

**Regents District 4**— Northeast Clark County

2024 Candidates: Aaron Bautista, Richard Carrillo, Tonia Holmes-Sutton, Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr. (Incumbent), Shawn Stamper

| Question                 | Aaron Bautista                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Richard Carrillo | Tonia Holmes-Sutton                                                                                                                                                     | Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr. (Incumbent) | Shawn Stamper |
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| City Address             | Las Vegas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                  | Las Vegas                                                                                                                                                               |                                            |               |
| Email Address            | aaronbward3lv@gmail.com                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                  | holmessutton4nv@gmail.com                                                                                                                                               |                                            |               |
| Campaign Website         | aaronbfornevada.com                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                  | <a href="https://www.toniaholmessutton.org">https://www.toniaholmessutton.org</a>                                                                                       |                                            |               |
| Any notable endorsements | Nothing official as of now aside from motivational speaker & #8 ranked light heavyweight UFC fighter Khalil Rountree, but I do have support from State Assemblywoman Erica Mosca and State Senator Edgar Flores, they are who encouraged me to run for Regent. In addition, I have support from State Assemblymen Reuben D’Silva & Max Carter, plus County Commissioner Tick Segerbloom & City Councilwoman Olivia Diaz, both told me to call if I need help with anything. |                  | Veterans In Politics International (VIPI), Nevada Democratic Veterans and Military Families Caucus (NV Dem Vets), Nevada Veterans Association, and Armed Forces Chamber |                                            |               |

| Question               | Aaron Bautista                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Richard Carrillo | Tonia Holmes-Sutton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr. (Incumbent) | Shawn Stamper |
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|                        | <p>Currently, I am still filling out questionnaires and attending endorsement interviews, but in a previous election I received an A grade from the NV Democratic Education Caucus, was a Moms Demand Action Gun Sense Candidate and had an Honorable Mention from PLAN Action.</p> |                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                            |               |
| Educational background | <p>I hold a Master's Degree in Special Education from Grand Canyon University, a Bachelors In Public Administration from Nevada State University, and an Associates of Art from CSN.</p>                                                                                            |                  | <p>Doctorate of Education, Educational Leadership, UNLV<br/> National Board Certification, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards<br/> Masters of Education, Special Education, UNLV<br/> Teaching Certification, UNLV<br/> Bachelors of Arts, Social Sciences, Hawaii Loa College<br/> Regents High School Diploma, New York</p> |                                            |               |

| Question                           | Aaron Bautista                                                                                                                                                                                            | Richard Carrillo | Tonia Holmes-Sutton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Donald Sylvantee<br>McMichael Sr.<br>(Incumbent) | Shawn Stamper |
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| Current profession/employment      | I am currently a special education teacher at Mater Academy.                                                                                                                                              |                  | Educational Consultant and Leader, State and National                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                  |               |
| Professional/employment background | I have been a teacher for 9 years now, but prior to that I worked for a telecom company called Vital Communications for 6 years as a Warehouse Manager. Before that, I worked in retail at various malls. |                  | I am a National Board Certified Teacher(NBCT). I have served as an educational leader within and outside of the classroom for more than twenty years. I am an educator, leader, and advocate, leading and serving in Clark County as well as throughout Nevada. I engage and empower students, teachers, and leaders in my diverse leadership capacities in local and national networks as well as through state and national Board leadership service. |                                                  |               |

| Question                                     | Aaron Bautista                                                                                                                                                                | Richard Carrillo | Tonia Holmes-Sutton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr. (Incumbent) | Shawn Stamper |
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| Past elected offices or other public service | I'm currently on the Neighborhood Partners Fund board for the City of Las Vegas, and the For Our Future East Las Vegas board, appointed by Councilwoman Olivia Diaz for both. |                  | <p><b>Nevada State Public Charter School Authority Board, Chair</b><br/>Las Vegas, Nevada<br/>Department of Education<br/>Appointed Board Member (2019–Present)</p> <p><b>National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Board of Directors</b> Washington, D.C. Elected Board Director (2016-Present)</p> <p><b>WestEd Board of Directors, Southwest Regional Educational Laboratory</b> San Francisco, California<br/>Nevada State Board of Education<br/>Appointed Board Director (2015 – Present)</p> <p><b>National Teachers Hall of Fame Board of Trustees</b><br/>Emporia, Kansas Elected Board Trustee (2018-2023)</p> <p><b>Nevada State Board of Education</b></p> |                                            |               |

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|          |                |                  | <p>Las Vegas, Nevada<br/>Governor-Appointed Board<br/>Member (2014–2019)<br/><i>Committee Leadership<br/>Service</i></p> <p><b>Nevada Institute on<br/>Teaching and Education<br/>Preparation Advisory<br/>Board</b> Member, Las<br/>Vegas, Nevada; University<br/>of Nevada, Las Vegas<br/>College of Education</p> <p><b>National Board for<br/>Professional Teaching<br/>Standards</b>, Arlington, VA;<br/><i>Audit Committee Member,<br/>Nominating Committee<br/>Member, Policy &amp;<br/>Advocacy Committee<br/>Member; Resource<br/>Development Committee<br/>Member; Executive<br/>Leadership Committee<br/>Member</i></p> <p><b>WestEd</b>, San Francisco,<br/>California<br/><i>Human Resources and<br/>Institutional Development<br/>Committee Member,<br/>(Vice-Chair, Chair);</i></p> |                                                  |               |

| Question                                                            | Aaron Bautista                                                                                                                                                                                        | Richard Carrillo | Tonia Holmes-Sutton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Donald Sylvantee<br>McMichael Sr.<br>(Incumbent) | Shawn Stamper |
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|                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                  | <p><i>Management Committee Member (Vice-Chair); CEO Performance &amp; Compensation Committee, Executive Leadership Committee (Vice Chair)</i></p> <p><b>Accountability ESSA Workgroup Committee</b><br/>Nevada Department of Education</p> <p><b>School Performance Accountability Advisory Committee</b><br/>Nevada Department of Education</p> <p><b>State Improvement Planning Committee</b><br/>Nevada Department of Education</p> |                                                  |               |
| Briefly, why are you running for the Board of Regents at this time? | I am running for Board of Regents because I want to improve education and improve my community. As a special education teacher, I'm constantly fighting for my students and families, now I'd like to |                  | I am committed to leveraging my leadership experience as a state and national education leader to inform, influence, and impact education for all Nevadans. I have led and served at the                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                  |               |

| Question                                                                                                   | Aaron Bautista                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Richard Carrillo | Tonia Holmes-Sutton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr. (Incumbent) | Shawn Stamper |
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|                                                                                                            | fight for a better future for them.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                  | local, state, and national levels in diverse and dynamic capacities, advocating for equity, access, diversity, inclusion, and belonging – and I humbly seek do so, if elected as Board Regent for District 4.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                            |               |
| What are your three highest priorities for the Board of Regents and the Nevada System of Higher Education? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase access &amp; affordability</li> <li>2. Better the teacher pipeline</li> <li>3. Improve the learning &amp; working environment by making it safer, more inclusive, &amp; mental health friendly.</li> </ol> |                  | <p><b>1) Equitable Access to Education</b><br/>I am committed to making higher education accessible to all students, irrespective of their background or financial status. I am dedicated to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the university system, ensuring fair representation and opportunities for all.</p> <p><b>2) Student and Faculty Well-being and Mental Health</b><br/>I advocate for the continued development of student support services, mental health resources</p> |                                            |               |

| Question                                                                      | Aaron Bautista                                                                                                                                                       | Richard Carrillo | Tonia Holmes-Sutton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr. (Incumbent) | Shawn Stamper |
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|                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                      |                  | <p>for both students and faculty, and comprehensive, academic advising to foster student achievement throughout their educational journey.</p> <p><b>3) Communication and Collaboration</b><br/>I support fostering communication and collaboration across the various tiers of public education in our state, thereby reinforcing the PK-16 educational continuum for all Nevadans.</p> |                                            |               |
| <p>From your perspective, what is the role of higher education in Nevada?</p> | <p>For me there's two roles, to improve the outlook of the state by educating students, and to improve the future of the student, also by educating the student.</p> |                  | <p>I am committed to the advancement of higher education, recognizing the significant role that education plays in fostering an informed, innovative society and maintaining a competitive edge within the global community. Investing in our universities, colleges, and research institutions - encouraging research and</p>                                                           |                                            |               |



| Question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Aaron Bautista                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Richard Carrillo | Tonia Holmes-Sutton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr. (Incumbent) | Shawn Stamper |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                  | <p>development, and attracting top-tier faculty is of critical importance.</p> <p>Education is ongoing endeavor that enriches our lives and our communities.</p> <p>Furthermore, higher education is a driver of economic growth, providing our learners, our workforce with advanced skills and knowledge; allowing us to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and job creation across various industries.</p> |                                            |               |
| <p>The Board of Regents oversees two comprehensive universities, a four-year state university, four community colleges, and a research institute. Given limited resources, how would you balance the needs and allocate resources for the various institutions of NSHE?</p> | <p>I would balance by looking at equity. I would see where there are disadvantages, and those disadvantages would have to be accounted for. Students and faculty should never be at a disadvantage when going to a certain university or college, and resources must be distributed based</p> |                  | <p>I am deeply committed to the equitable distribution of resources among our institutions of higher education. Given that resources are significantly limited, it is imperative that we consider the resource allocation process with a strategic and balanced mindset. We must ensure that resources are</p>                                                                                                  |                                            |               |

| Question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Aaron Bautista                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Richard Carrillo | Tonia Holmes-Sutton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr. (Incumbent) | Shawn Stamper |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>on that. We must make sure when analyzing distribution, we are looking at factors such as economic situations of students, facilities, language, support systems etc. because certain factors might call for more resources.</p>                                                                                                                                                                           |                  | <p>apportioned in a way that promotes the success of our diverse institutions. I advocate for collaborative engagement of leaders to make the best-informed decisions as a collective to best serve the needs of all of our institutions and leaders and learners.</p>                                                                                                                                                                   |                                            |               |
| <p>The Board of Regents and Nevada System of Higher Education have been in the news lately and over many years for conflicts among and between Regents, the Chancellor, campus Presidents, and the Legislature. How would you address those issues?</p> | <p>I think there should be a public oversight/conflict resolution committee that helps resolve conflict and issues that might arise between the different parties. The regents, chancellor, campus presidents, and legislature are all supposed to be serving the people, not special interest, not personal beliefs. When they fail to do that, the people should be able to have a say in what is going</p> |                  | <p>I believe in fostering a collaborative and respectful environment. It is critically imperative that we address and resolve conflicts that arise among the Regents, the Chancellor, campus Presidents, and the Legislature.</p> <p>Conflicts, unaddressed, can negatively impact our educational system and impede progress towards equity, access, and successful engagement for all students. I would propose and advocate for a</p> |                                            |               |

| Question                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Aaron Bautista                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Richard Carrillo | Tonia Holmes-Sutton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr. (Incumbent) | Shawn Stamper |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | to happen to ensure no one is acting on special interest, but for what's truly better for the students and community.                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                  | resolution framework based on transparency, mutual respect, and shared goals – emphasizing and prioritizing open dialogue/communication, mediation and conflict resolution, shared vision, and legislative support to transform conflicts into opportunities for growth, innovation to more effectively address present and persisting challenges and to establish a foundation for collective, collaborative leadership. |                                            |               |
| What are your thoughts about collective bargaining for NSHE professional employees? Specifically, do you support or oppose legislation for collective bargaining rights for NSHE professional employees in statute? | I am a fan of collective bargaining because it gives power to the workers. As a teacher and actor who has been a member of both the CCEA and SAG, I like that there is someone looking out for me and negotiating the best pay and benefits on my behalf. It ensures no one is getting underpaid and being taken advantage |                  | I support legislation that would grant collective bargaining rights to NSHE professional employees. The ability to negotiate terms and conditions of employment is a fundamental right that should be extended to all workers, including those in higher education. By doing so, we uphold the dignity and respect necessary to provide a high-quality                                                                    |                                            |               |

| Question                                                                                                | Aaron Bautista                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Richard Carrillo | Tonia Holmes-Sutton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr. (Incumbent) | Shawn Stamper |
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|                                                                                                         | <p>of. So yes, I would support legislation for collective bargaining rights for NSHE professional employees in the statute.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                  | <p>education to our students and ensure that our educators are treated equitably and with the fairness they deserve. Collective bargaining is not only about fairness and equity, but also about improving institutional efficiency and student outcomes.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                            |               |
| <p>In the wake of the December 6th tragedy at UNLV, how would you propose to improve campus safety?</p> | <p>Currently, I know there is increased security between certain hours, but its only temporary. I would like to make that more permanent. I also would like to see more use of access/proximity cards, fobs, or a rebel card to get into buildings, that would keep people out of buildings who aren't supposed to be in there, or perhaps some sort of verification or check in system like some buildings already have. That way the campus is still an open</p> |                  | <p>Campus security is a prioritized and shared responsibility. Committed to the safety and well-being of our students, faculty, staff, and community, I would propose and advocate for advanced security systems and emergency stations for immediate incident response, increased review, and engagement of campus police patrols to ensure constant availability, and extensive safety programs.</p> <p>I would also propose and advocate for enhanced</p> |                                            |               |

| Question                                                                                                                                                          | Aaron Bautista                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Richard Carrillo | Tonia Holmes-Sutton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr. (Incumbent) | Shawn Stamper |
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|                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>campus, but we know who is in what building and the business they have being in there.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                  | <p>mental health services to support a safe learning environment; strengthened ties with local law enforcement and community collaboration and partnership for unified safety efforts, and regular evaluation to mitigate campus risks.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                            |               |
| <p>Would you support or oppose a policy to regulate discussion of or teaching about topics such as Critical Race Theory and gender identity on NSHE campuses?</p> | <p>I would oppose a policy to regulate discussion or teaching about topics such as critical race theory or gender identity because reality is reality and inequity and gender dysphoria exist. These are things that need to be talked about because people face challenges or are discriminated against because of them.</p> |                  | <p>As an advocate for educational excellence and academic freedom, I believe in fostering an environment on NSHE campuses where a diverse range of ideas and perspectives can be discussed and explored with respect. It is essential that our academic institutions remain places of learning and growth, where students and faculty are encouraged to engage in critical thinking and open dialogue. I would not support policy to regulate discussion of or teaching about topics such as CRT (Critical Race Theory) and</p> |                                            |               |

| Question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Aaron Bautista                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Richard Carrillo | Tonia Holmes-Sutton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr. (Incumbent) | Shawn Stamper |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                  | gender identity.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                            |               |
| <p>What is your view of NSHE governance? Should the Board of Regents concern itself with the internal operations of the eight NSHE institutions, or else should the Board simply hire the Presidents and let them run the institutions?</p> | <p>I believe the Board of Regents should not concern itself with the internal operations of the eight NSHE institutions. I think the Board of Regents should provide oversight and accountability, but the school presidents should run the schools. Certain people are better for certain schools and what works at one school, might not work at another. Having a president can ensure each school is ready to handle their own unique challenges. Having the Board of Regents handling internal operation gives them a lot of power.</p> |                  | <p>I strongly believe that the governance of our NSHE institutions is critically important. It is essential for the Board to provide strategic direction and ensure accountability, as well as establish a delicate balance between oversight and institutional autonomy. I advocate for a collaborative approach whereby the Board of Regents actively engages with institutional leaders in recognition of and respect for the leadership and the uniqueness of each institution.</p> <p>The Board of Regents should concern itself with the internal operations of NSHE institutions as effective, responsible</p> |                                            |               |

| Question | Aaron Bautista | Richard Carrillo | Tonia Holmes-Sutton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr. (Incumbent) | Shawn Stamper |
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|          |                |                  | <p>governance requires transparency, fiscal responsibility, and alignment with state priorities. And the Board, in its leadership commitment and responsibilities, should identify, recruit, and hire highly competent, effective, visionary leaders and empower them to lead and make decisions that foster, cultivate, and enhance student learning and lived/life experiences and advance institutional goals. Respecting and honoring the Presidents' leadership, without micromanaging, the Board of Regents should work together to set and communicate clear expectations, evaluate performance, and provide support to facilitate successful, effective, impactful leadership.</p> |                                            |               |

| Question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Aaron Bautista                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Richard Carrillo | Tonia Holmes-Sutton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr. (Incumbent) | Shawn Stamper |
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| <p>Recently, a search for Chancellor ended with no hire and an appointment of an Interim Chancellor. What steps would you recommend to create a transparent and successful process for hiring a highly qualified candidate for Chancellor?</p> | <p>The steps that I would recommend is to make sure all stake holders are on the same page as to what they are looking for in terms of criteria, with that, there needs to be very good communication between all parties. There was a big Chancellor search, and it was narrowed down to 3 favorites with Dr. Drake being the favorite but not everyone wanted him to be it. It makes me wonder how did the search get so far when so many people had concerns about experience? Communication leads to a lot more transparency. There should have been more people involved in narrowing down the list of candidates, and perhaps surveys could have been sent out to advisory members of the various colleges and universities to get opinions on specific candidates for the board to consider. This would've</p> |                  | <p>In commitment to ensuring that the process of hiring a highly qualified candidate Chancellor is conducted with the utmost transparency and integrity, my recommendations and advocacy for a successful hiring process would include establishing a diverse, representative search committee; defining clear qualifications and criteria that align with our educational goals and shared values; enlisting community engagement (hold public forums and surveys); committing to and fostering open communication (updating the community on the process); and conducting thorough vetting to assess the qualifications of each candidate.</p> <p>Additionally, we must prioritize educational excellence - focusing on proven track records of enhancing educational quality and student</p> |                                            |               |



| Question                                                                                                                                                                         | Aaron Bautista                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Richard Carrillo | Tonia Holmes-Sutton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr. (Incumbent) | Shawn Stamper |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                  | saved time, money, and there'd be a Chancellor.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                  | success. And we must commit to equity to ensure that the process actively seeks and gives fair consideration to candidates from underrepresented groups.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                            |               |
| A proposed constitutional amendment to remove the Board of Regents from the Nevada Constitution is on the ballot this November. What is your position on the proposed amendment? | My position on the amendment to remove the Board of Regents is that I am against it. Removing the Board of Regents takes away accountability from the colleges and universities. The Board of Regents along with chancellor, president, legislature all almost work like check and balances for each other and removing the Board of Regents would mean there isn't a body to regulate what colleges do. However, one thing the Board of Regents should not do or regulate is academic freedom. I know there are concerns with Board of Regents limiting what can and can't be taught, as we've seen in |                  | Passionately committed to higher education in Nevada, I stand firmly against the proposed constitutional amendment to remove the Board of Regents from the Nevada Constitution. The Board of Regents plays a critical role in overseeing our public institutions of higher education, ensuring they serve the educational needs of our students and the broader community effectively. Removing the Board of Regents' constitutional status risks introducing instability and uncertainty at a time when consistent leadership is needed to navigate the challenges facing higher |                                            |               |

| Question                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Aaron Bautista                                                                                                                                                                         | Richard Carrillo | Tonia Holmes-Sutton | Donald Sylvantee<br>McMichael Sr.<br>(Incumbent) | Shawn Stamper |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | other states, but I believe in academic freedom and what is being taught in current curriculums, and if we limit academic freedoms, then I don't believe teachers can be as effective. |                  |                     |                                                  |               |
| If elected to the Board of Regents, do you pledge to uphold the principles of academic freedom and tenure as expressed in the AAUP/AACU <a href="#">1940 Statement of Principles of Academic Freedom and Tenure</a> ? (Choose one) | <b>Yes absolutely.</b>                                                                                                                                                                 |                  | Yes                 |                                                  |               |