

Dear Fellow Teachers of MTA & CTA,

I sent out an invitation to all the teachers in the Murrieta Valley Unified School District to post an opinion on the MTA website opinion forum, commenting that here we are in the middle of an historic Presidential race, and so many controversial propositions are on the ballot.

To my surprise, only a couple of brave souls were willing to publicly state their opinions.

I was shocked when I learned the reason.

Several people whose requests to remain anonymous will be respected let me know that they do not feel safe voicing their opinions. Others related experiences here in our district in which they were mocked and ridiculed for admitting they voted against the CTA prescribed voting recommendations.

This saddened me.

My grandfather, uncles, husband, and many friends risked their lives, watched their comrades slain, and returned from the horror of war, defending American freedoms, including the freedom to hold and voice different opinions.

It saddens me that teachers, who have historically been the carriers of the freedom banners, teaching freedom of speech, upholding the constitution, would harass another teacher who dares to disagree.

Some of the fear comes from a worry of retribution at the district level. Again, I would hope that our school board, our superintendant, and our administrators would respect the American freedom of speech and opinion.

Please honor the rights of others to disagree with you. Please respect the rights of others to voice their opinions without fear of reprisal, ridicule, or even job harassment.

Thank you,
Donna Fuller
MTA web master