

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Former California State Librarians Gary Strong and Kevin Starr Endorse John McGinnis for Long Beach USD School Board

LONG BEACH, CA (October 7, 2009) – Today two former California State Librarians endorsed John McGinnis in his bid for a seat on the Long Beach USD Board of Education. Gary Strong served as State Librarian from 1980 to 1994. Kevin Starr served as State Librarian from 1994 to 2004. Both worked with John McGinnis on statewide projects affecting education and libraries.

Gary Strong's career spans more than 30 years as a librarian and library administrator. After leaving the State Library, he served as the director of the Queens Borough Public Library until 2003. Since 2003, he has served as the UCLA University Librarian. Currently he is the Director Emeritus of the California State Library Foundation, which he founded. He has served as a consultant and advisor to the Library of Congress.

Kevin Starr, an American historian, is nationally known for his series of volumes on the history of California called "America and the California Dream." He is now University Professor and Professor of History at the University of Southern California. In addition to being a professor and lecturer at UC Berkeley, UC Davis, Santa Clara University and Stanford University, Dr. Starr served as the Director of the San Francisco Public Library. Upon his retirement as California State Librarian, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger named him State Librarian Emeritus.

McGinnis worked with both state librarians in the creation of the School Library Consultant position at the California Department of Education (CDE). This position has provided statewide leadership for school libraries since 1994. He also worked with both state librarians in the planning and creation of the Library of California, which established a network for public, school, academic and special libraries to share resources.

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