



KPFT 2015 LISTENER CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

ALL BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 4, 2015.

You may cast your ballot by returning the enclosed ballot in the mail or cast your ballot online.

VOTE ONLINE

<https://pacifica.simplyvoting.com>

In order for quorum to be met (10%), approximately 611 votes need to be returned. For more information about the candidates, the campaign schedule and more, visit the official campaign website at elections.pacifica.org

LISTENER CANDIDATES

Ira Aghai
Dean Torres
Ted Weisgal
Susan Radwan
Larry Snellings

Don Cook
Anisa Faruqi
Teresa J. Allen
Susie Moreno
Bill Crosier

Kevin White
Gerard (Jerry) Lynch
Randall S. Tousley
Deborah Shafto

Para leer las declaraciones de los candidatos, las instrucciones de como votar y para elegir su voto en español, visite el sitio <https://pacifica.simplyvoting.com>

DISCLAIMER: Opinions and facts in the Candidate Statements belong to the author of the statement only and should not be assumed to be true or to reflect the editorial stance or policy of the Pacifica Foundation or the opinions of its management, the Pacifica National Board, the Local Station Boards, the staff of the stations or the other listener members.

IRA AGHAI

My name is Ira Aghai. I have advocated listener-supported radio since I was in high school and was a community dj at a local university's radio station when I was in college. Now, as a young adult I would like to give back in a way that's most effective and beneficial to KPFT's success. Why Me: Passion & Skills - We all share the same enthusiasm for the platform KPFT provides for unique and independent thoughts, ideas and music. However, KPFT requires hard work and at times creative thinking in order to keep the station on-air and thriving. I believe the skills I've developed as an attorney and through my experience as an analyst at a local investment firm will be very helpful to achieving both of those fundamental requirements for KPFT's success. I kindly ask for your support and vote in electing me as a member of the KPFT board. Very sincerely, Ira Aghai P.S. To know more about me in order to better assess my potential as a local station board member, please feel free to contact me at ira.aghai@gmail.com or (713) 371-6320. If the voter materials do not supply our contact information

TERESA ALLEN

I've served on KPFT LSB since 2002, especially active on local Outreach and Development committees and on National Archives, Personnel, Affiliates, Coordinating and Elections Committees. Radio is an invaluable community resource. The Pacifica Mission promotes educating, training, entertaining, encouraging dialogue and certainly empowering people in community. I am motivated by Lew Hill's words, "As long as I can communicate, I can create and as long as I can create I am free," and a belief that an informed citizenry is essential to democracy. News and public affairs beyond sound-bytes and untainted by corporate influence is our challenge and our joy. We must help people dialogue, perform critical analysis, educate themselves and interact in community-- outside of strained civic structures. In Putnam's Bowling Alone, he shows that people in community participate, communicate and trust less than ever-- an unhealthy, disempowering isolation. Our KPFT goal is to encourage such opportunities for cooperation, interaction, service... I assume good intentions when working with people, while maintaining a healthy skepticism. I seek out problem-solvers, team players who understand board responsibilities and those with the professional expertise as well as broad range of talents to accomplish goals. Thanks for your #1 vote.

DON COOK

I am Don Cook, and I hope to return to the KPFT Local Station Board. I am glad that elections have once again resumed. As an advocate of radical democracy I am appalled by its unscheduled delay. Hurricane Ike knocked us off the air while I was gone, and we suffered the effects of the Great Recession. Ike cut our broadcast radius and reduced our listener pool and listener membership. The recession discouraged listener support of KPFT by the listeners Ike left us, Our broadcast radius is still reduced, and our revenues have not gone back up although the nation has largely recovered from the slump. Our loyal but aging demographic of listeners and staff accounts for a reduction in listener membership too. We must further explore the internet and social media as a means of drawing youth to KPFT and the no-longer-hip medium of radio to increase and replace our membership and our leadership. Ask me about greater democracy on the LSB and the reductions of conflict of interest by changing governance architecture. 713-705-5594 zenblews@hotmail.com

BILL CROSIER

I believe strongly in the Pacifica mission, feel it's critical that we continue to broadcast programming that other stations refuse to let people hear, and believe KPFT is needed even more today than when it first went on the air over 40 years ago. But we need to fix some serious problems with our governance that are preventing us from fulfilling our mission. KPFT has been paying its bills, but Pacifica has growing, significant debt and is in deep financial trouble, with boards at each station that seem unable or unwilling to do much about it other than talk. We must do more than just find fault and blame people. Board members must work together with others at

KPFT to solve problems and help KPFT grow. Please go to the Pacifica in Exile web site at pacificainexile.org to learn why Pacifica is in crisis and why changes to our boards and Bylaws are needed so KPFT and Pacifica can survive. Please support candidates who understand they need to be leaders, and that their role is not to just complain, but to work to help KPFT!

ANISA FARUQI

My name is Anisa Faruqi. I'm a native Houstonian from Spring Branch. I have spent all my life in Houston. I graduated from Memorial High School and went to Houston Community College. I'm second generation Pakistani-American, and am working towards becoming ASL/Spanish trilingual. I'm very active in my community, through my work in the Houston Progressive Alliance and my work on the CAB. KPFT is working to attract more high schoolers, and college students, and I can help. If elected I want to give a voice to "my" people. My people are the teenagers and twenty somethings living off of coffee and Ramen working for little or no pay. We depend on this radio station. Not only to keep us informed but to keep us awake and alert while we're studying. "Studying" as defined as up all night last minute cramming, with the radio blasting and a cup of coffee in our hands. I am a HUMONGOUS Sci-fi fangirl who LOVES karaoke, improv, and cosplay. I want others like me to express themselves as well as to introduce these interests to others. As a board member, it's my job to play the upbeat music that heals the heartbroken.

GERARD LYNCH

I, Gerard Lynch, am a proud listener and an occasional speaker on KPFT for 35 years. I bring a fresh perspective from my over 30 years running a viable law practice with experience in marketing, managing employees and adapting to changing business opportunities. Though oriented to helping poor immigrants and impoverished disability clients, law office economic viability is necessary to accomplish goals for myself and my clients. Similarly economic viability is necessary for KPFT. We must avoid the downward spiral of a declining audience necessitating ever increasing fund drives causing even more casual listeners to switch stations. KPFT radio like other old media has a perhaps near existential challenge in responding to new technology in which individuals can broadcast directly to smartphone users, which now includes many of my very poor disability clients. Democracy Now, a big money raiser, is available to many 24/7 on their phones and not just on Pacifica. As an activist since the Vietnam War I value Progressive Media in contesting the billionaire class with their endless wars and looming environmental catastrophe. Black Lives Matter, Bernie, The Dreamers, Pope Francis etc. feels like a new progressive era which KPFT can both promote and benefit from.

SUSIE MORENO

Hi, this is Susie Moreno I have served on the KPFT Station board for four years. During that time I have been an active member in service to KPFT listeners, programmers and all those who support Pacifica's Mission. I have also been a listener member for many years. My professional background is in the health profession where I am a dedicated caregiver. I am also committed to building progressive communities and so I have volunteered with the Deplechin Children's Center where I worked with abused children, Stephen Ministries and Hospice. I have work for other organizations and have been doing community volunteer work since I was a teenager when I helped start a Junior GI Form chapter in west Texas. Many know me to be an independent thinker. I support and work to uphold the Pacifica's values on education, integrity and inclusiveness. I bring a sense of calm and pragmatic thinking to the board. I listen to my fellow board members, station members and programmers with an open ear. If elected, I will continue to lift up these values and be a voice for KPFT listeners and the greater Houston Community.

SUSAN RADWAN

My name is Susan Radwan. I am running for re-election to the KPFT local station board. I filled a vacated seat in March 2015. I discovered KPFT in the late 1970's shortly after I moved to the Houston area from North Carolina. I admire KPFT's ability to remain listener supported and it's ability to present programs of a diverse nature. If I am re-elected, I will continue to do my best to help KPFT be successful and move forward. I am currently serving on the Finance Committee that oversees the annual budget. I am also on the Governance Committee that recently drafted and proposed a change to the local bylaws, concerning attendance, that was voted on and adopted by the LSB. I am secretary for both of these committees. I believe in community service, volunteering and giving back. I spent 10 years on the Deer Park Volunteer Fire Department as an emergency medical technician. While there, I served a term on the executive board. I would really appreciate your vote to allow me to remain on the LSB and continue to serve KPFT. Thank you!

LARRY SNELLINGS

Hello. I am Larry Snellings a long time Listener and Supporter since March 1970. I am stepping up to the challenge to make this a better organization to serve the Members-the Listeners – and the Community that makes up the broad diversity that has become what KPFT is today. I have worked on other 501c non profit boards and would like the chance to help make a difference in KPFT so that my granddaughter and your grandchildren will be the next generation to listen to and benefit from 90.1 KPFT.

DEAN TORRES

Greetings. I am Dean Torres and I am excited to be a candidate for the KPFT Local Station Board. A little bit about me, I am estimating and design consultant for exterior building envelope. Which basically means that I serve as an intermediary between architects / engineers / general contractors and assist with value engineering without compromising aesthetic design or structural requirements. I have been captivated with this station since the first time I tuned in. If elected as a board member of the KPFT Local Station Board I will use my knowledge and experience with collaboration and creative thinking to help ensure that all resources invested in our station are used effectively and efficiently without compromising our overall station goals. I have worked with several Non Profits such as Habitat for Humanity, Genesis Women's Shelter, and Nexus Recovery in many capacities. As a volunteer I have learned how to manage available resources and work collaboratively with fellow volunteers. I believe my participation over the years has prepared me to make a meaningful contribution as a member of this Board.

RANDALL TOUSLEY

I am a huge art fan. I've worked for an art gallery, and have experience in three dimensional castings in bronze and aluminum. I work as a fabrication shop liaison trying to save up money so that I can go back to school and finish my education in the field of psychology. I also enjoy studying and keeping up with the psychology's field's current accomplishments and failures. Having moved so many times has given me the opportunity to work several different jobs, providing me with a wide variety of experience. Getting more listeners to become members is one of my main goals; as well as help the board by cooperating to attack difficult topics so that we can get KPFT to new glory days. Debating is needed to analyze topics of discussion that need to be worked on, but the useful effects of debating are voided when action is put on hold for too long just because of unwillingness to compromise. I have met a few of the current board members, and from what I gather they are well informed, intelligent people who I would be honored to work and learn with.

TED WEISGAL

We live in the belly of the beast. We have too many bad laws. Texas's approach to immigration and drugs comes to mind. We have politicians who advocate war over peace, fossil fuels over alternative energy, private

insurance over a single-payer system, high tuition over free college, the wealthy over the poor, and prison over rehabilitation. Politicians ignore what's in the Preamble to the Constitution. They don't pass laws that "promote the general welfare." There is no media source that is more capable of exposing them than KPFT. The KPFT Local Station Board must work with management to build this valuable resource. We are fortunate to have local programs like The Monitor, Thinkwing Radio, Eco-Ology, Connect the Dots, Coming to America, the Progressive Forum, and syndicated programs like Democracy Now, The Thom Hartmann Show, and Hightower's Commentary. But not enough people listen. That's why I helped facilitate bringing Stu Con Radio to KPFT. Hopefully, this show inspires young adults to listen. There are many ways I've served KPFT. I want to continue by rejoining the LSB. I hope I've earned your first place vote. Questions: Contact me at 281-546-6793 or ted@llu.com

KEVIN WHITE

Pacifica is undergoing dire financial hardship. To survive each station desperately needs to look deeply into its broadcast schedule and begin the difficult process of removing what is not bringing in money and promoting on the air what does. However, it's not a waste when the foundation is so close to closing its doors forever. I want to be on the Local Station Board to encourage the board to start spending their time organizing benefits for the station. The Local Station Board should be producing at least four money making projects a year to help buy the station new equipment, provide Thank You Gifts for fund drives, or maybe just take care of the station's light bill.

DEBORAH SHAFTO

I am Deborah Shafto, and I have supported the station, and served on the board and its committees for many years. It is a critical time for the world, and Pacifica can play an important part in aiding groups wanting to make changes for humanity.