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Dear Orange County Voter:

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I served on the Orange Unified Legislative Coalition with Larry Cohn. Larry was the president of the group during a politically volatile time. The Governor had several referenda on the ballot related to schools and education, which were largely opposed by the educational establishment statewide. However, locally these referenda had substantially more support. This made for a very partisan atmosphere at most of the meetings.

Such a highly charged environment can be very difficult to operate in. With emotions running high, the job of leadership is made substantially more difficult. I was impressed by Larry's steady hand during the 2005-2006 election season. Not only was Larry Cohn able to effectively lead the Legislative Coalition during this time, he also made efforts to get the political players together for a community forum and debate. He was able to put together a well-represented debate team for each side on several of the most important ballot referenda. Not only was this effective for the members of the legislative coalition in gathering information for their constituents, it also helped community members gather information to help them make their voting decisions.

Given the amount of partisan pressure that was brought to bear during the 2005 election, I was surprised that Larry Cohn was able to continue to maintain an objective point of view. Larry's ability to lead and be effective is greatly enhanced by his ability to stay above the politics of a given situation. Larry Cohn's seemed most interested in gathering information and helping the Legislative Coalition come to some kind of consensus on the issues that were on the ballot.

I support Larry's effort to seek the position of trustee, because he avoided the political pitfalls of a heavily contested election. By helping the Legislative Coalition gain information from objective and subjective sources, we were able to maintain our focus on our mission. The OUSD was well served by Larry Cohn's efforts on the Legislative Coalition and would benefit from his trusteeship.

Larry Cohn's campaign slogan, "Common Sense, Uncommon Commitment" is very representative of the type of trustee that Larry Cohn will be. Some real common sense and real commitment are rare commodities in my experience. Supporters of the OUSD will not be disappointed as I am convinced that Larry will bring these traits to bear upon the trustee position

Yours very truly,

Anthony Watson
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