

Redding School District
Board Candidate Application: Stephen M Martinez

1. Write a brief biographical sketch of your immediate family, education, present job, and community involvement.

My family and I have lived in our West Redding home since 1998. My wife of 26 years, Patricia, and I have three children. Our oldest child, Kevin, is a freshman at Boise State University where he is studying mechanical engineering and is a member of the Boise State men's ice hockey team. Our son Mitchell is a sophomore at Shasta High School and is a member of the band and tennis team. Our daughter Alicia is in the 8th grade at Sequoia Middle school and participates in the band, choir, and cheer programs. All of the children attended Manzanita Elementary and Sequoia Middle School. We have been fortunate that Patricia has had time available to be involved with the children's school activities and involve me in many of her volunteer efforts over the past dozen years.

I earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree from San Diego State University in 1984. I also completed the Management Certificate Program at the School of Business and Public Administration at the University of the Pacific in 1993.

I have been employed by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company for the past 26 years. Currently I am the Manager of the Northern California Office Services organization. I am responsible for the operations of 42 of PG&E's Customer Services offices in the northernmost 26 counties of PG&E's service territory. I lead a team of six supervisors and 134 union represented clerical employees throughout this large and diverse area. I am responsible for the financial, staffing, and quality of service aspects of this operation and have been effective at assuring satisfactory results while reducing the organization's operational expenditures each year.

I have participated in wide variety of community activities and programs while I have resided in the seven Northern California communities that my career has taken me to since I joined PG&E. Prior to moving to Redding, I have been an officer of a Lion's Club in Calaveras County and a member of the 1991-92 Amador County Grand Jury. Since I have resided in Redding, I have participated on the boards of several sports and community based non-profit organizations. I am currently the President of the Board of Directors of the Shasta Lake Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and President of the Board of Directors of the Redding Roadrunners Hockey Club, Inc. I have served as the President of the Congregational Council of St. James Lutheran Church in Redding and was a member of Leadership Redding's class of 2007. I have also coached various age groups in many the local youth sports organizations over the past 12 years (Shasta Roller Hockey League, City of Redding Soccer and Flag Football Leagues, and Redding Youth Soccer League). I also had the good fortune of being the assistant coach of the AA 2008 United States Roller Hockey Championship squad of 16 year-old youth who represented the State of California (three players were from Redding).

2. Please state your reasons for wanting to be on the Redding School District Board of Trustees on the attached sheet.

Giving back to one's community is something that I believe each person should do. Finding the appropriate role for my time and talents has been impacted by the limits to my knowledge of our community and the opportunities made available to all of us.

I want to be on the Redding School District Board of Trustees because I believe that I can help give direction to one of the most critical public services provided in our society. I believe that quality public education is essential for our community and nation. I also believe that we are at a tipping point culturally as we deal with the socio-economic, political, and ethical facets of the education of our youth.

I want to be able to have a positive impact on the development of the children of this community and their families. The elementary and middle school years are our opportunity to help foster the desire to learn and grow. It is critical that we focus on ensuring that this takes place in the best environment possible. The Redding School District currently provides our children excellent learning opportunities which include what other districts see as extras; music programs and sports. I desire to see that these learning and growth programs are maintained.

My job takes me to many communities in Northern California. I have seen the quality of schools in towns where residents are involved and show interest in the children. Conversely, I have seen the results where the programs focus on other than developing well rounded, knowledgeable, and socially active students. The Redding School District is providing our students with a solid and all encompassing learning opportunity. I want to see that continue.

The District has its challenges and I would hope that my life and career experiences would match up well to help the existing Board, the professional staff, and the community meet these challenges. I am not an "in the box" solutions leader. I feel that many of the solutions that are developed to deal with the quality versus costs versus values balancing act that our schools must address are limited based upon social and economic drivers promoted from outside our community. In my current job, I have found that slight paradigm shifts have allowed me to lead my organization to maintain quality and service levels while reducing or maintaining costs and staffing. This is in contrast to what other leaders always say is necessary for success – more money and people.

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I believe that I can help our community in getting the best education value for our children. I recognize that the Board members are stewards of the taxpayer's money. In exchange for the money that we obtain for our schools, I believe we have an obligation to provide back to the community children who are well prepared and have a desire to effectively and continuously learn and serve our community in the future.

In summary, I want to serve and have a positive impact on my community. I believe being a member of the Board would allow me to do so in a manner well suited to my skills and life experiences.