

CCSESA FOCUS

An Update to County Superintendents of Schools

Friday, February 19th, 2016

Increasing Clarity on November Ballot Measures

It is now clear that the Legislature and Governor will not reach agreement on a school facilities funding proposal as an alternative to the \$9 billion school facilities statewide bond measure that has qualified for the November statewide ballot. That bond proposal is co-sponsored by the Coalition for Adequate School Housing (CASH) and the California Building Industry Association (CBIA). The proposal is supported by State Superintendent Torlakson, but Governor Brown has told the press that he is opposed to the measure. Efforts to find an alternative reflected a mix of objectives of proposing a smaller bond issue, reforming the school facilities program, and avoiding a bond issue being on the same ballot as a proposal to extend some of the temporary tax rate increases approved by the voters in Proposition 30.

CCSESA's Legislative Committee will be reviewing the school facilities bond proposal during its conference call in late March and we expect the committee will bring a recommendation on endorsing the ballot measure to either the April or June CCSESA General Membership meeting.

Meanwhile, groups seeking to extend a portion of the Proposition 30 taxes have agreed on a proposal which is now in the signature-gathering stage. Their intent is to qualify the measure for the November, 2016, statewide ballot, where it would appear on the same ballot as the school facilities bond. The initiative is titled The Children's Education and Health Protection Act of 2016. The proposal would extend for twelve years the income tax rate increases for high income taxpayers that were approved in Proposition 30, but would not extend the temporary sales tax increases that were approved in Prop. 30. Proponents estimate the initiative would generate \$8-11 billion each year in state revenues. The initiative is supported by CTA and CSEA, among others, and those organizations are important funders of the signature-gathering effort. After much behind-the-scene negotiations, the proposal would earmark up to \$2 billion of the non-Proposition 98 portion of the revenues for Medi-Cal services, and revenues from the initiative would be subject to the Proposition 2 "Rainy Day" Fund reserve requirements supported by Governor Brown.

As more information and analysis of the initiative become available, the issue will be placed on the agenda of the CCSESA Legislative Committee for review. We expect the earliest that CCSESA would take a position on the proposal is the June General Membership meeting.

Contact: Peter Birdsall, Executive Director • P: (916) 446-3095 • C: (916) 719-1315
pbirdsall@ccsesa.org • www.ccsesa.org