

For Immediate Release

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Tom Torlakson and Gloria Romero Mislead Voters

On April 1st, Lydia Gutierrez, Candidate for State Superintendent of Schools, filed a formal complaint with the Chief Counsel of the California Secretary of State challenging her opponents' use of the designation 'Teacher' and 'Educator' to describe their professions. The California Elections Code requires a designation to be truthful and not misleading to the voters. Tom Torlakson's and Gloria Romero's declarations failed this test.

Excerpts:

- Mr. Torlakson's career for the past thirty years has been as a career politician on the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors and in the California State Legislature. Admittedly, he was a teacher in the 1970s, but this has not been his principal vocation for decades. Mr. Torlakson's designation as a "Teacher" is inappropriate and should be deleted.
- Mr. Torlakson's ballot statement should be modified to exclude all statements which state or imply that he is currently working as a teacher. In particular, Torlakson's opening statements "Teaching has been my life – and my – passion – for the past 37 years. As a classroom teacher..." should be removed as misleading. This statement gives the strong impression that teaching is primary career at present. Mr. Torlakson begins on sentence with the phrase "As a classroom teacher" and uses the present tense implying that he is a classroom teacher, when, in fact, he is not a classroom teacher and has not been a classroom teacher for decades.
- Gloria Romero's designation as an "Educator" should likewise be deleted. Ms. Romero has been a full time member of the California State Legislature since 1998. The ballot designation is factually inaccurate and misleading. Ms. Romero's designation as an "Educator" is therefore inappropriate and should be deleted.
- Gloria Romero's ballot statement should be modified to exclude all statements which state and imply that she is currently an "educator" or a "professor". In particular, Romero's statements that she is "...an Education Professor..." as well as the reference to her as "Professor Gloria Romero" should be removed. Ms. Romero may have taught some classes at a college at some point in time, but does not currently. In particular, the statement "...Professor Gloria Romero trains the teachers of the future..." is misleading and false because it is in the present tense. Lydia Gutierrez, unlike some of her competition, is in fact currently employed as a full-time classroom teacher.

For the full text of the complaint, go to Lydiaforkids2010.com under Issues.