



# BEVERLY HILLS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

*Educational Employees Working Together*

---

Web: BHEA.org

241 Moreno Drive, Beverly Hills CA 90212

Phone: (310) 277-9364

Oct. 15, 2007

Letter to Editor of Beverly Hills *Weekly*:

With our school board election upon us, I'd like to make two comments. First, elections are open to all citizens. They're the heart of our democracy. I encourage all registered voters to vote on Nov. 6. If you're not registered, you have until Oct. 22 to do so.

Second, the *Weekly's* Rudy Cole and others have implied recently that relative newcomers to Beverly Hills are somehow less viable political candidates than long-term residents—ostensibly because newcomers don't have a "following." I strongly disagree with this sentiment. Candidates build followings with their political campaigns, apart from their longevity. We, as a community, desire robust discussion of the issues during campaigns and ample choice when we elect our local politicians. We should appreciate and encourage as many residents as possible to run for office. A person's ability to understand and develop opinions on educational issues is not a function of one's home address. To criticize a candidate for his or her *decision* to run for office—as opposed to criticizing a particular position on an issue—smacks of elitism and runs counter to America's democratic principles. Thank you, Mr. Brian Goldberg, for having the desire, courage, stamina, and passion to want to give back to Beverly Hills and improve our schools by running for a seat on the school board. The Beverly Hills Education Association, representing over 300 teachers, enthusiastically supports both your right to run for office and your views on the issues. Good luck on Nov. 6!

Christopher Bushée  
Beverly Hills Education Association