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Why We Need to Pass Proposition 55 in November 2016



Photo: Kelly Mayhew

Governor Brown at the Prop 30 rally in 2012

As many of us in education circles remember, before the passage of Proposition 30 in 2012, the funding situation for schools and colleges in California was dire. The question was not IF there were going to be cuts, but rather, how large they would be and how much damage they would do to our students, our profession, and to the communities we serve. But fortunately, in the wake of the Great Recession and the Occupy movement, the questions of economic inequality and social justice were in the air and we in the California Federation of Teachers, along with our community allies, were able

to muster a successful campaign first for the Millionaire's Tax and then for the passage of Proposition 30, the compromise measure that was forged with Governor Brown.

Prop 30 raised income taxes by 1 to 3% on the wealthy (individuals making more than \$250,000/year) and increased sales taxes by 0.25% to fund education in California. When voters approved Prop 30 in 2012, it helped put California back on the road to budget stability. Because of this essential measure, California began restoring funding for our public schools and restoring cuts to important vital services.

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WHERE WE STAND

Fall 2016 Off to a Busy Start!

By Jim Mahler
President, AFT Guild, Local 1931

We begin this new academic year with a generous gift from Governor Brown of a 0% COLA. Fortunately, the Department of Finance saw to it to distribute a general base allocation increase to all districts in the amount of 1.31%. This increase will be treated just like a COLA in every respect—just don't call it that!

Additionally, this year's budget contains 2% for growth if the District can realize that percentage in additional FTES.

One cautionary note regarding future finances in general has to do with the added burden of PERS and STRS obligations that must

be paid. STRS employees are now contributing 10.25% of their gross pay toward their retirement, while PERS employees continue to pay 7%. The real increased costs are coming from the District share for each of these systems which will be nearly 20% each by the year 2020, just a few short years from now. We also need to contend with the rising cost of health-care, which continues to outpace our revenue increase percentages.

So while our economy and enrollments remain strong, we are still faced with several fiscal challenges ahead.

In order to help us stay afloat and not relive the devastating cuts

we experienced during the last recession, CFT in coalition with many stakeholders throughout the state has qualified Proposition 55 for the November ballot. Prop 55 is the extension of Prop 30 which, with your help, we passed back in 2012. If you recall, Prop 30 temporarily increased the State sales tax by 0.25% (which will expire this year) and raised the income tax on those earning over \$250,000 per year by a mere 1-3%, depending on how much the individual's earnings are over \$250,000.

The good news about Prop 55 is that there is no longer a sales tax

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Retiree Corner:

Working Together for the Greater Good

By Mary Rider
1931 Retiree Chapter


A big retirement perk is that you can choose to drive a camper across country to attend the annual AFT National Convention. As president of the AFT 1931 retiree chapter, I participated in informative workshops and inspiring general sessions at the convention in Minneapolis. Passionate speakers, including politicians, national and international grass-roots organizers, and union leaders, reinvigorated my belief in the power of working together to achieve the common good.

One of the Convention workshop presenters said retired union members are the "day-time workers" for the union; they are crucial participants in the effort to provide better benefits and opportunities for working colleagues, as well as non-union workers.

The retiree chapter offered two very well attended workshops in Spring 2016 for SDCCD and GCCCD faculty and staff. The pre-retirement topics covered were

Social Security and VEBA selection post-retirement. We will also offer Fall 2016 PDW workshops on more general issues related to retirement planning.

I left Minneapolis with an "AFT for Hillary" poster in the side window of the camper.

Unfortunately, we saw only one other Hillary sign and a few Bernie stickers as we traveled through the upper Midwest, New England, the Mid-South and Southwest. There were half a dozen interstate highway billboards of **Trump, Make America Great Again**. Off the highway, many yards also had Trump signs. All the while, the local NPR stations and online news sites kept us up to date on Trump's latest inappropriate remarks and behavior. As the local's retiree chapter president, I intend to join with active colleagues and our retiree membership to make sure Trump's version of what it takes to make American great again never happens. 

AFT Celebrates Its 100th Anniversary

While this year's national AFT Convention in Minneapolis was dominated by the presidential race, there was also significant notice of the fact that 2016 is also the 100-year anniversary of the founding of the American Federation of Teachers. Born in the progressive era, AFT has overcome many challenges and evolved into one of the largest unions in the United States. The following is an excerpt from a brief history of your union from aft.org.

The AFT was founded in Chicago, with eight locals signing on as AFL President Samuel Gompers welcomed the union into its fold in 1916. The union operated from one room of AFT Financial Secretary Freeland Stecker's five-room bungalow in Chicago. President Charles Stillman lived next door.

While the AFT grew quickly in the beginning, chartering 174 locals in its first four years, the years following World War I saw school boards pressuring and intimidating teachers to resign from the union. By the end of the 1920s, AFT membership had dropped to less

than 5,000—about half the number in 1920. Throughout that time, the union fought for tenure laws, as well as for the academic freedom of those teachers whose beliefs were being investigated by political committees during the “Red scare” hysteria following WWI.

The Depression years accentuated the problems that the AFT had attacked during its first 15 years: low salaries and economic insecurity. Worse, female teachers found themselves faced with “contracts which still stipulated that an employed teacher must wear skirts of certain lengths, keep her galoshes buckled,

not receive gentleman callers more than three times a week and teach a Sunday School class,” said the *American Teacher* magazine. Loyalty oaths were being required in some locales, and teachers were dismissed for joining the AFT or for working on school board election campaigns.

By 1932, the Norris-La Guardia Act outlawed yellow dog contracts, which made teachers promise not to join a union, and the AFT went on to fight for tenure for teachers. By the end of the Depression, tenure of some kind had been gained in 17 states, largely because of the AFT's efforts.

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Interview With AFT Intern Celeste Clerk



What is your background? What kind of family did you come from and what was your experience with education and unions? How did you get interested in the AFT Internship?

My background is pretty typical for a bordertown: My family and I immigrated from Mexico in 1999. We came seeking opportunities to improve our hard (and hardening) lot. Despite attending middle school and high school in the United States, prior to attending City College, I had absolutely no knowledge of unions, labor history, corporate exploitation (although of this one there were radical inklings online and in progressive media programs), worker rights, the workings of local progressive politics, or what channels legally exist to protect, express, and secure the respect of working class rights. I became interested in the AFT internship after being submerged in the politically conscious atmosphere of City College. It took all of

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Why We Need to Pass Prop 55 *continued from page 1*

Prop 30 helped public education recover some of the funds it lost during the recession. We're only now just starting to get our schools and community colleges on track. We've hired more teachers, brought additional books and supplies directly to the classroom, expanded libraries, and improved our community colleges, while at the same time helping to stabilize California's budget.

More specifically, Prop 30 has brought in more than \$6 billion a year and helped restore the promise of California's education system in many ways:

- In K-12, more than 30,000 certificated, and thousands more classified, employees were laid off between 2008 and 2012; tens of thousands more were forced to take pay cuts and furlough days. Since Prop 30 passed, very few layoff notices have gone out; most districts have begun to restore positions lost during the Great Recession years; and salary reductions have been replaced in most places by modest raises.
- Prop 30 has given K-12 school districts more funding, and more discretion over how to spend Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) revenues, which steers a substantial portion of the funding to students and districts that need it the most: low-income, English learners, and foster children.
- In community colleges, students are once more beginning to be able to access classes cut during the Great Recession. In the SDCCD, for example, hundreds of classes have come back. Prop 30 monies are averaging 15% of revenues for community college districts.
- In the CSU and UC systems, after years of skyrocketing increases that threatened to place higher education out of reach of working families, tuition has remained stable thanks to Prop 30.

Despite these successes, however, much work remains to be done. As CFT President Joshua Pechthalt recently noted, "While Prop 30 has been a major success, public education in California is seriously underfunded. We still rank near the bottom of the nation in per-pupil spending, class-size average and per-student ratio in nurses, librarians and counselors. Now is not the time to give a multi-billion tax break to the wealthy in order to defund schools."

Unfortunately, Prop 30 was a temporary measure. The sales tax expires after 2016, and the income tax on the wealthy sunsets after 2018. **The loss of this revenue would**

devastate education across California, and here in San Diego it would mean a 15% reduction in revenue.

It does not take a rocket scientist to figure out the huge negative impacts that this would have on our ability to



**HELP OUR
CHILDREN
THRIVE!**

TOP 3 REASONS TO PASS PROPOSITION 55

- 1. Proposition 55 will maintain current tax rates on the wealthiest Californians to prevent billions of dollars in funding cuts for public education and children's health care.**
- 2. California students, schools and colleges can't afford to go back to the days of massive teacher layoffs, larger class sizes, and cuts to programs like art and music. We should protect schools and vital services, like health care for children, from cuts.**
- 3. The initiative mandates strict accountability. Funds go to the classroom and cannot be spent on administration.**

serve our students as well as on our own compensation and benefits. So if we do not want to return to the bad old days of perpetual budget crisis and cuts, **we need to pass Proposition 55.**

Proposition 55, also called the "Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act of 2016," is the statewide ballot measure to extend Prop 30. This measure drops the sales tax that was part of Proposition 30 while extending

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Proposition 55: Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act

BACKGROUND

- The last recession caused more than \$56 billion in cuts to healthcare, education and other critical services.
- Along with stopping cuts to public education, Proposition 30 also prevented devastating cuts to services for seniors and low-income children, as well as health care programs.
- Governor Brown's budget forecasts show that unless we extend Prop 30, our schools will come up nearly \$5 billion short in the first year, and our budget will face a nearly \$3 billion deficit. Without an extension, we risk going back to the days of massive budget cuts, teacher layoffs, and huge budget holes for our health care programs.
- Temporarily extending Prop 30 with Prop 55 will only affect the top 2% of earners in the state, and will automatically expire after 12 years. Prop 30's quarter-cent sales tax increase will expire on schedule in 2016.
- The measure is expected to raise \$8-11 billion a year.
- Like Prop 30, the money generated by the Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act will go directly into a special fund that supports K-14 education, including community colleges, increase state funds for seniors and low-income children's health care, and invest in our Rainy Day budget reserves.
- With this temporary extension, up to \$2 billion a year will go to health care for

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Why We Need to Pass Prop 55 continued from page 4

the top earner income tax for twelve years. Prop 55 will also pay for increased state costs for health care for low-income Californians.

While we clearly would have preferred to make Proposition 30's taxes on the wealthy permanent, Prop 55 does extend this revenue stream for another generation of students. And despite claims to the contrary, this tax on the affluent has done no discernable damage to the state economy nor has it hindered job creation. Indeed, after the passage of Proposition 30, the state's economy improved: 1.4 million new jobs have been created, and the golden state has added

10,000 more millionaires since 30's passage, giving the lie to the fantasy claim that Prop 30's minor tax increases on the wealthy would lead to an exodus of the rich.

More importantly, Proposition 55 will prevent a new

round of devastating cuts to education and vital social services. It will bring in \$8-11 billion a year, and that money will go directly into a special fund that supports K-14 education, including community colleges. It will also increase state funds for seniors, low-income children's health care, and invest money in California's Rainy Day budget reserves. This measure will not permit any

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SDCCD Chancellor Constance Carroll at Prop 30 rally in 2012

Where We Stand *continued from page 2*

component as this new measure simply maintains the income tax levels currently in place on those individuals earning \$250,000 or more per year. This should be a no-brainer for all working people and their families to support.

It is the prudent and just thing to do.

If passed, Prop 55 is estimated to continue to bring in \$6-\$9 billion dollars to the state in ongoing revenue. If it fails, and Prop 30 expires as it was intended to do, we will be looking at an approximate 15% revenue cut to Districts. That would mean a return to massive class and budget cuts. This is clearly not a scenario we want to entertain.

So please help us get the word out to everyone: **YES ON PROP 55!**

On the legislative front, as of this writing AB 1690 (Medina) just passed off the senate floor and is on the way


to the Governor's desk for his signature. If signed into law, this bill will mandate a job security program for adjunct faculty throughout the state that will function very similarly to the programs we currently have in place in both the GCCCD and SDCCD.

Last, but certainly not least, we have two very important Governing Board elections on the ballot this November. In the **SDCCD District D**, our incumbent Board Member **Mary Graham** is facing an opponent with absolutely no educational experience whatsoever. In stark contrast, during Mary's tenure on the Board, she has been able to bring her depth of experience as a college professor to the Board to make the District a better place, not just for employees but for students as well.

Thus it is imperative that we re-elect Mary Graham to the SDCCD Board of Trustees.

In the **GCCCD District 4**, San Diego Continuing Education Teacher **Elena Adams** is running for the seat being vacated by long-time educator Mary Kay Rosinski. Elena also brings a wealth of real-world teaching experience to the table. Her opponent previously served on both the GCCCD and Alpine School boards where he was no more than a continual instigator of a hot bed of dissension, and he has no actual educational background or expertise.

We will also soon be in negotiations for the SDCCD Classified and GCCCD Faculty on re-openers to their CBAs which are both due to expire June 30, 2017. All the more reason to ensure that we continue to elect knowledgeable, education-friendly Governing Board members.

In sum, there's a lot on our plate this year—we will keep you posted on all fronts! 

AFT Celebrates 100 *continued from page 3*

While strong leadership in the AFT boosted membership from 7,000 in 1930 to 32,000 in 1939, the union found itself involved with allegations of communist infiltration

in some locals. In 1941, the charters of three locals were withdrawn following an investigation and recommendation by the AFT executive council.

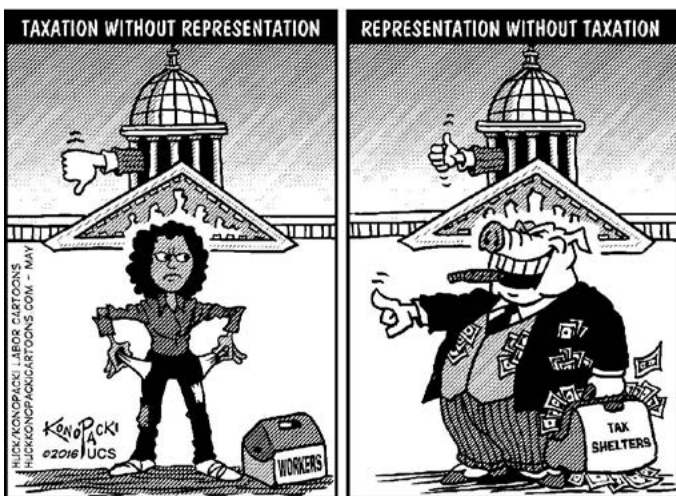
World War II exploded on the scene, and the AFT worked hard to push war bond sales, war relief and air raid programs in the schools, at the same time campaigning against the "exploitation or the oppression of

minority groups." In the postwar years, the AFT renewed its fight to improve the conditions of the schools and their teachers. And, while AFT policy opposed strikes, numerous locals found themselves forced to strike through the postwar years to get at the root of the depressed state of salaries.

The Post-war Years

In the 1950s, loyalty oaths cropped up again. The AFT played a leading role in opposing this blight on academic freedom during the McCarthy period, defending those teachers wrongly accused of "subversion." The AFT was also in

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AFT Celebrates 100 *continued from page 6*

the forefront of the civil rights movement, filing an amicus curiae brief in the historic 1954 Supreme Court desegregation case *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, and expelling locals that had not followed an earlier mandate to desegregate.

During the 1960s, in addition to its fight for civil rights, the AFT and its affiliates worked at wringing collective bargaining agreements from stubborn school boards. The '60s also saw the first major strike by university professors in the United States and a one-day walkout by the United Federation of Teachers in New York City for collective bargaining. More than 300 teacher strikes occurred throughout the country during the 10 years following the UFT's walkout. The national AFT grew from fewer than 60,000 members in 1960 to more than 200,000 by the end of the decade.

Albert Shanker was elected president of the AFT in 1974. A pioneer in collective bargaining for teachers, Shanker also was one of the country's most influential voices on education reform, a leader for human and civil rights in the United States and abroad, and a relentless proponent of democracy and freedom.

Through his speeches, his weekly *New York Times* columns and his work with business leaders, policymakers and union leaders, Shanker turned conventional wisdom on its head—and made it perfectly brilliant and sensible. His ideas seem as potent and relevant today as they were during his 23 years as AFT president.

Throughout the 1970s, the AFT struggled with the tough issues of school funding in declining urban areas and decreasing support for urban education. At the same time, in the mid-1970s, the AFT was the fastest-growing

union in the country. In 1978, the AFT established a healthcare division and, in 1983, created a division for local, state and federal government employees.

The 1980s saw a concentrated movement toward education reform and teacher professionalization, which was



SEJ intern Daniel with AFT's Robin Watkins


led by the AFT and its more than 600,000 members. The AFT worked to tear down the artificial barriers between contract bargaining matters and other professional issues, and reframed the education reform discussion to include teachers

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Why We Need to Pass Prop 55 *continued from page 5*

of the funds to go towards bureaucracy or administrative costs. The funds will be used to help students by reducing class sizes, updating textbooks, hiring new teachers and keeping tuition costs from skyrocketing.

In sum, we need to work hard to pass Proposition 55 because it is the right thing to do for education and social justice in California. The reasons for extending Prop 30 are the same as those to pass it in the first place: to continue to restore funding lost to years of cuts, and re-invest in the resources teachers need to teach and the programs students need to learn. The revenue source for Prop 30 is taxpayers who have benefited from rising inequality. Prop 30 has been a fair tax to ensure access to education and services for all Californians. If Prop 30 expires we will have to cut billions of dollars from schools in order to give a massive tax break to the rich.

If we fail to address the coming revenue crisis in this modest and proactive way, we will pay the price for many years to come. So let's work hard and be sure we are part of the movement to fund our state's future and ensure quality education for all. 



AFT interns Cassie Lintz and Celeste Clerk collect signatures for Prop 55

AFT Celebrates 100 *continued from page 7*

and paraprofessionals as decision-making partners.

As the federation entered the last decade of the 20th century, with nearly 700,000 members, all the issues it had fought for remained important, but none more important than keeping the idea of education reform alive. While the AFT aimed to place the public school and the public school teacher on the cutting edge of pedagogy and innovation during the early 1990s, the task became more daunting as the start of a new millennium neared. Complicating the task of moving forward as a force for change in the nation's public school system was the death of AFT President Albert Shanker.

In 1997, Sandra Feldman was elected AFT president, becoming the first female president of the union since the 1930s. Her election to the AFT's top post followed a distinguished 30-year career with the United Federation of Teachers in

AFT Secretary-Treasurer Edward J. McElroy served as acting president until his official election at the AFT's 2004 national convention.

McElroy retired in 2008 and was succeeded by former United Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten, who was elected president at the union's national 2008 convention in Chicago.

Staunch Support for Human and Civil Rights

Free and equal education as embodied in the public school, safe and sanitary working conditions, reasonable hours for reasonable pay, child labor laws, tenure for teachers, collective bargaining, women's rights, effective schools and education reform—all of these issues have been at the top of the AFT's agenda as they arose over the years. But few social issues have rivaled the emphasis that the AFT placed on the fight for civil rights.

From its early years, the AFT has been dedicated to equality in education and equality in representation. Before its second convention, the new AFT had already issued charter

No. 9 to the Armstrong-Dunbar High School teachers in Washington, D.C.—a group of black high school teachers—"which the executive council were glad to welcome into the organization," read the AFT headquarters newsletter. In line



Millionaire's Tax campaign

with the slogan, 'Democracy in Education, Education for Democracy,' the AFT believed that the black teachers "were especially in need of whatever assistance could be given not only to the teachers themselves, but to the development of educational opportunities... throughout the country."

Records show that the 1938 AFT convention, which was planned to be held at a Cincinnati hotel, was moved to an entirely new location because blacks were confined to using freight elevators in the hotel. This had happened before, in 1934, when it became apparent that the convention hotel would not provide equal facilities to black delegates. The location of the 1963 convention, which was originally planned for Florida, was also changed, so members would not have to travel through the South and put up with Jim Crow laws.

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"Me? I lost my life savings betting on tax cuts for the rich."

New York City, including 11 years as UFT president.

In 2004, Feldman decided not to seek re-election as president of the AFT for health reasons, and

AFT Celebrates 100 continued from page 8


The AFT, one of the earliest unions to condemn segregation, amended its constitution in 1953 to provide that “No charter of the AFT

the loss of thousands of members in 1957 when it expelled its remaining segregated locals in the South. And, during the 1960s, the AFT ran more than 20 “Freedom Schools” in Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi; staffed by AFT volunteers, the schools supplemented the inadequate education offered to black students.



“No kidding, you still pay taxes? It’s a nostalgia thing, right?”

which defines or recognizes jurisdiction on the basis of race or color, or permits the practice of such jurisdiction, shall be recognized as valid, and the practice of any such local in limiting its membership on account of race or color shall render its charter void.” The federation also willingly suffered

American citizens who remain disenfranchised, it has also championed the rights of religious and cultural minorities. 

To view A Proud Tradition, the AFT History Video Series, go to: <http://youtu.be/C1Zq3l-deUg>

Background continued from page 5

low-income children and their families.

- Like Prop 30, this measure will not permit any of the funds to go towards bureaucracy or administrative costs. The funds will be used to help students by reducing class sizes, updating textbooks, hiring new teachers and keeping tuition costs from skyrocketing.
- This initiative continues tough audit and disclosure requirements and independent oversight. It also continues accountability through www.trackprop30.ca.gov, which allows the public to see how every dollar of Prop 30 funds have been spent. The money is also subject to audits by the State Controller.



Interview continued from page 3


one American Literature class with Professor Jim Miller, where literature out of the Industrial Revolution was contemporized to parallel the exploitations and resistance of today, to explore and sign up for the AFT internship.

What was your experience in the internship? What did you learn? What kinds of experiences did you have and find valuable? What effect did it have on you as a person? A student? A citizen?

Joining the AFT internship program was pivotal. The exposure to the buried history of labor, to the tactical, practical, and humanitarian coalitions powering the labor movement, and to the diversity of intelligent and compassionate people throwing more work on top of already-too-much work for the benefit of others was “inspiring enough.” Inspiring enough to change the way

I understand and respond to the politics of my country. Inspiring enough to cultivate richly complex levels of empathy. Inspiring enough to practice building community through shared histories and shared struggles. Inspiring enough to influence my decision to rejoin the movement as a lawyer.

What are your plans for the future?

In September of this year I will be transferring to one of the most prestigious liberal arts institutions in the country, Smith College in Massachusetts, with a full scholarship. From there, I have big dreams of moving on to Harvard’s school of law, or a similar top-tier graduate law program. And then, onto even bigger dreams: to put into practice all that I’ve learned for the benefit of our exploited communities, but this time, with real teeth. 

in brief

Mexican Teachers Stand Up to Reform and Repression

“On Sunday, 19 June, demonstrators blocked a highway—a common form of protest in Mexico’s southern state of Oaxaca—after the federal government arrested leaders of the state’s teachers’ union. Heavily armed police then fired on teachers, students, parents and supporters. Nine people were killed, and many more were wounded.

Nochixtlán, the town where the massacre took place, has since become a symbol of the resistance of Mexican teachers to corporate education reform. In the United States educators quickly responded to support their embattled Mexican colleagues, condemning the attacks and calling for the release of the imprisoned unionists. . . .

Five other union leaders have been imprisoned since last October. Luis Hernández Navarro, a former teacher and now opinion editor for the Mexico City daily *La Jornada*, calls them ‘hostages.’

“Their detention is simultaneously a warning of what can happen to other teachers who continue to reject the [federal government’s] ‘education reform,’ and a payback to force the movement to demobilize.”

Equal Times, 8/2/16

A Teacher Makes the Case for Prop 55

“My students deserve every resource we have to give.

We can give them those resources by passing Proposition 55, which simply asks the wealthiest to temporarily continue paying the same amount they are now to protect our schools and vital services from deep cuts.

It does not raise taxes on anyone. And we know the money from Proposition 55 will go to the classrooms, not to bureaucracy, because there are strict accountability and transparency requirements built in.

For the sake of my students and all students statewide, we need to continue to value education. We need to continue to protect the existing resources our schools so badly need.”

East Bay Times, 8/6/16

The Case Against the SANDAG Ballot Measure

“SANDAG’s ballot measure will harm children’s health and increase traffic congestion for decades to come. It will irresponsibly spend our hard-earned money to add more cars to the road with no guarantee there will be significant and systemic improvements in public transportation, biking and walking infrastructure where we need it most. We remain adamantly opposed to a future that will move us away from California mandated targets for greenhouse gas reduction—indeed, SANDAG’s plan uses incomplete and misleading data to argue that it reduces greenhouse gas emissions. The measure will undermine our own city’s Climate Action Plan to reduce the growing and severe impacts of climate change, and it will make the communities already struggling most with these impacts even worse.

Proponents of this measure will insist that it is a wise investment of taxpayer funds. It is not.

We do not want our children to be paying a tax for 40 years that doubles down on a transportation system that poisons our air, water and people.”

SD Union-Tribune, 7/29/16

Civil Rights Organizations Reject Corporate Education Reform

“At its national convention in July, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, one of the nation’s premier civil-rights organizations, passed a resolution calling for a moratorium on charter schools. The resolution said, among other things, that charters have contributed to segregation, have used disproportionately high levels of punitive and exclusionary discipline, and pledged that the NAACP will seek to promote stronger investigative bodies to oversee charter school fraud, corruption, and waste. The resolution will not become official policy until the NAACP’s national board convenes later this fall, but it builds on previous resolutions passed in 2010 and 2014 that were also critical of charter schools.

A coalition of more than 50 black-led organizations known as the Movement for Black Lives—aligned with the Black Lives Matter movement—also released a wide-ranging policy platform last week outlining a collective political agenda that the groups had been hammering out since more than 1,000 activists and organizers gathered in Cleveland last summer.

Though their platform focuses on issues ranging from prisons and police to economic justice, a considerable portion is focused on education. In addition to calls for a constitutional amendment guaranteeing a fully-funded education, the Movement for Black Lives demands a moratorium on charter schools, an end to school closures, and an end to ‘market reformer’ programs like Teach for America.”

American Prospect, 8/6/16

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