

TBJ: Forum to feature city council candidates

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The race for Fresno City Council's District 1 seat heats up May 8 with a candidate forum at Fresno City College.

The forum will be held from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the auditorium of the Old Administration Building.

Four candidates running for District 1 are scheduled to appear, including Mark Castro, Rebeca Rangel, Cary Catalano and Esmerelda Soria. Candidate Rama Dawar has not yet confirmed his attendance.

Fresno City College political science instructor Dr. James Joseph will moderate the forum, asking each candidate questions submitted by faculty and students about their plans and visions if they are elected.

Their answers will be important as the candidates look to replace Blong Xiong as council member for [District 1](#), which has Fresno City College within its borders.

"Since some of the students come to Fresno City College, whether they live in District 1 or not, they are affected by the decisions made at the city council level," said Ignacio Barbosa, an Associated Students Government senator, in a release. "We felt that it was important for students to hear what the city council candidates say as to why they feel they can represent Fresno City College's interests."

Xiong, who finishes his second term on the city council this year, is running for Fresno County Supervisor for District 1 that has been represented by Phil Larson since 2003.