



May 14, 2010

Dear Letters Editor,

The League of Women Voters, The Latino Network, The Group, The NAACP, The Pick Group and The Raincross Group were pleased and honored to sponsor three candidate forums for the upcoming June election.

However, we take exception to District Attorney Rod Pacheco's statement concerning his refusal to participate in the candidate forum for Riverside County District Attorney. (*Pacheco a Fourth Time No Show 5/12/10*)

His assertion that the League of Women Voters was used as a "vehicle" by certain sponsors who opposed to the 2007 gang injunction has no basis in fact.

None of the forums' sponsoring groups have taken a position for or against the injunction. There have been no published opinions, public speeches or organized protests against the injunction in any manner by any of the sponsorship groups.

Our partnership was formed to illustrate our community's broad-based interest in the candidates views. Our diversity did not threaten, but reinforced, our commitment to provide non-partisan voter education and encourage all citizens to participate in the upcoming election.

We held forums for RCOE Superintendent, Riverside County DA, and Riverside County Sheriff. Mr. Pacheco was the only candidate who did not participate. His absence denied voters the opportunity to clearly contrast DA candidates' priorities by hearing answers to the same questions, by both candidates, in an open setting.

We thank all the incumbents and candidates who took time to participate in these forums and regret Mr. Pacheco's decision not to participate in this fundamental part of our democratic process.

Joan Donahue, President, League of Women Voters of Northwest Riverside County  
Jennifer Vaughn-Blakely, Chair, The Group  
Art Alcaraz, President, The Latino Network  
Woodie Rucker-Hughes, President, NAACP Riverside Branch  
Damien O'Farrell, President, The Pick Group  
Tom Donahue, President, The Raincross Group