

THE ADVOCATE

Prop. 55 is the new Prop. 30!

The spring of 2012 was bleak. California's public schools faced an unprecedented funding crisis. In San Diego, educators faced the prospect of more than 1,000 layoffs. SDEA members chose to prevent those layoffs through furlough days and pushing back already long overdue raises. Educators across the state made similar sacrifices to keep our schools afloat as recession ravaged the state.

That fall, SDEA members and our fellow educators had a crucial opportunity: To pass Proposition 30, and begin to restore those devastating cuts. Pass Prop. 30, and our students would once again see lower class sizes, necessary support services, enrichment programs, and stability from one year to the next. Fail to pass Prop. 30, and the cuts would continue, including the potential shortening of the school year in SDUSD by close to a month.

SDEA members rose to the challenge. Working together with parents, community allies, and our union sisters and brothers across California, SDEA members celebrated the passage of Prop. 30 four years ago. Its promise was indeed realized. The revenue generated by Prop. 30 enabled SDEA members to win our *Fight for 5!* bargaining campaign in 2015, including

lower elementary class sizes, more nurses and counselors, increased enrichment time, and fair wage increases that have helped make SDUSD more competitive.

Why the trip down memory lane? This fall, we must once again fight to protect our schools through the passage of Proposition 55. This proposition maintains the current income tax rates on the wealthiest Californians put in place by Prop. 30—couples earning more than \$500,000 a year and individuals earning more than \$250,000. Working, middle class families and businesses will benefit as the quarter-cent sales tax increase that was part of Prop. 30 expires at the end of the year.

If we once again succeed and Prop. 55 passes, it will generate an estimated \$8 billion per year on average. Revenues go into a dedicated fund that directs monies to schools and community colleges, and the legislature cannot touch it. Revenues will also be used to improve access to health care for low-income children and their families.

What if Prop. 55 fails? Budget forecasts show that unless we maintain the current taxes on the wealthy, our public schools will lose nearly \$4 billion and our state budget will face a

California families and students can't afford to go back.
Prop. 55 maintains current tax rates on the **WEALTHIEST CALIFORNIANS**
-- and without it, California schools could face:

\$4 BILLION IN CUTS

- THOUSANDS** of teachers laid off
- Arts and music programs **SLASHED**
- OVERCROWDED** classrooms
- Community college **TUITION HIKES**

Help Our Children Thrive.

YES ON 55 **HELP OUR CHILDREN THRIVE!**

deficit of more than \$4 billion in the first full year alone.

Prop. 55 protects our students and public schools from returning to the days of massive budget cuts, educator layoffs, larger classes and tuition hikes. The funds generated from Prop. 55 can support our bargaining team's fight for a fair wage increase during our current salary reopener bargaining, as well as enable us to build on our *Fight for 5!* as we head back to bargain our entire contract again this spring.

How can SDEA members make sure that Prop. 55 passes? Sign up to phone bank one evening at the SDEA office, or better yet, work with colleagues to pick a phone bank night for your school to adopt! Also, talk to your site Association Representative about picking an afternoon to talk to voters who live near your school.

We succeeded in protecting our schools four years ago, and we can do it again now if we all pitch in. Together, we ARE stronger, so let's get to work!



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Letters in Solidarity

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Excitement on the horizon in 2016-17

Boy this summer flew by! We hope all of our San Diego educators were able to find some time for the rest and relaxation you all deserve.

The work at SDEA has continued over the summer as members attended the NEA-RA and CTA Summer Institute to grow as union leaders and help guide the path of our state and national union.

Our joint SDEA and SDUSD Evaluation Committee continued to meet and work hard on developing our new educator professional growth system, and our SDEA staff continued to ensure SDEA member's rights are protected.

We have a busy year ahead of us! We will kick off the year with a busy November as we work to elect candidates who are friendly to public education, pass important local and state propositions, and strengthen relationships with our parents and community members while encouraging them to exercise their right to vote. In order to be victorious in this election, each and every one of us must do our part.

On November 8, we have the opportunity to elect a lifetime educator to the San Diego Unified School Board. Last year, Dr. Sharon Whitehurst-Payne was overwhelmingly endorsed by the SDEA Representative Council and will be a true advocate for the students and educators of San Diego when she is elected.

We also have the opportunity to pass Proposition 55, which will continue to increase school funding and assist us in ensuring that every student in San Diego has the highest quality school they deserve.

Prop. 55 will not increase taxes, but continue the income tax that was passed with Proposition 30, with the wealthiest Californians continuing to pay their fair share. We must pass Prop. 55, so that we can continue to rebuild programs cut during the recession, provide needed supports for students, and increase salaries so that we can recruit and retain the best and brightest educators for our students.

Following the November election, we will kick off our next round of bargaining input sessions where SDEA members will have the opportunity to set the priorities for our next contract. SDEA bargaining team members and Board members will be visiting your sites, listening to your voices and developing bargaining proposals that are based on our members' needs.

Throughout the 2016-17 school year we will also focus on new member outreach and engagement. We are finally welcoming new educators into our ranks and we need to provide support for them, so that they can be successful in their first few years. We all remember how overwhelming those first few days, months and years can be, so please take the time to welcome a new educator and provide that outreach they so need!

We are looking forward to a busy and exhilarating 2016-17 school year and are excited to be leading SDEA through this momentous time!

Lindsay Burningham
Lindsay Burningham
SDEA President

K Borden
Kisha Borden
SDEA Vice President

Contract Corner: Evaluation objectives

Pop quiz: Can your evaluator tell you what your Stull objectives are going to be? The answer is no!

Section 14.3.2 of the SDEA-SDUSD contract states that both objectives and assessment techniques must be mutually determined. But what happens if you can't agree? Can't your evaluator just tell you how it's going to be?

Absolutely not. In the event that you and your evaluator can't reach mutual agreement, Section 14.4 of the contract spells out the resolution

process. First, recommendations from a third party are sought. The third party must also be mutually selected. If you and your evaluator can't agree on a third party, then the evaluator's supervisor selects the third party. If the recommendations of the third party still don't solve the problem, Section 14.4.3 states that the evaluator's supervisor makes the final decision after considering the third party's recommendations and meeting with you and your evaluator, if requested.

Did You Know That Billionaires are Funding a School Board Candidate?

SDEA’s Rep Council has overwhelmingly endorsed San Diego Unified School Board Member Sharon Whitehurst-Payne for re-election in November. Her opponent, LaShae Collins, has already received more than \$125,000 worth of support from the California Charter Schools Association.

Who funds the California Charter Schools Association’s political action committee? In the past two years, the CCSA has received millions of dollars in donations from the same billionaire corporate “reformers” attacking public education and fighting against funding measures such as Propositions 30, including:

NETFLIX

\$1,000,000

the broad foundations

\$1,050,000

Walmart

\$475,000

Source: California Secretary of State, CCSA’s California Fair Political Practices Commission filing, www.wearepublicschools.org



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Are You Covering the Right Dependents in Your Health Plan?

You can cover eligible dependents in your health plan. However, did you know that covering ineligible dependents is against the law?

Make sure you are not covering ineligible dependents in your health plan. If you are, you may have to:

- Pay a penalty to the government.
- Pay the bill if your ineligible dependent receives care.
- Wait to enroll your ineligible dependent in a different health plan.

If you are unsure if your dependents can be enrolled in your health plan, contact your District Benefits Office. They will help you make the best decision about their coverage.

ELIGIBLE Dependents Who CAN Join Your Health Plan

- 👍 Spouse
- 👍 Domestic Partner
- 👍 Child-Biological
- 👍 Child-Step
- 👍 Child-Adopted
- 👍 Child-Guardianship
- 👍 Child-Disabled

INELIGIBLE Dependents Who CAN'T Join Your Health Plan

- 👎 Ex-Spouse
- 👎 Former Stepchild
- 👎 Parent
- 👎 Grandparent
- 👎 Children over age 26
- 👎 Grandchildren
- 👎 Sibling
- 👎 Aunt/Uncle
- 👎 Niece/Nephew/Cousin
- 👎 Girlfriend/Boyfriend

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