

## **Good Food in LAUSD**

### **Allison Holdorff Polhill, LAUSD 4**

As a strong advocate for our students, I also believe it is necessary for our students to be provided the educational opportunities to learn and implement healthy lifestyles through healthy foods and environments. First step to strengthening such educational opportunities is to look at the budgetary issues within LAUSD. The school district runs an annual budget of close to 8 billion dollars and currently has a deficit of hundreds of millions of dollars. With my experience in balancing a budget, I would make appropriate cuts to unnecessary spending and allocate those savings into such programs like the Good Food Purchasing Program. If elected, I will work with schools to help create programs that encourage students and schools in becoming champions for nutritious food access. I will also strongly advocate for new community based partnerships to form through the program and ensure that incentive programs that inspire healthy competition are created. I will also promote roundtables with schools in each parts of the district to ensure a healthy dialogue is in play. Moreover, what I will work with teachers and students to help develop hands-on programs that continue to encourage students to be involved in healthy eating as well. Health class curriculum can highly motivate students to eat healthy. Twenty years ago, I assisted in creating an organic garden at our local elementary school, Palisades Charter Elementary School. To this day, that garden exists and classrooms rotate through this garden – planting seeds, watching food grow and eventually eating the food. Teachers have written science curriculum around this garden. If elected I will commit to increase efforts to eliminate food waste and advocate for Share Tables under the Save it for Later Program. I will advocate for the continuation of the Food Donation Policy. It is tragic that so much food is wasted at the same time we know that many people in Los Angeles are not receiving nutritious meals. Los Angeles County has the largest food insecure population. If elected, I will make sure to fight to end this unnecessary waste and turn them into resources we can utilize to invest in our students.