

MEDIA ADVISORY



Glendale Teachers Association

3233 N. Verdugo Road
Glendale, CA 91208
Web site: www.glendaleteachers.org

November 29, 2023

Contact: Emily Rogers (818) 240--3924

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Glendale Teachers Endorse Glendale City Council and Community College Board of Trustee Candidates

Glendale– The Glendale Teachers Association Representative Council voted yesterday to endorse the following candidates:

- for Glendale City Council, ***Ardy Kassakhian*** and ***Karen Kwak***,
- for Glendale Community College Board of Trustees, for Area 1, ***Desiree Portillo Rabinov*** and for Area 5, ***Sevan Benlian***.

Mr. Kassakhian is a proven leader with many years of service to our Glendale community, first as our city clerk and most recently as a city council member. Glendale Teachers Association Political Action Committee Chair Emily Rogers shares, “Ardy’s years of experience ensure he is well equipped to make important decisions that affect the students and families of the City of Glendale.” Karen Kwak is a community activist who has worked to bring a voice to our local renters. She understands that students’ basic needs, like housing and food, must be met in order to help grow their academic knowledge. Taline Arsenian, Glendale Teachers Association President shares, “I am confident that Karen’s leadership on city council will ensure that city services are focused on where they are needed most, particularly investing in the needs of Glendale’s children.”

Mrs. Portillo-Rabinov and Mr. Benlian both began their service to Glendale Community College when they were elected nearly four years ago, and shortly after they were faced with COVID-19 challenges. Both incumbents have worked tirelessly to get students through those tough years and have helped the college flourish. Emily Rogers shares, “Mr. Benlian is a proud graduate of GCC and credits his academic success to the educators who uplifted him as a young immigrant. His eagerness to support the diverse students of GCC to ensure they accomplish their full potential is honorable. Students have and will continue to benefit from his leadership.” Mrs. Portillo-Rabinov is a longtime resident and activist in Glendale and La Crescenta. She has served in many public and private roles working to help benefit transportation in our crowded city. She has worked to update the facilities of GCC to ensure our students have the best campus possible. Taline Arsenian shares, “Desiree is committed to quality educators, state of the art programs, and effective curriculum to ensure all students have equal access and opportunities to meet their academic goals. We are excited to support her reelection and know her leadership will continue to benefit GCC students and staff.”

###