

Gregory Martayan, District #4

Statement on School Food Policy

LAUSD Board of Education Candidate

March 7, 2017 Municipal Election

Protecting our children, by providing good food. It is crucial for the Los Angeles Unified School District to follow the policies set forth by the Good Food Purchasing Program. When one discusses the future of LAUSD, food has to be a part of that discussion. So much of what we do as humans revolves around food, that if we do not focus and pay attention to where our food comes from, we are inherently creating dangers for our children. Every parent, given the opportunity, follows what their children eat at home and meticulously follows up to make sure that their child is well fed with nutritious balanced meals. When the child goes to school, the meticulous nature of the school taking responsibility over the child should not change. Healthy food, sustainable sources, local and farm to table food, as well as vendors who practice fair and humane guidelines, are all key to this process. I am committed to continuing the Good Food Purchasing Program and committed to standing with those who want to promote good nutrition in schools.

When there is the will, there is the way. I have the will and temperament to see good food and nutrition practices through. I have the desire as a parent for my children to eat good foods that benefit their body, in the same way I would translate that into oversight into the LAUSD purchasing and serving systems. Let's also be clear, that preparation has a great deal to do with nutrition as well. As the only candidate who understands that temperature, heat, the way in which an item is fried, cut, boiled or chopped can change the nutrition level or calorie intake for the consumer, I recognize that preparation plays a key role in the food process for our children. We will set protocols A to Z to protect our kids. Including what they intake as food. At all hours of the school day.

School gardens should be a priority for all of us. We will partner with local companies and organizations to fund and promote the gardens. I am committed to this project, as a sustainable program and long term program for the LAUSD. Let us grow gardens throughout Los Angeles together, giving children the skills and hands on experience to understand where their food comes from and how it benefits their bodies. Let us bring Los Angeles into an era of good food. Into an era of great food.

My priority is healthy food and healthy food carts are a priority for me as well. There are many children who are latch key kids, like my brother in law, in public schools. These are great young boys and girls whose parents work two to three jobs and go home after school by themselves.

Healthy food carts are an excellent option, because it gives these kids a healthy food option. I know from my own experience with my brother in law, the food he would after school on the walk home were anything but healthy. I am prepared to help get these carts in place and certified, because it would be great service to our children and their parents. Let us work together.

Food should never go waste and using it for compost for the School Gardens would be the plan. Making sure no food gets wasted comes from the buying program, one I am very familiar with, one which needs to be overhauled and reevaluated which I am committed to and prepared to take on.