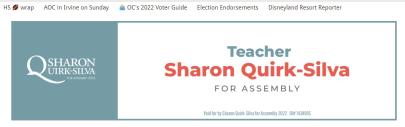
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# Endorsement: Arnel Dino and Oscar Valadez for Fullerton City Council









Fullerton City Hall.

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD | opinion@scng.com | PUBLISHED: October 6, 2022 at 5:52 a.m. | UPDATED: October 12, 2022 at 4:17 p.m.

> Fullerton voters in City Council Districts 3 and 5 this November get to choose among three candidates in each race. We are endorsing Arnel Dino in District 3 and Oscar Valadez in District 5. We like it that both have real-world experience in business, not just in government. They understand what regular people and businesses go through having to put up with high taxes and too much government regulation.

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Such experience especially will be useful as the coming national recession hits Fullerton. Tough

Dino is a businessman who has lived in Fullerton 40 years. He currently serves as vice chair of the city Planning Commission and was on the city's Infrastructure and Natural Resources Committee, among several other positions. For civic actions, he serves as a board member of the Boys and



"One of my priorities would be to find ways we can attract new businesses to the city," he told us. Another priority is "to address the infrastructure in the city so that more roads, sewers, and sidewalks can be fixed."

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Valadez was born and raised in District 5 and has lived there 50 years. A Stanford grad, he currently is a commissioner with the Orange County Transportation Authority and a construction supervisor. He described himself to us "as a trusted housing provider with 25 years of experience navigating our cities, and public servant for Orange County families. My community is calling upon leaders like me to solve our housing crisis."

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He promised he would "listen and work with all Fullerton families and businesses."

Their business acumen will be needed because the city suffers an unrestricted net deficit of \$190 million, according to its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. That's \$1,347 per capita. Or \$5,388 for a family of four. It's fifth worst among Orange County's 34 cities. The culprit is excessive pension debt. As the ACFR warned, "the city's current revenue sources have not kept pace with its operating/pension expenses."

Although not as bad as San Bernardino and Stockton's deficits were when they went bankrupt during the last recession, that deficit is well into the danger zone. Reducing it without raising taxes must

be Dino and Valadez' first priority on the council.



#### Sourcing & Methodology

To help you make decisions about the numerous candidates, measures, propositions and other races on your ballot, our editorial board (made up of opinion writers and editors), makes recommendations every election. The process is completely separate from newsroom reporting and journalists. With the exception of our executive editor, the members of our editorial board are not news reporters or editors.

<u>Sal Rodriguez</u>, the opinion editor for the Southern California News Group's 11 newspapers, heads the editorial board and guides our stances on public policy and political matters.

Every week, our team analyzes legislation, monitors political developments, interviews elected officials or policy advocates and writes editorials on the issues of the day. Unsigned editorials reflect the consensus of our editorial board, with the aim of offering arguments that are empirically sound and intellectually consistent.

We apply this same process when considering to endorse candidates.

As a practical matter, we are selective in which races we endorse in. We endorse on all statewide ballot measures, competitive congressional races, select races for the state legislature and select countywide and city elections.

We identify credible candidates through surveys and interviews, deliberate based on our editorial precedent and in light of contemporary realities, and issue endorsements accordingly.



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Paid for by Sharon Quirk-Silva for Assembly 2022 ID# 1434995

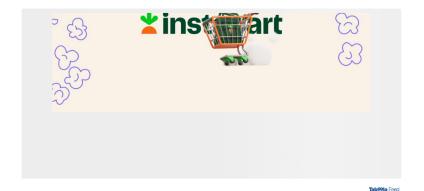
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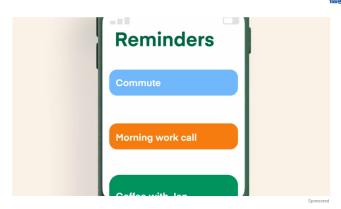
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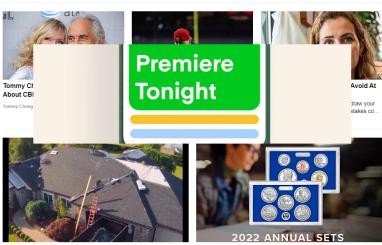


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