] No



5. Do you support efforts to ensure the economic well-being of retired public school employees, including health and welfare benefits.

Yes                      [   ] No

6. Do you support the election of four teacher members of the STRS board.

[   ] Yes                      [   ] No

7. Do you support the right of education employees to participate in the political process and make campaign contributions through political action committees. Further, do you support the right of unions to use membership dues to communicate with their members about political issues of interest and concern to them.

Yes                      [   ] No

*→ with consent*

## PART II. PRIORITIES

What are your top five priorities for California? What resources and programs would you advance to support those priorities?

1.

see <http://sacto.com>

2.

3.

4.

5.

(over)

Send this completed questionnaire together with the biographical information form to:

Dick Parsons  
California Teachers Association  
5959 Greenback Lane, #500  
Citrus Heights, CA 95621

**AFTER RECEIVING COMPLETED CANDIDATE  
QUESTIONNAIRE AND BIOGRAPHICAL  
QUESTIONNAIRE**

1. Set up an interview via telephone.
2. Send a letter confirming the interview appointment.
3. Send copies of the confirming letter to the Interview/Assessment Team.