

CFA Resolution on Strategic Planning for Post-Election Contingencies
October 13, 2020

WHEREAS, electoral seasons are often highly contentious periods, particularly every four years when presidential elections occur; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 election is even more tense coming in the midst of the global coronavirus pandemic, economic recession, and nationwide uprisings against anti-Black police violence; and

WHEREAS, public health officials have [expressed concerns](#) about large groups of people congregating together to vote, which has led cities, counties, and states to expand the use of vote-by-mail to lessen the possible spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, President Trump has [condemned the use of mail-in ballots](#), claiming they are prone to “voter fraud”, despite [election officials disputing these claims](#); and

WHEREAS, the President has repeatedly [refused to commit to accepting](#) the outcome of the election due to the use of vote-by-mail, leading many to fear a possible constitutional crisis, or worse; and

WHEREAS, armed militias and white supremacists whom the President himself has told to “[stand by](#)”, have vowed to use intimidation, bullying, and violent tactics to monitor polling places to stop alleged “voter fraud”; and

WHEREAS, in the case of a close or contested election, final vote tallies will not be known on Election Night, and therefore it may take time to know who legitimately prevailed; and

WHEREAS, any attempt by either party to prematurely announce a winner before all the votes have been counted could lead to nationwide confusion, turmoil, and violence; and

WHEREAS, [labor unions](#), community organizations, and progressive groups have formed coalitions to plan for [post-election contingencies](#) in the event that attempts to defraud the vote count intensify or violence occurs; and

WHEREAS, these coalitions led by [SURJ](#), [Holding the Line](#), and the [People’s Strike](#) have committed to engage in various actions to deny all legitimacy to anyone taking power before all votes are counted and an actual winner is declared; and

WHEREAS, although the California Faculty Association (CFA) is a statewide union that primarily focuses its political work and action on local and statewide initiatives and campaigns, we are also a union committed to antiracism and social justice that stands firmly against all forms of racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, economic exploitation, and threats to democratic systems of governance; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the CFA fully endorses and will participate in the organizing work being done by the coalition of unions, community organizations, and progressive groups to demand all votes be counted and to defend democracy; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the CFA will educate and encourage the membership to begin organizing post-election contingency plans throughout the state of California to support students, faculty, and community members who may engage in protests against attempts to discredit or steal the election; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the CFA will affiliate and work with the coalition organized by SURJ and other community organizations strategically planning for post-election contingencies across the state of California.

Adopted by the CFA Council of Chapter Presidents
October 13, 2020